



City of Riverside - Book of Work Update

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department

Park and Recreation Commission
May 18, 2026

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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the **Parks, Recreation and Community Services** Department is to provide innovative recreational experiences and social enrichment opportunities to address the changing needs for people of all ages and cultures, in a variety of attractive parks, trails, landscapes and facilities.

As one of the City's most public-facing departments, Parks, Recreation and Community Services serves 300,000+ residents through 6 divisions and a workforce of 130 full-time and approximately 400 part-time and seasonal employees, supporting programs, facilities, and community engagement citywide.



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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

<h3 style="margin: 0;">Parks, Trails & Open Space</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 parks, 3,000 acres, 31 miles of trails Landscape, playground, and park asset maintenance Capital projects Adopt-a-Park program 	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Facilities & Community Spaces</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 community centers, 2 youth centers, 3 senior centers, 1 nature center 7 pools Facility rentals, restrooms, and concessions - Fox Performing Arts Center, Riverside Municipal Auditorium, The Box
<h3 style="margin: 0;">Programs & Events</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth, adult, senior, and adaptive recreation programs Sports leagues, classes, and aquatics programming Citywide special events and ward celebrations 	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Enrichment & Quality of Life</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior and disabled transit Arts, cultural programs and public space activation Community outreach, partnerships, and engagement

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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1. Ensure Safe, Clean, and Sustainable Parks**
 Maintain well-kept, secure, and environmentally responsible parks and facilities that residents can enjoy and trust.
- 2. Achieve CAPRA Accreditation**
 Pursue national accreditation to demonstrate excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement in parks and recreation services.
- 3. Enhance Quality of Life for All Residents**
 Deliver inclusive parks, recreation programs, community services, and arts and culture opportunities that enrich the lives of residents of all ages and abilities.

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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

2025 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed **Tim Strack Park** construction
- Completed **Arlington Park Pickleball Complex**
- Completed 6 **playground replacements** (Hunt, Harrison, Dario Vasquez, Bergamont, Castlevew, and Taft. Thundersky)
- Installation of 3 **pool heaters** (Villegas, Hunt and Reid Park pools)
- Completed Fairmount Park Lake **Dredging**
- Completed **Deferred Maintenance** projects such as parking lot re-surfacing, HVAC replacement, and LED lighting upgrade
- Arts and Culture District** designated California Cultural District by the California Arts Council
- Ratified Stewart's Boathouse Concessionaire Agreement for **pedal boats**, kayaks, and bikes





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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

2025 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Offered **4th of July Firework Shows** at Mt. Rubidoux and La Sierra Park
- Hosted **6 concerts** at Fairmount Park
- Hosted **Local Vibes Ward Events:**
 - Ward 2 - Day of the Dead Color Run
 - Ward 3 - Planes and Treats
 - Ward 5 - Fall Festival
 - Ward 6 - Sledding Under the Stars
 - Ward 7 - Dog Parade
- Implementation of new optimized **bus scheduling software** for Special Transit
- Special Transit offered **Free Ride Days**
- Purchased 16 new **Transit Busses** (50% of all fleet)





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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRIORITIES & INITIATIVES FOR 2026

- Renovate the **Community Center** (Bobby Bonds Park)
- Complete **Bordwell Park Gymnasium**
- Complete **Patterson Park Renovation**
- Begin construction of the trail, bike path, and landscaping at the **Gage Canal** (Palmyrita Ave to Blaine Street)
- Kick off **Hole Lake** Master Plan
- Complete **Bobby Bonds Skate Park** Renovation
- Begin community meetings and grant applications for **Mission Ranch Park**
- Explore funding opportunities to renovate Joyce Jackson Community Center (**Nichols Park**) as a Community Resilience Center and add a Deaf Cultural Community Center wing
- Explore opportunities for a **new pool at La Sierra Park**
- Explore funding opportunities to renovate Ruth Lewis Community Center (**Reid Park**)
- Explore opportunities for a **new pool and senior center** in Ward 4



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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRIORITIES & INITIATIVES FOR 2026

- Advance the **Senior Strategic Plan** and continue meeting with stakeholders
- Advance **CAPRA Accreditation** process
- Continue to work towards **Zero Emissions** for Transit Services
- Continue Special Transit's **Free Rides** program
- Activate the **Arts & Culture District Master Plan** through Citywide Promotion and Artist Recognition
- Develop and implement a **Percent for the Arts Program** through Development Fees
- Continue **fire fuel reduction** with a focus on creating defensible space
- Complete **playground renovation** at Nichols and Collett Park



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PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PRIORITIES & INITIATIVES FOR 2026

Put the River Back in Riverside

- Complete the **River District** Strategic Plan
- Complete Environmental Documents for the **Gateway Projects**
- Complete design for **University Wash** improvements with funding from the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Complete the **Fairmount Park Master Plan**
 - Explore public sale of surplus property for housing
 - Explore private partnership to enhance golf and entertainment
 - Continue to collaborate with Tribes on art, interpretation, and programming of indigenous village
 - Begin process to Register Fairmount Park on the National Register of Historic Places

