



D^{DPR}ispatch

Oct. – Nov. 2020

**HAPPY
HAWKTOBER**

**FEATURED PARKS TRIPLE PLAY
HARMONY GROVE VILLAGE
4TH OF JULY PARK
COMMUNITY PARK
EQUESTRIAN PARK**

**HISTORIC PIECES
DONATED TO
RANCHO
GUAJOME
ADOBE**

**15 DIVERSE TRAILS
TOUR OUR
TRAILS
CHALLENGE**

***SPOTLIGHT ON*
JAKAYLA
DANIELS**



Our Vision: A park and recreation system that is the pride of San Diego County



*A Snowy Egret flies over
Tijuana River Valley Regional Park
Photo by Dale Noonkester*

the dispatch lineup

- 2 In-the-Paint with Brian Albright
- 3 A Winning Way to Tour Our Trails
- 3 Video Corner: Tour Our Trails Virtual Hikes
- 4 Hawktober Trading Cards are Here
- 5 Hawktober Virtual Education Series
- 6 DPR awarded \$346,000 grant for the Tijuana River Valley Coastal Trail Feasibility Project
- 7 Volunteer Corner
- 7 What's Developing in Parks
- 8 Social Media Report
- 9 What's Old: Historic Pieces donated to Rancho Guajome Adobe
- 10 Featured Facilities: The Parks at Harmony Grove Village
- 11 Spotlight on Jakayla Daniels
- 12 Featured Animal Ambassador: Mutaah
- 13 Featured Partner: Heaven's Windows
- 14 Operation Star
- 14 kNow Now with New Software Hub
- 15 SD Nights Online: October Events
- 16 Kudos
- 18 DPR Photo Gallery
- 19 SDG&E: Manage Your Energy Bill

Cover photo: Violet, an American Kestrel, is one of the featured birds in our 2020 Hawktober series of virtual videos. Photo by Vinnie Freeman.



D^{DPR}Dispatch

Compilation & Design: Vinnie Freeman
Content & Editing: Jessica Geiszler

mission statement

We enhance the quality of life in San Diego County by providing exceptional parks and recreation experiences and preserving significant natural resources.

in-the-paint with Brian Albright

Still Doing What We Do...

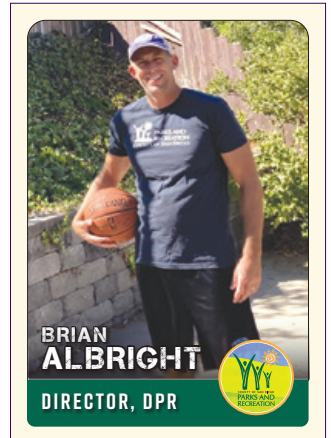
October marks six months since our stay-at-home orders began. Who could have ever imagined that we would be living and working this way in 2020. I know that all of you and your families have been impacted in multiple ways.

I'm proud of what DPR has accomplished during these past six months. Our field team has kept our park facilities safe and well-maintained so that people can enjoy some much-needed recreation. As the state and local health orders have been updated we have led our region by responding rapidly and reopening facilities immediately. Despite the challenge of having many people working remotely, our office team has continued to keep projects moving. One of my joys each day I come to the office is seeing our outstanding reservations team serving online, telephone and even a few in-person customers.

There are many things that I miss from our pre-Covid normal way of doing business. Mostly I miss being able to walk around the office and just talk to people. While I have adapted to the new "virtual" environment, meeting with people onscreen is just not the same as in person.

My favorite days of late have been the few opportunities I have had to set up my virtual office in some of our parks and work from that environment. I have enjoyed some "office" days at Pine Valley, Waterfront and San Dieguito Parks. Hopefully I'll get to do this more in October and November. A special thanks to Eric Gerhardt for setting up the hotspot on my cell phone and making this possible.

Lastly and most importantly, I want to convey my appreciation to everyone on our team for dealing with the challenges these last few months and still finding a way to accomplish our mission. There is no finer team of park and recreation professionals anywhere in the land!



Brian

SUBSCRIBE

Our monthly e-newsletter features events, hikes, kid-friendly activities and news you can use at park destinations across San Diego.

sdparks.org

a winning way to tour our trails



Click image to watch the video

We're excited to launch our first-ever [Tour Our Trails](#) Challenge. Comprised of 15 hikes, this progressive hiking challenge starts with five easy hikes, followed by five moderate hikes and five that are considered tough.

Participants will adventure to some of our most popular and picturesque parks – from the creek bed of Los Peñasquitos County Preserve, to the hard-earned summit of El Cajon Mountain. Trails meander

through valleys, mountains, deserts – even the coast – and most can be enjoyed by foot, bike and horse.

Prizes will be awarded in every category, to include commemorative stickers, reusable water bottles, canvas bags and a fabric-stitched patch!

The Tour Our Trails Challenge booklets are available to pick up at all County park ranger stations. There is no cost to participate and no end date.

EASY TRAILS

[San Elijo Lagoon](#), [Sweetwater Summit Regional Park](#), [Guaajome Regional Park](#), [Ramona Grasslands County Preserve](#), [Los Peñasquitos County Preserve](#)

MODERATE TRAILS

[Louis A. Stelzer County Park](#), [Del Dios Highlands County Preserve](#), [Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch](#), [Wilderness Gardens County Preserve](#), [El Monte County Park](#)

TOUGH TRAILS

[Santa Ysabel Nature Center Loop](#), [Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve](#), [Hellhole Canyon County Preserve](#), [Mt. Gower County Preserve](#), [El Capitan County Preserve](#)

STEPS TO PARTICIPATE



- Pick up a passport booklet.
- Go hiking!
- Take pictures at the sites recommended in the booklet, or elsewhere along the trail.
- Sign and date your entry.

