



## **National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials**

### **2024 Summer Meeting – San Diego, California June 1 – 3, 2024**

**Registration Deadline: May 24, 2024**

#### **Schedule at a glance**

Saturday, June 1 - County Parks Tour, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (\$65/person)

Sunday, June 2 - Board and Membership Meeting, 8:00 to 11:00 am

Sunday, June 2 - Annual NACPRO Awards Banquet, 6:00 to 10:00 pm (\$80/person)

Monday, June 3 - Classroom Workshop, 8:00 to 11:00 am (\$25/person)

#### **County Park Tour - Saturday, June 2**

Join us for a tour of San Diego County's coastal region parks. At 8:00 am we will start the tour at the Heritage County Park, an easy ½ mile walk from the Courtyard Hotel in Old Town. Lunch, drinking water and healthy snacks will be provided. The bus will return to the Courtyard Hotel at approximately 5:00 pm.

#### **Heritage County Park**

Heritage County Park is a small park located in San Diego's Old Town community. Between 1971 and 1981 seven buildings were moved to the park. The buildings represent a sampling of Victorian architecture from the 1880's and 1890's. The County is converting four structures in Heritage Park to visitor-serving historic inns. This includes the creation of 22 rooms for overnight accommodations. Outdoor park areas will be updated to include improved landscaping, accessible walking paths, and an outdoor classroom. The objective is to activate Heritage Park through the development of publicly accessible, hospitality-based, revenue-generating facilities that will attract visitors to the park for overnight stays as well as for special event activities.

The County is currently soliciting proposals to operate the site. The proposals are being evaluated, and selection will be based on the proposal that offers the most benefit and best value to the County. If a suitable operator is not selected, the operation, management and maintenance of the visitor accommodations, event spaces, and park grounds will be accomplished through a variety of County staff and limited contracted services. Learn about plans to renovate the houses for overnight accommodations.

#### **Tijuana River Valley Regional Park**

Tijuana River Valley is one of the only remaining areas in San Diego County with connected beach, dune, salt marsh, riparian and upland ecosystems. The area contains several historic sites and viewpoints providing cultural, aesthetic, and recreational value. The valley has rich and diverse natural resources and is home to dozens of sensitive species, along with more than 340 bird species as part of the Pacific Flyway.

The County of San Diego's Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP) is located near the United States/Mexico border. The TRVRP encompasses approximately 1,800 acres of land, 22.5 miles of multi-use trails, a bird and butterfly garden, a campground, the County's largest community garden, ball fields, and natural open space. The Department of Parks and Recreation has ongoing habitat and wetland restoration projects and has plans to address sewage, trash, and sediment that flow into the TRVRP from Mexico.

The vision for the TRVRP is to preserve 95% of natural open space with a world class sports complex and active recreation amenities as a gateway to engage families, bring the community together and celebrate the unique beauty of this region. DPR is exploring partnerships with the World Design Capital and other entities to bring this vision to reality.

### **Waterfront Park**

Built in 1938, the historic County Administration Center (CAC) houses County government offices and is adjacent to the San Diego Waterfront. Prior to construction of Waterfront Park, however, the CAC was flanked by parking lots that accommodating about 1,000 vehicles. The construction of Waterfront Park partially implements a long-term vision to open the entire San Diego waterfront for public enjoyment. Parking was relocated to a structure under the park, and at a nearby structure. The new park fills an important recreational need for both residents and visitors alike. Between traffic generated by the County offices, nearby cruise ship terminal, site-seeing ships, maritime museum, and Midway Museum, it is estimated that more than 2 million people per year visit this part of San Diego. In addition, over 35,000 residents live in downtown San Diego, an area that is highly deficient in parks and open space.

The 12-acre Waterfront Park includes large civic greens, a children's play area, garden areas and an 830' long interactive water feature with 31 water jets. This diverse space serves over 200,000 visitors each year and hosts a variety of public and private special events, from large concerts and festivals to smaller weddings, corporate events and birthday parties.

Construction is currently underway to renovate portions of the garden to create space for pickleball and basketball courts, an off-leash dog zone, exercise stations, walkways and an enhanced garden.

### **LUNCH at Waterfront Park**

#### **San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and Nature Center**

San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve is a great example of a successful partnership between the County of San Diego, California State Fish and Wildlife, and Nature Collective to protect native habitats and provide educational and recreational opportunities to the public. The Reserve is one of San Diego's largest coastal wetlands, and home to an exceptional diversity of plants and animals. The 979-acre reserve is a shallow-water estuary, formed where Escondido and La Orilla Creeks meet the Pacific Ocean and hosts over 700 species of plants and wildlife, including some rare and endangered species.

