



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Department of Parks and Recreation

CHIEF OF PARKS OPERATIONS - South Region Official Class Title: Chief, Departmental Operations

Anticipated Hiring Range: \$133,000 to \$139,000 Annually

Excellent Benefits Package



THE POSITION

Chief of Parks Operations

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) of the County of San Diego is seeking applications and résumés from exemplary qualified individuals for the South **Chief of Parks Operations** (official class title: Chief, Departmental Operations). The selected candidate for this unclassified management position will be a strategist and innovator who strives for continuous improvement and results. The position is responsible for providing leadership and oversight to maintain park and recreation facilities and supervision of Parks Region Managers, and staff assigned to DPR's South Operations Division.

The South Operations Chief will be responsible for the operations and management of 4 direct reports and 60 full-time employees. This position manages 48 facilities including Waterfront Park, Tijuana River Valley Regional Park, Spring Valley Community Center, and Sweetwater Regional Park. This position is also responsible for overseeing 25 DPR Programmatic Lead Areas that include the Homeless Outreach Program, Playground Safety, Professional Development, and the Safety Liaison/Coordinator.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate for the South Chief of Parks Operations thrives in a fast-paced, high profile, and demanding environment and possesses depth and breadth of experience in parks and recreational operations and activities. The ideal candidate will possess a professional history that includes the following:

- At least five years of management level experience within a public sector parks and recreation department
- Proven experience at a management level in enhancing and embracing an organizational culture that promotes a high degree of customer service
- Ability to practice a customer service-oriented management philosophy which transcends all levels of an organization
- Ability to manage people by building and supporting mutually beneficial relationships with other organizations, associations, and community contacts
- Ability to provide accurate and complete information in a timely manner
- Ability to demonstrate organizational and political awareness of sensitive issues and understanding of multiple stakeholder needs to develop consensus on projects and programs, including working with boards and commissions, community planning or sponsor groups, industry groups, community organizations, agency officials, and the public
- Skill in strategic thinking and anticipation of future consequences and trends while applying knowledge appropriately
- Ability to mentor, develop, and advocate for staff
- Demonstrates strong teamwork and collaboration skills and the ability to help others learn interpersonal skills
- Ability to convey information and ideas verbally and in writing in a transparent and articulate manner
- Ability to relate to a wide range of styles and personalities of staff and various stakeholders



THE DEPARTMENT



Parks and Recreation

Our Mission:

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

Accessible high-quality parks and diverse recreational opportunities improve the lives of residents and visitors in San Diego County. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) builds better health for individuals and families, enhances safety in communities, and preserves the environment so that people can enjoy clean air, clean water, rich bio-diversity, and access to open space. The County continues to expand its award-winning park system, which features 158 facilities including local and regional parks, camping parks, historic park sites, fishing lakes, ecological preserves and botanic gardens. DPR operates and manages approximately 59,000+ acres of parkland and 390+ miles of multi-use trails for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclist that foster an appreciation of nature and history.

Park facilities are open year-round/seven days a week. The Operations Divisions (North, South, and East) are also responsible for protecting County-owned open space to preserve sensitive biological and cultural resources. The Operations Divisions provide hundreds of recreation programs that enrich the lives of all patrons including families, seniors, kids, adults, people with disabilities, and at-risk youth. The operating budget of the Operations Divisions is over \$55 million including 450+ full and part-time employees.

For more information, please visit the [Department of Parks and Recreation website](#).



MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must possess the following:

Five years of experience that demonstrates the ability to perform the essential functions of the classification, which must include two years of management or supervision AND a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, or certified equivalency for foreign studies;

OR a combination of experience and/or education as stated above.

Notes: A master's or doctoral degree from an accredited U.S. college or university, or a certified foreign studies equivalency, may substitute for up to one year of required experience.

Qualifying experience will include CAO Staff Officer or Project Manager experience that involves leading projects.

SALARY & BENEFITS

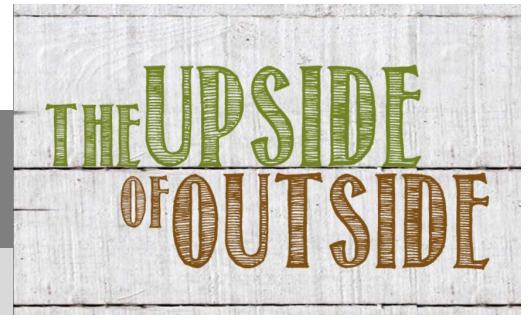
COMPENSATION

The anticipated hiring range is \$133,000 - \$139,000 annually.