When all five hikes are completed in a section, bring your passport to a park in that group for a special prize. When all 15 are completed, email AskParks.Lue@sdcounty.ca.gov for details on how to get your limited edition patch!

video corner

Check out these trails virtually before taking the Tour Our Trails Challenge.



Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon Virtual Hike



Ramona Grasslands Virtual Hike



Wilderness Gardens Virtual Hike

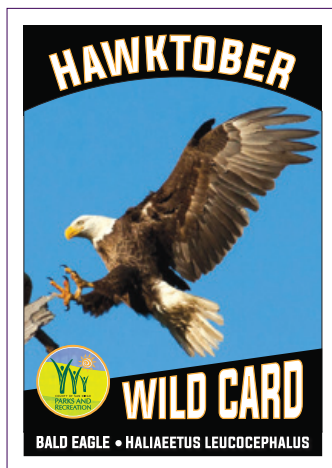
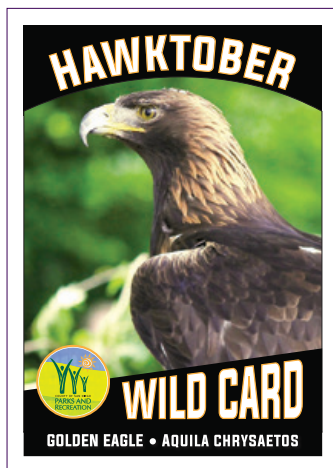
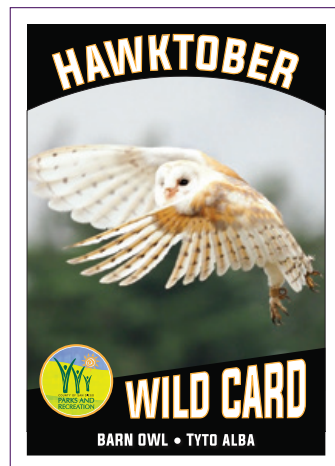
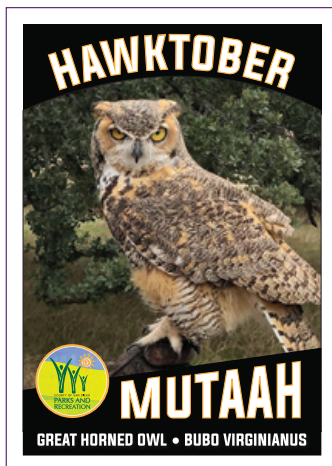
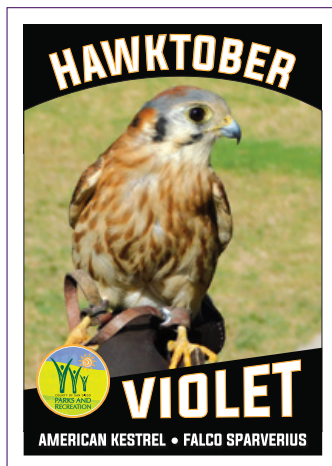
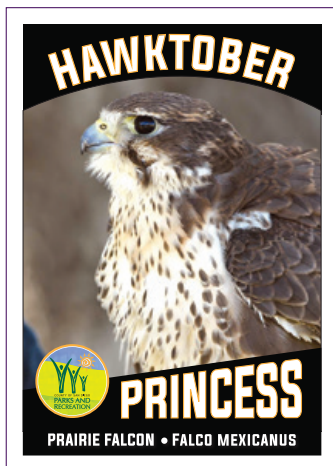
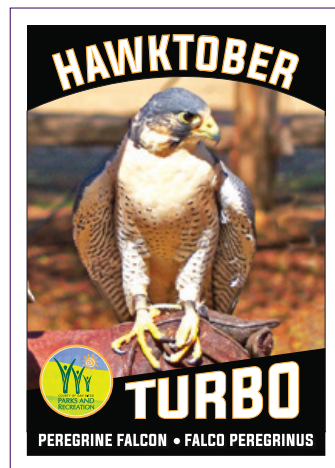
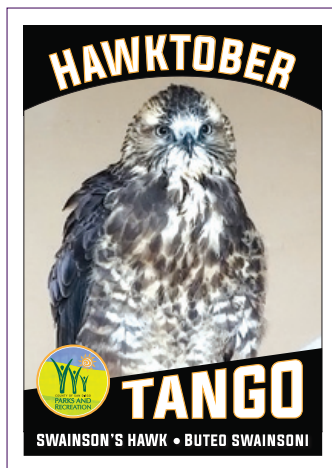
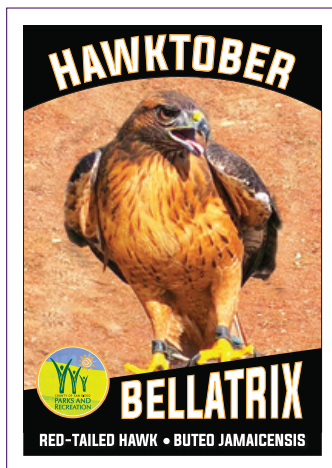
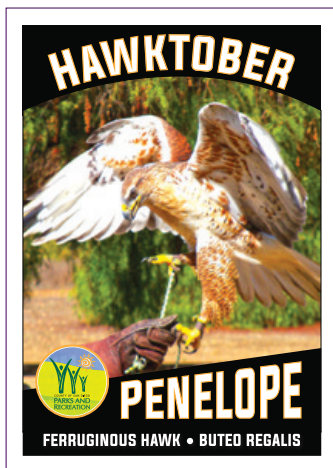


Volcan Mountain Virtual Hike

hawktober trading cards are here

To help promote the 2020 Hawktober virtual events, DPR produced a 10-card set of trading cards. Cards one through seven have raptors that will be featured at Hawktober events. Cards eight through 10 are wild cards, highlighting birds of prey that can be found in San Diego County.