The LEED Platinum-certified nature center was designed with a focus on energy efficiency and natural resource preservation and was the County's first LEED Platinum building. The facility offers live animal exhibits, cultural and historical displays and information on local flora and fauna.

A \$120-million restoration project was recently completed, which was one of the most extensive wetland restorations in California. The project included new mudflats and tidal dredging to restore vital habitat for many animals-especially waterfowl.

#### **San Diego Botanic Garden**

The San Diego Botanic Garden (SDBG) is managed by a nonprofit foundation in partnership with the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The 37-acre property offers 4 miles of trails that pass through

ocean views and 29 uniquely themed gardens, including the West Coast's largest children's garden and the nation's largest public bamboo collection. The garden has worked to conserve threatened plants and habitats, including San Diego's native flora as well as rare plants from around the world.

Learn about this unique partnership between the nonprofit foundation and DPR and their collaborative efforts to advance the SDBG's strategic plan and vision of a magnificent botanic garden that empowers people of all backgrounds, ages, and interests to improve their lives and our world with its wonder.

### **Board and Membership Meeting - Sunday, June 2**

8:00 to 11:00 am - members are welcome. Join us in the Santa Barbara Room on the ground floor of the Courtyard Hotel. No food or beverages will be served.

### **Awards Banquet - Sunday, June 2**

6:00 to 10:00 pm at the Courtyard Hotel in the Santa Barbara Room on the ground floor. A cocktail reception begins at 6:00 pm (cash bar) and dinner begins at 7:00 pm. Following the meal, the NACPRO Awards of Excellence will be presented.

### **Classroom Workshop - Monday, June 3**

8:00 to 11:00 am at the Courtyard Hotel in the Santa Barbara Room on the ground floor. No food or beverages will be served.

#### **Successful Public/Private Outdoor Recreation Partnerships**

*Warren Meyer and Amanda Scott, Vista Recreation*

8:00 – 8:45 am

Partnerships with Vista Recreation to manage public recreation facilities, under concession contracts, is a proven way to improve financial sustainability, address deferred maintenance, increase visitation, and enhance the visitor experience. By expanding the outdoor experiences, Vista can attract new visitors by offering many services such as camping, marina operations, glamping, lodges, and cabins. Vista works with DEI organizations to encourage more diversity in the workforce and visitation.

#### **Mira Mesa Epicentre Rehabilitation**

9:00 - 10:00 am

Partnership with the City of San Diego to advance youth opportunities and recreational facilities in diverse community of Mira Mesa. The SD County Board of Supervisors (BOS) directed investment in the City of San Diego-owned Mira Mesa Epicentre to create a hub in the community, offering programs, activities, classes and events that benefit residents of all ages, interests and abilities, with a special focus on youth and teens. The BOS directed staff to negotiate an agreement with the City of San Diego that would rehabilitate, operate, and run programs at the facility. The project is currently in design phase, and agencies are working on the long-term lease to rebuild and operate the facility.

#### **San Diego Botanic Garden Master Plan**

10:00 - 11:00am

San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) parkland in the City of Encinitas is leased and operated as the San Diego Botanic Garden. DPR entered into a public/private partnership to maintain, expand and program the facility. The county's Capital Improvement Need Assessment anticipates the need for future funding to implement a master plan vision for the Garden, which will help meet the County's environmental justice goals by ensuring disadvantaged communities are included in the Garden's programming. New exhibits that will include the interpretation of indigenous communities and their use of native plants. The master plan also includes accessibility improvements throughout the property.

## Hotel and Meeting Venue

NACPRO has secured a block of rooms at the Courtyard San Diego Old Town from May 30 to June 4. The board meeting, awards banquet and classroom workshop will be held at the Courtyard.

### Courtyard San Diego Old Town

2435 Jefferson St, San Diego, CA 92110

The hotel offers the following amenities: Restaurant, free Wi-Fi throughout hotel, fitness room, outdoor pool, and in-room mini refrigerator and coffee maker.

**Parking:** \$20/day

### Hotel Reservations:

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1688170422539&key=GRP>

(800) 255-3544

**Group Block Name:** NACPRO

**Group Rate:** \$199 + tax - Single or double occupancy room

Make your reservation by Tuesday, May 07, 2024 at 5:00 pm PST to get the group rate.

## Registration Fees

County Park Tour: \$65/person

Awards Banquet: \$80/person

Classroom Workshop: \$25/person

**Register to attend:** <https://nacpro.memberclicks.net/2024-registration-form>

## NACPRO Sponsors

### RJ Thomas Mfg. Company, Inc.

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### Vista Recreation

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