Salary placement for this position is dependent upon the qualifications of the successful candidate. Salary reviews are performance-based and goal oriented.

BENEFITS

- 15 days of paid vacation, 14 paid holidays, 13 days of paid sick leave, 10 days of paid executive time off, and a total of 3 days of paid emergency child and/or older adult care leave per year.
- Medical, dental, and vision insurance plans
- Disability Insurance, Life Insurance, and Accidental Death/Dismemberment Insurance
- Flexible Management Benefit Package – a monthly credit may be used to select benefits from a group of options
- Defined benefit retirement program
- Reciprocity with other governmental retirement systems may be granted; for further information, visit the website for the [San Diego County Employees Retirement Association](#)
- Deferred Compensation Program 457 and 401(a) plans
- May be eligible for relocation allowance up to \$15,000

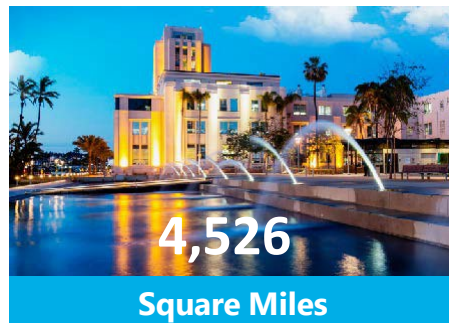


THE COMMUNITY OF SAN DIEGO

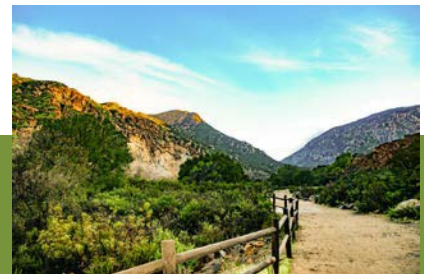
From our world-class beaches to almost year-round sunny weather, San Diego offers our residents much more than sun and waves. Downtown you can watch a Padres game at Petco Park or enjoy one of the fine-dining restaurants in the Gaslamp Quarter.

SAN DIEGO WEATHER ANNUAL AVERAGES

- **HIGH TEMPERATURE:** 70°F
- **LOW TEMPERATURE:** 58°F
- **RAINFALL:** 10.4 INCHES



Heading east you will find mountains that may be covered in snow depending on the time of year. Head south and you will start to truly see the diversity in both geography and cultures. Head west, and you will run into over 70+ miles of pristine coastline.



The County of San Diego is committed to valuing diversity and practicing inclusion because our diverse workforce is our greatest asset and our customers are our number one priority.



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

The County of San Diego and its employees embrace the *Live Well San Diego* vision: A region that is Building Better Health, Living Safely and Thriving. For more information please visit www.livewellsd.org

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATION PROCESS AND RECRUITMENT SCHEDULE

1. Complete the online application at www.sandiegocounty.gov/hr select Current Job Postings, Job Number 25092705UPR.
2. Attach your résumé
3. Attach a copy of your college degree, final transcripts or foreign studies equivalency certificate (if education was obtained outside of the U.S.).

Key Dates:

- Resume Review: Week of July 7, 2025
- Interviews: Week of July 21, 2025
- Expected Start Date: Month of August 2025

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible for consideration.

SPECIAL NOTES

The Department of Human Resources removes personally identifiable information from all recruitments. This practice, called Blind Applicant Screening, hides a candidate's personal information that could influence or bias a hiring decision. Personal information includes name, phone number, address, gender, age and race. This process helps contribute to a fair and equitable selection process leading to a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

The most highly qualified candidates, based on the evaluation results, will be referred for an interview. Be sure to include your experience in meeting the minimum requirements in both the Work Experience section and the Supplemental Questionnaire section of the Application.

Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of the application Work History and/or supplemental questionnaire.

CONTACT INFORMATION

You may direct questions regarding the application and selection process to Jorge Puente, Executive Recruiter, Department of Human Resources at Jorge.Puente@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Questions regarding the position or department may be directed to Lydia Lopez, Group Human Resources Director, Land Use and Environment Group, at Lydia.Lopez@sdcounty.ca.gov.