To get your free set, visit any of the parks where these videos were filmed and check in with park staff. Check out the flyer on the next page for more information.



Welcome to Hawktober

HAWKTOBER

A VIRTUAL EDUCATION SERIES ON REAL BIRDS OF PREY

Tune in to our YouTube channel, @SDCountyParks, during the month of October (or as we call it “Hawktober”) for a virtual education series on real birds of prey in San Diego County.

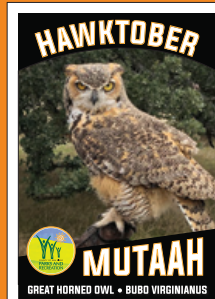
Each week, County Parks experts will highlight a species of birds and explain the important role they serve in the wild. After each video airs, go to the County Park location where the video was filmed to receive a free, limited-edition trading card set of our featured Hawktober birds!



HAWKS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7
10 A.M.

Broadcast from:
Ramona Grasslands
County Preserve



OWLS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14
10 A.M.

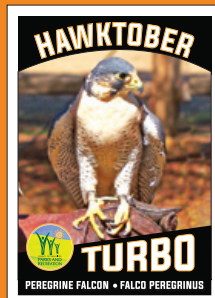
Broadcast from:
Live Oak
County Park



KESTRELS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21
10 A.M.

Broadcast from:
Santa Ysabel
Nature Center



FALCONS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28
10 A.M.

Broadcast from:
Waterfront
Park

SAN DIEGO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

858-565-3600 | SDPARKS.ORG



@SDCOUNTYPARKS



DPR awarded \$346,000 grant for the tijuana river valley coastal trail feasibility project



Elfie May crossing option 1 (current location)

By Crystal Benham, Group Program Manager, RMD

On Sept. 3, DPR was awarded a \$346,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy for the Tijuana River Valley Coastal Trail River Crossing Feasibility Project. The funding will be used to conduct technical work necessary to determine the most feasible location for the development of a permanent, safe, and reliable California Coastal Trail (Coastal Trail) crossing within the [Tijuana River Valley Regional Park](#) (TRVRP).

The Coastal Trail is envisioned as an interconnected public trail that would span more than 1,200 miles along the coast of California from Oregon to Mexico. Approximately 2 miles of proposed Coastal Trail alignment lies within the County's TRVRP, which features an additional 20 miles of multi-use trails.

However, there is currently no north-south connection for the Coastal Trail that would provide year-round access for hikers, bikers, and equestrians through the Tijuana River Valley. There are several existing trails within the TRVRP that could provide a north-south connection; however, due to current conditions such as seasonal flooding of the Tijuana River, these connections cannot be used by all user groups year-round.



Hollister St. Bridge adjacent to the Brown property



Elfie May crossing option 2

DPR has identified four potential crossing locations that could provide a permanent north-south connection for the Coastal Trail in the Tijuana River Valley. Due to current site constraints, it is anticipated that a larger improvement such as a bridge or other form of permanent crossing would be required to make one of these options viable year-round.



Extended Saturn Blvd. trail, currently blocked

The objective of this grant project is to determine the most feasible location for constructing a bridge or other type of crossing within the TRVRP so that existing trails can be utilized year-round as an alignment for the Coastal Trail. This will be achieved by conducting a feasibility study to analyze all four of the potential crossing locations and determine next steps to implement the best crossing type at the most viable location.

Implementation of the Coastal Trail crossing in TRVRP will help DPR close a current trail gap that is important for the communities in and around the Tijuana River Valley. Completion of a north-south connection will connect urbanized areas in Imperial Beach and communities in the southern portion of the City of San Diego with the beautiful and abundant open space areas and trails in the TRVRP.

This will result in direct benefits to these communities by providing them additional opportunities to directly connect with nature.



volunteer corner



Solana Beach Eco Rotary Club members Valentine Songeur, Niels Lund, Mike Rypins, Carter Stafford (President), Amelie Catheline, Lynn Stevens, John O'Halloran, Dick Stevens

By Alejandro Santos, Park Ranger, San Dieguito County Park

Members of the Solana Beach Eco Rotary Club have been volunteering at [San Dieguito County Park](#), monthly, for over 2 years. Their club is oriented to serve on environmental projects, so it was a natural fit for them to help out at the park. Over the years, they have removed invasive plants, beautified small sections of the park, and planted trees.

For a few months due to COVID-19, volunteering was on hold. When DPR reinstated volunteer opportunities they were very happy to return, as shown on the picture after beautifying the butterfly garden by trimming plants and removing weeds.

They were diligent at maintaining physical distances and practicing health protocols. It is always a pleasure to receive this group who deeply cares for plants and trees and understands the importance of providing maintenance for parks and open space.

what's developing in parks

Pine Valley County Park Pavilion

DPR recently completed construction of a pavilion at [Pine Valley County Park](#). DPR staff coordinated extensively with the Pine Valley Community Planning Group on the design and location of the pavilion.

The 600-square-foot pavilion is located near the main entrance of the park and sits on a generously sized concrete pad. Onsite are timber handrails and benches, electrical outlets and an accessible path to adjacent ADA-accessible parking.

The pavilion is constructed with a rustic log cabin aesthetic and fire retardant-treated wood timbers and steel roof. This new park amenity will be used for a variety of purposes, bringing additional shade and recreational opportunity to the Pine Valley community.



social media report

By Marian Kamimura, Marketing Assistant

Our in-person events have been placed on hold due to COVID-19 since mid-March. In turn, our department has had to creatively strategize ways to hold activities virtually so our park guests can enjoy them from the comfort of their homes.



Summer Movies at Home Facebook post

The [Summer Movies in the Park](#) program was revamped to [Summer Movies at Home](#), a weekly series where families were able to download interactive activity kits that paired with each movie title we suggested. Our [Facebook](#) events reached about 30,000 people and received 626 responses on social media.



SD Nights Virtual Escape Room tweet

[SD Nights](#) have begun holding weekly Facebook Live events and Zoom meetings online, with interactive activities, games, classes and conversations designed especially for teens – and add-on content to promote health and wellness. A few key events include virtual yoga, cooking classes, interactive game nights, escape rooms and more.



Alpine All-Wheel Public Meeting Facebook post

We have also been holding public meetings on Facebook Live, including [Fallbrook local park](#), a [bike park in Spring Valley](#), and a [skatepark and bike park in Alpine](#). Engagement on our videos has been positive; our meetings reach an average of 4,000 people and gained 500 likes, comments, shares and reactions.

In July, we announced the [Tour Our Trails Hiking Challenge](#), where participants can hike five trails in each category and earn prizes. Passports were delivered to ranger stations and signs have been posted to let customers know where they can pick them up. Many participants have been tagging us in social media posts from their hiking adventures.

We hit many milestones on social media in August, surpassing 18,000 likes on our main [Facebook](#) page, 1,000 followers on [Sweetwater Bike Park's Instagram](#) page, 1,500 followers on our main Instagram page, and 1,000 on [PQGoats' Instagram](#) page – all without paid promotion. We are very close in hitting 12K followers on [Twitter](#)!

We're always looking for fresh content to post on our social media pages. If you snapped a cool photo at a County park, please email marian.kamimura@sdcounty.ca.gov to be featured!



what's old: historic pieces donated to rancho guajome adobe

By Ellen Sweet, DPR History Center

The three grandchildren of Ida Richardson, who inherited much of [Rancho Guajome](#), have a long history of generously donating furniture and artifacts to the adobe ranch house. Recently, Kirk Richardson and his sister Pam Richardson Rivas made significant donations, all original to the Coutts-Bandini family.

The triangle dinner bell, with its attached barbed wire, originally hung from the patio beam outside the “new pantry”. It was donated in honor of long-time Guajome docent and furniture committee member Clementine (Tina) Colling. Last December, Tina Colling passed away. Her husband, Dr. Jerry Colling, still volunteers by leading tours and playing the organ at special events. The dedication and generosity of the Colling family is well-known in County parks, so this tribute is especially meaningful.



An ornated antique iron safe, circa 1800, is an exciting donation to Rancho Guajome Adobe. The single door safe is locked by a large skeleton key and contains interior wood compartments, including a small, keyed drawer.



This end table features a marble top and was designed in the stick and ball style.



This grouping of office furniture includes a desk, chairs and lamp (not shown). The desk is a partner desk for use by two people. This explains the two chairs and openings on both sides of the desk.

featured facilities: the parks at harmony grove village

HARMONY GROVE VILLAGE COMMUNITY PARK, 4TH OF JULY PARK, EQUESTRIAN PARK
2815 Starry Night Drive, Escondido, CA 92029

CONTACT: Sabrina Torres, Park Ranger
(760) 745-4379



Harmony Grove Village 4th of July Park

What are the Harmony Grove Village Community Parks known for?

There are three local parks in the newly developed residential community of Harmony Grove Village: 4th of July Park, Community Park and Equestrian Park. 4th of July Park is located at the center of the community, providing a pavilion, picnic area, playground, basketball court and open turf area within walkable distance for hundreds of residents.

Community Park and Equestrian Park are both located at the south end of the development. Community Park provides more open turf area, a playground and exercise stations, while Equestrian Park includes a horse arena, parking for trailers and plenty of supporting amenities for people to enjoy with their horses.

DPR will be gaining several community trails in the area soon, and being situated close to the Del Dios Highlands and Escondido Creek preserves, the area will provide high-quality and extensive hiking opportunities.

What are some of the upcoming events and activities taking place at your park?

4th of July Park is a great venue for local community events, concerts in the park, holiday events and private parties. Once the pandemic is behind us, we look forward to hosting many of these activities. In the meantime, park visitors are enjoying all three of these parks in a more passive manner.

What's cool or unusual about this location?

With 742 new homes in the Harmony Grove Village community, the parks serve as popular public gathering spaces for locals. Without the presence of restaurants or shops close by, food trucks and street vendors frequently conduct their business in the area surrounding the park, which people seem to enjoy.



Harmony Grove Village Community Park

What's new at your park – any key projects, programs or priorities?

As the community was built, the developer added the parks – beginning with 4th of July Park 4 years ago. Next came the others. What's new is that now they are completed, DPR has assumed ownership. Residents have been using the parks since they were developed, but the transaction to turn them over to the County to operate them as public parks took place on July 7. In these past few months, we have been developing good relationships with the local HOA and residents.



Harmony Grove Village Equestrian Park

What challenges are you currently facing?

One of the main challenges is simply getting park users familiar with DPR rules and regulations. In addition to enforcing some the usual things like keeping dogs on leash, there are restrictions related to the public health order that had not been enforced previously. When the County took ownership, playgrounds and some other amenities had to be temporarily closed.

There have also been challenges with landscaping. There were some significant problems with the irrigation system, and there are many succulents planted next to plants that require more water, causing one or the other to struggle. There was a solid team effort to correct the irrigation system issues, bringing the turf areas back to a green and usable area for visitors. And we are planning to replace several plants in landscaped areas in a way that will allow them all to thrive and keep the parks aesthetically pleasing.

spotlight on jakayla daniels

recreation program coordinator, spring valley teen center

How long have you been with the County?

I've been with the County for 2 years.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Oceanside and went to El Camino High School. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Cal-State Northridge and I received my Masters of Arts in Sociological Practice from Cal-State San Marcos.

Tell us about your DPR journey.

Before I started at DPR, a lot of my work-related experience centered around education. I worked as a teacher's aide in college while pursuing my bachelor's. Next, I worked as a peer educator and volunteer coordinator at the Cal-State San Marcos LGBTQA+ Pride Center, while completing my master's and working as a teacher's aide.

I had the opportunity to do some fun programming and meet a lot of great people at the Pride Center. After completing my master's, I started teaching for the Sociology Department at Palomar College.



Around this same time, I was introduced to this awesome program called [SD Nights](#) that was in its beginning stages. I wanted to be a part of it because I loved everything the program had to offer youth and their communities.

What's at the top of your bucket list?

The top of my bucket list is to learn how to drive a stick shift on a manual transmission vehicle. I started learning about a year ago, but I never really finished.

What kind of music do you like?

I like to listen to Hip-Hop/Rap and Rhythm and Blues music. Some of my favorite artists are Toni Braxton, Anita Baker, Tank, Pink and Ja Rule. My favorite music era is 1990s R&B and 2000s Rap/Hip-Hop.

My favorite song is Fire and Desire by Rick James and Teena Marie, and the best concert I've ever seen was by Usher.

Favorite vacation spot?

I haven't been on too many vacations. One place I would really love to go is Alaska.

What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

I'm generally not a big risk taker. With that in mind, I think the craziest thing I've ever done is probably ride in a car without wearing a seat belt.

What do you like to do in your free time? What teams do you root for?

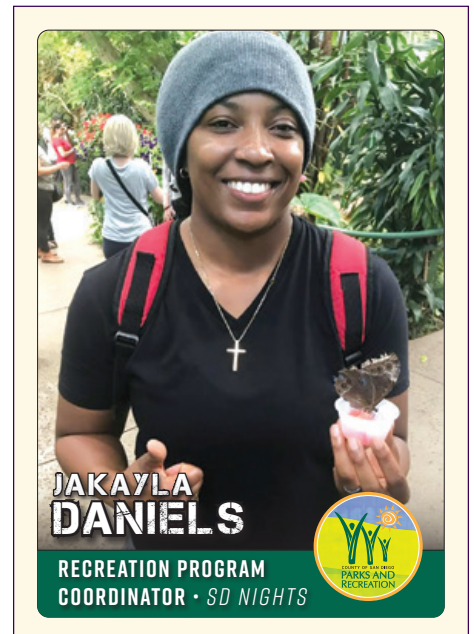
I like to go to the gym and work out. I also enjoy watching TV, horror movies, listening to music and spending time with my family. I don't have any favorite sports teams, but Derrick Rose and Aaron Rodgers are a couple of my favorite players.

What's your favorite food and restaurant?

My favorite food is any kind of pasta. My favorite restaurant is Filippi's Pizza Grotto in Escondido. The food portions there are huge!

What recent accomplishment are you especially proud of?

I like getting to build relationships with the youth and staff and getting to make a positive impact. Recently, I learned how to plant a few different kinds of trees and I'm extremely proud of that.



How have parks made YOUR life better?

Working for SD Nights, I've had the opportunity to travel all through San Diego County and see new things and meet new people, and that would likely never have happened if it wasn't working for this department.



Over the past few months, I was reassigned to help out with the COVID-19 health orders at [Felicitia County Park](#). While I was there, I was fully immersed in the ranger experience. I absolutely LOVED my time there and I learned a lot of new things about myself, and gained a lot of new skills.

featured animal ambassador: mutaah

By Charles Gailband, Region Manager, Spring Valley

Mutaah, a Great Horned Owl, one of DPR's educational animal ambassadors, came to DPR about 7 years ago. He was raised by humans after falling from his nest and it was unlikely he could care for himself in the wild.

DPR has a wildlife permit and staff with the expertise to care for wild birds and use them in educational programs. Mutaah initially joined the team at [Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon County Preserve](#). He and several other live birds of prey, moved to [El Monte County Park](#) in 2018.



Charles Gailband and Mutaah

Mutaah is a male and relatively small for a Great Horned Owl. Females are usually larger and stronger than their male counterparts.

Great Horned Owls are the largest and one of the most common owls found in San Diego County. They are responsible for the classic hooting call you can hear at night or in the early hours of the morning. The "horned" in their name refers to the feathers on the top of their head that, with a little imagination, might look like horns. The feathers are strictly decorative and have nothing to do with their hearing.

They are excellent nocturnal predators and will eat a wide range of prey, from mammals to birds, and sometime reptiles.

Great Horned Owls have three key adaptations that make them effective nighttime hunters:

Vision: They have great nighttime vision. Great Horned Owls have large eyes with a high concentration of rods; the light-sensitive cells in the eye. Some species of owls have eyes that occupy 70% of their skull. Human eyes take up approximately 5% of our skulls.

Hearing: Great Horned Owls have excellent hearing. They can sometimes find prey by hearing alone. Their ear openings are offset/asymmetrical to allow them to track directions of sounds much better than most animals.

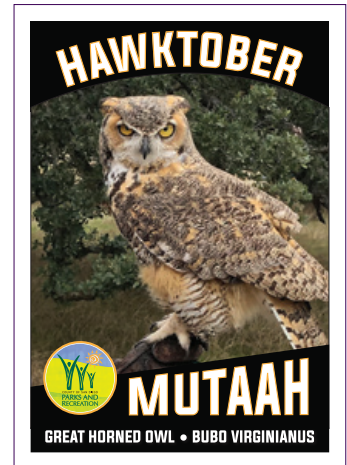
Silent flight: The soft feathers and special hair-like frills on the leading and trailing edges of their light feathers help dampen the wind shear (a difference in wind speed or direction over a relatively short distance in the atmosphere), making them silent when they fly. Stealthy flight helps them sneak-up on their prey and allows them to use their awesome sense of hearing.

One popular misconception western culture has regarding owls is their intelligence. Cartoons and stories depict owls as "wise". The truth is, their eyes are so large that their brains are relatively small; there isn't much capacity or need for problem solving compared to other birds.

Their sharp talons, paired with strong grasping strength, makes them very effective predators. A Great Horned Owl can exert 200 pounds per square inch (psi) when squeezing with its feet. Most people don't exceed 100 psi of hand gripping power.

Great Horned Owls and other birds of prey play an important role in maintaining an ecological balance in nature. They prevent the over population of mice, rats, rabbits, squirrels and other animals that, left unchecked, consume more plants and vegetation than a habitat can support. Predatory pressure is also important for healthy prey populations because it ensures the healthiest individuals survive to produce young.

Mutaah will be joining several other live hawks and falcons for DPR's second annual installment of Hawktober, a month long celebration and series of local birds of prey.



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, Nov. 1, 1–3 p.m.

Tune in on [YouTube.com/SDCountyParks](https://www.youtube.com/SDCountyParks)

Activities

- Regional Dance Performances
- Virtual Tour of Rancho Guajome Adobe
- Cultural Storytime
- Interviews with Experts
- How-to Craft Workshops: Paper Marigold Flowers and Papel Picado

Details coming soon to sdparks.org.



featured partner: heaven's windows



Heaven's Windows is a non-profit organization that provides food, wellness education, job training and emergency support to residents in southeast San Diego County.

Founded in 2009, Heaven's Windows is the result of a good idea that grew incredibly fast to keep pace with local demand. Executive Director Angela Kretschmar was providing food to people via the crisis closet at her church, and she realized she could do more for the community if she branched out, securing grants and tapping local agencies like the San Diego Food Bank for support.

"More and more people needed our help, so we grew to support them," said Kretschmar. "We got a warehouse to receive twice-monthly shipments from the San Diego Food Bank, and moved from cans to full meals, serving people of all ages, abilities and in all life situations."

In 2015, they joined the Live Well San partner team – an esteemed network of agencies that are successful in supporting healthy, safe and thriving communities. Today, they are the largest food bank distributor in east county. For measure, in 2019, year they processed 920,000 pounds of food!

"Angie and her team at Heaven's Windows have been an amazing force for change and improvement in the community of Spring Valley. They work year-round to make sure that our kids and our families are better off, for example, ensuring SV Teen Center kids don't go home hungry by providing meals during our after-school program. They do this for our kids, and for kids throughout San Diego."

– Kevin Payton, Parks Recreational Supervisor, Spring Valley Gym

Among DPR's network of facilities, they operate a food pantry at Goodland Acres County Park every Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon. On weekdays, they set up at Spring Valley Community Center to provide up to 200 pre-packaged meals a day. And, this past August, they launched a safe food pick-up program in the lot between the Spring Valley Teen Center and County Library, gifting around 150 pre-packaged meals a day to parents with kids ages 0 to 18.



They don't just serve food; they change lives.

- They use distribution events to teach people about the CalFresh food assistance program, and to share resources to help people get back on their feet.
- They provide employment training to low-income seniors, offering them volunteer roles at their warehouse and various pick-up sites.
- They advocate to combat the hunger issues plaguing our region's homeless, homebound and economically disadvantaged residents.



"One of our staff members started as a client," said Kretschmar. "When he received his first paycheck, he was hesitant to cash it because it was the first he'd received in 25 years. He was so thankful for being given that second chance. Now, he's family."

She added: "The people on my team are my rocks. They care as much about the community as I do, and they do what they do well. My trust in them allows me to focus on outreach and growth."

According to Kretschmar, collaboration between Heaven's Windows, the Sheriff's Office and City and County government is crucial to their success: "We are able to reach more people, more efficiently, with wonderful partner support."

We're partnered with them to host large events like "Back to School Jam" in Spring Valley – an event that has received a commendation from County Supervisor Dianne Jacob for welcoming some 2,000 attendees and gifting 1,300 backpacks filled with school supplies to local school children. Other events include our It's How We Live festivals, Spring Valley Fiesta, Karamu (a Black History Month celebration), and our intergenerational tutoring and SD Nights programs.

Learn more about Heaven's Windows on their website, heavenswindows.org.



safety: operation star

Safety Training Awareness and Recognition – “Real Safety for Real Life”

real or virtual: county parks is a safe place for fun activities

By Kim Preciado, HR Specialist

COVID-19 has ushered in a new era for DPR, forcing us to constantly adapt to social, economic and health order changes.

Regardless of age, gender, cultural background, or affinity group, people know they can enjoy our all-inclusive public areas. We offer a safe place for them to get away, relax, exercise and play.

We're also keeping people engaged in parks – even if they can't visit – through our [Virtual Recreation Center](#), a one-stop-site for family activities, educational videos and virtual hikes.

Thank you to all DPR staff for continuing to provide resources and tools that help our facilities stay open while keeping community members safe.

Let's continue to do what's necessary to keep us from dropping into the purple tier.

- Wear your face covering.
- Practice social distancing.
- Wash your hands often.
- Exercise regularly.
- Avoid large group gatherings.



kNow Now with New Software Hub

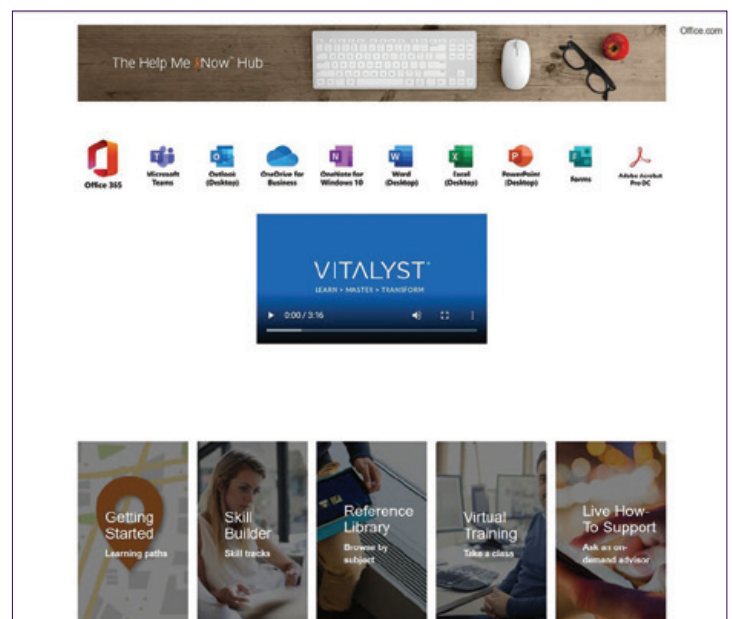
By County News Center

Need help using OneDrive, Teams, Outlook, Excel, Adobe Acrobat and other applications? Want to learn some tips and tricks? Get in the “kNow” with the Help Me kNow Hub.

The [hub](#), available to all County staff, is a place to learn about software like Microsoft applications and Adobe Acrobat. You can take short virtual classes, self-guided learning courses, or ask an on-demand advisor for help. Assistance is available by chat, email, or phone 24-7.

Take advantage of micro-trainings and special skill tracks for County users. You can visit the Help Me kNow Hub anytime. If prompted to sign in, use your County login username and password.

Bookmark the hub, find it on the InSite homepage in the Top Links (called Software Coaching) and County Technology Office's InSite page, or enter helpmeknow.sandiegocounty.gov in your web browser.



[SD NIGHTS ONLINE]

OCTOBER EVENTS

Oct. 2, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Virtual Game Show

Winner receives \$200 Amazon gift card
with Internet Safety Presentation

Oct. 9, 5 – 7 p.m.

Cooking Class (ingredients provided)
with Yoga

Oct. 16, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Playlist Bingo

Winner receives \$200 Amazon gift card
with Cyber Bullying Presentation

Oct. 23, 5 – 7 p.m.

Cooking Class (ingredients provided)
with Yoga

Oct. 30, 5 – 7 p.m.

Murder Mystery

with Law Enforcement Night

[FREE; registration and prerequisites required]

**For more information and to register, contact Carl McCullough
at 619-961-0159 or carl.mccullough@sdcounty.ca.gov.**



SD Nights – short for San Diego/Safe Destination Nights – is a FREE program developed by the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation designed to provide teens, ages 10 – 18, with safe places to recreate after school, during critical hours.

kudos

POSITIVE = POSITIVE
APPROACH = EXPERIENCE

Helpfulness – Going out of my way to find answers

Kudos to POST from Alejandro Santos

KUDOS to the POST team for helping San Dieguito plant trees. If you were to ask me to describe POST staff, I would say that as a team, they resemble all that H.E.A.R.T. stand for. POST's Miles Barlow, Jeff Mahan and Jake Gibbs assisted park staff in planting several 24-inch trees at San Dieguito's lower park in a very timely manner. All members of POST, you are immensely appreciated!

Kudos to Mareano Snyder, Sean Sutton, Abraham Garcia, Fernando Acero, and Matt Sanford from Jake Enriquez

A big special thank you to Mareano Snyder, Sean Sutton, Abraham Garcia, Fernando Acero and Matt Sanford for helping to maintain public access to [Hellhole Canyon County Preserve](#).

Kudos to Eric Gerhardt from Dave Moniz

I wanted to express my appreciation to Eric Gerhardt for his helpfulness and expertise on multiple IT issues and questions I've had this past month.

Expertise – Being knowledgeable

Kudos to Jeff Lollis from Dan Kohl

I would like to give Kudos to Jeff Lollis. For the last few seasons, I've reached out to Jeff several times asking him for advice on finding lost irrigation valve boxes and deciphering old irrigation maps at [Lindo Lake County Park](#). Jeff always took time out of his day to help park staff figure out where things were located and explaining what they meant saving valuable time. Jeff was even able to find [Lakeside Baseball Park's](#) access code for the entrance gate which prevented the unnecessary cost of replacing the existing key panel. Jeff's attentiveness to detail is much appreciated!

Kudos to Nick Sloan from Rusty Rodes

Kudos to Supervising Park Ranger Nick Sloan for conducting a trail maintenance and water bar construction training for our Park Maintenance Worker Nate Lacy. This was most helpful.

Attentiveness – Being ready to meet my customer's needs

Kudos to Roland Quindoy, Tommy Contreras, Ketsela Mengistu and Ivan Castiileja from Rusty Rodes

Kudos to Roland Quindoy, Tommy Contreras, Ketsela Mengistu and Ivan Castiileja for sharing their County vehicles with our staff work and helping us through these COVID-19 challenging times.



Kudos to Yonapalu Snape and ECOPS from Patty Heyden

A big kudos to Snape and his team from ECOPS for making quick and thorough work on the giant oak that fell at [Flinn Springs County Park](#). Knowing that this ancient tree held special meaning to us, he carefully extracted beautiful limbs and transported them to [Estrella County Park](#) to be used as natural play structures. He also conserved the stump so it can be used as a calendar of the tree's life by observing its growth rings. In addition, the roots are left, upside down, so the public can see where a fire burned it when it was a small tree. Snape's intent was obvious, as he helped us turn this sad situation into a positive one. Thanks gentlemen!

Kudos to Jo Jo Truex from Alicia Watkins

I would like to give kudos to Jo Jo at the DPR front desk. As both an internal and external customer (my family loves to camp!), Jo Jo always displays H.E.A.R.T. She is knowledgeable, professional, friendly, and she communicates clearly and effectively. When I talk to her regarding camping, she doesn't know I work for the County but she treats me with the same respect and attentiveness that she would if she knew I did. Thank you for being so awesome!

Respect – Treating customers with dignity and courtesy

Kudos Sam Olea from Katrina Westley

I would like to give a shout out to one of our new Park Rangers, Sam Olea. He is the epitome of our H.E.A.R.T. Customer Service core values. Sam always takes the initiative to lend a helping hand assisting staff and giving our park visitors excellent and timely customer service. His interactions are always positive and performed with the utmost respect. When needed, he can enforce our rules and regulations with firm but friendly demeanor. Sam is a wonderful addition to our Ranger team and is an absolute pleasure to work with here at [Lake Morena County Park](#).

Kudos Beth Dirksen from Andy Quinn

Kudos to Ranger Beth at the [San Elijo Nature Center](#). My wife, baby Hiro and I recently visited San Elijo Lagoon around 4 p.m. and the facility, parking area, patio and restrooms were nice and clean. Ranger Beth took time to give us a quick tour and we had a great time. Thank you Beth! We really appreciate it.



Kudos to the ECOPS and South Locals Team from Charles Gailband

Kudos to the ECOPS and South Locals teams for quickly and expertly installing a new fence at [Lamar County Park](#). Their quick response to a community request has led to major improvements for the community of Spring Valley. Other County departments were impressed with the expertise and skill demonstrated by these two work groups well completing this project.

Kudos to Ivan Castilleja and the POST work group from Brian Ek

Kudos to Ivan Castilleja and the POST work group for jumping on projects at Rainbow Park and Santa Margarita Preserve in such a timely manner. Their reliability and efficiency is an asset to our Fallbrook parks.



Timeliness – Being efficient with my customer's time

Kudos to the SD Nights team from Ashley Marquez

Kudos to the SD Nights team for completely converting their program into a virtual one! No matter what challenges arise, the team continues to provide positive activities for the community.



DPR PHOTO GALLERY



A protest/yoga class in support of Black Lives Matter at Waterfront Park. Photo by Christine Lafontant.



The Valley Fire caused an eerie sunscape at Ramona Grasslands County Preserve. Photo by Dave Moniz



A biker at William Heise County Park. Photo submitted by Christine Lafontant.



Arnold Young captured an early morning scene with low clouds at El Monte County Park



Rangers get together, pre-COVID-19. Top row, left to right: Adair Flores, Gustavo Acero, Kory Prindle, Jon Nash, Patrick Wiener. Bottom Row: Resheed Smith, Alejandro Santos, Hannah Shipley.



When not working at the front desk, Jo Jo Truex is shredding tree branches with the San Luis Rey work group.

SAVE OUR TREES



Help us combat the effects of invasive insects in San Diego County. Dead and dying trees compromise public safety due to falling limbs, flooding caused by blocked waterways, and increased fire danger. Trees are removed and replanted, but risks remain.

Shot Hole Borers attack many types of trees including avocado, ornamental, riparian and native trees. Goldspotted Oak Borers prefer oaks, affecting many trees in our mountain region. Certain weevils have been found in palms throughout San Diego.

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT

Help local, state and federal agencies in their efforts to contain this damaging pest. Insects and diseases can be transported long distances on firewood. Once they arrive in a new location, they can infest and kill nearby trees. Please use locally sourced firewood to help slow the spread of non-native pests.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Purchase firewood in the area you plan to use it; do not transport wood to campgrounds or parks
- Bring only what you need and always burn responsibly
- Buy wood for home heating from local sources

LEARN MORE

dontmovefirewood.org
firewood.ca.gov

pshb.org
sdcounty.ca.gov/awm

sdparks.org



UCCE University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Cooperative Extension

Happy with our parks? Review us on Google!



**County of San Diego
Department of
Parks and Recreation**

Stay Informed During Public Safety Power Shutoffs

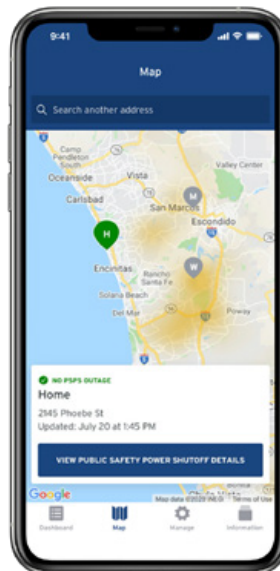


DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PSPS APP, "ALERTS BY SDGE"

In recent years, California has experienced some of the most destructive wildfires ever seen. SDGE® makes every effort to help protect the region against the threat of wildfires. If dangerous high fire risk conditions are present, we may shut off power as a last resort to keep your community safe. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

Our new PSPS app is a free tool that puts outage information at your fingertips throughout a PSPS event.

Download our free app today at
sdge.com/pspsapp



Key features of the PSPS app:

- ▶ Track PSPS outages for personal locations with the ability to save up to five addresses.
- ▶ Stay informed about power restoration efforts and estimated time of restoration.
- ▶ Real-time status updates.
- ▶ Directions to the nearest Community Resource Centers and access to additional SDGE resources.



The PSPS app is compatible with both iPhone® and Android™ devices and can be downloaded at the App Store or on Google Play.