

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services is connecting people through parks, recreation and neighborhood services for an active San José.

# PARKS, RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

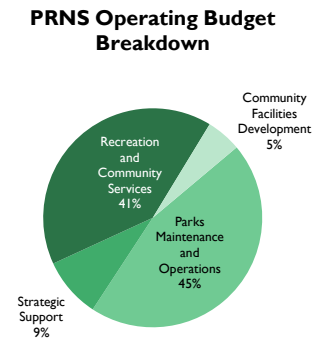
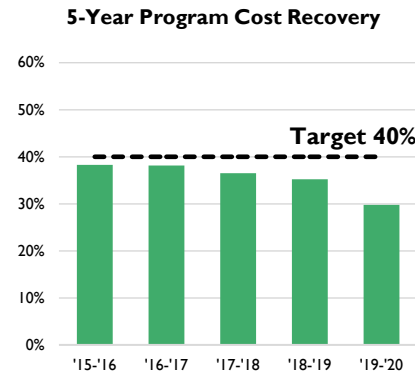
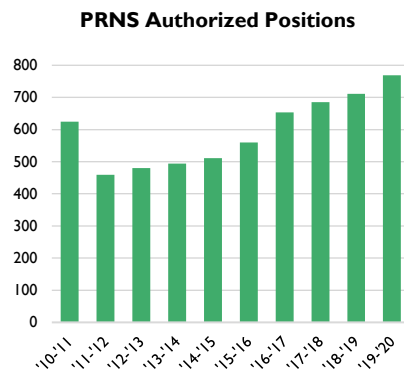
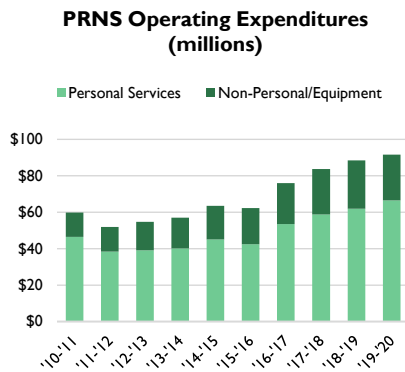
The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department (PRNS) operates the City’s regional and neighborhood parks, as well as facilities such as Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. PRNS also operates community and recreation centers and provides various recreation, community service, and other programs for the City’s residents. PRNS offers programs and services for children, youth, teens, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities.

In 2019-20, PRNS operating expenditures totaled \$91.5 million. This included personal and non-personal/equipment expenditures. PRNS was responsible for \$59 million in additional costs, including \$35.8 million in capital expenditures, \$6.9 million in Citywide expenses, and \$9.7 million in debt service expenses. Staffing totaled 769 authorized positions, 58 more positions than 2018-19. This included continued funding to support placemaking and park activation programs, and added staffing to support long-term strategy development at the Police Activities League (PAL).

COVID-19 shelter in place restrictions and the temporary closure of many facilities and programs has impacted PRNS revenues. PRNS has a goal of recovering 40 percent of its direct program costs through collected revenues (e.g., fees, charges, leases, grants). For 2019-20, PRNS reported its direct program cost recovery rate was 30 percent. Program fees, which accounted for 56 percent of collected revenues, were down from \$22 million last year to \$14 million. [Happy Hollow Park & Zoo](#) served 307,000 visitors and generated \$4.9 million in revenues in 2019-20 down significantly from the previous years’ numbers of 488,000 visitors and \$7.6 million in revenues. PRNS reports that over 600 staff were redeployed for COVID-19 related activities.



Source: PRNS (Alum Rock Park and PRNS staff working at an emergency food distribution site at Castlemont Elementary School)



# PARKS, RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

## PARKS

The City has 199 neighborhood and ten regional parks, as well as other facilities, such as community gardens, trails, swimming pools, and skate parks. Excluding golf courses, the developed portion of these facilities covered 1,791 acres. There were an additional 1,425 acres of open space and undeveloped land. Two new neighborhood parks and one regional park were added in 2019-20. These were the Iris Chang and Rincon South Park and the Arcadia Ballpark. For more information on City Parks see our 2020 audit, [Park Maintenance: Improved Data Collection and Analysis Would Enhance Park Maintenance Operations](#).

The City's General Fund cost to maintain developed parkland was \$13,160 per acre. (See the CSA dashboard chapter for additional information on park condition.)

The PRNS five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) allocated \$360 million to parks in 2019-20. PRNS estimates it has a deferred maintenance and unfunded infrastructure backlog totaling approximately \$382 million for regional park facilities, community buildings, regional facilities, trails, and park restrooms.

The [City Trail Network](#) is composed of 40 unique trail systems that will be interconnected as further development occurs. The 2019-20 network includes 61.78 miles of trails that are open to the public (86 percent paved). An additional 84 miles have been identified or are being studied for further development, or are in the planning or construction phases of development.

## KEY FACTS (2019-20)

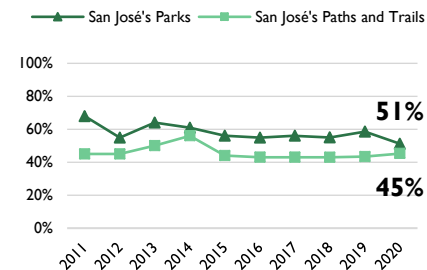
Neighborhood Parks (199 parks)	1,228 acres
Regional Parks (10 parks)	562 acres
Golf Courses (3 courses)	321 acres*
Open space and undeveloped land	<u>1,425 acres</u>
Total*	3,537 acres*

For list of City parks see: [City Parks](#)

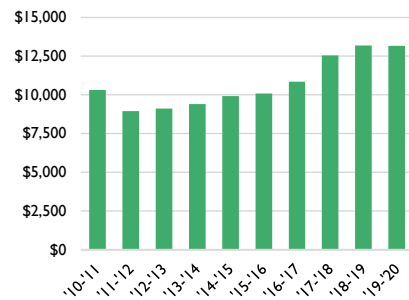
\*State, county, or other public lands within San José's boundaries are not included in the above figures. Does not include 50 acres open space.

### RESIDENT SURVEY

% of San José residents rating services as "excellent" or "good"

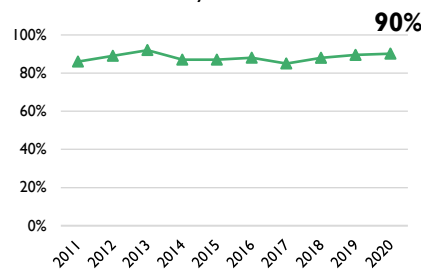


### Cost per Acre to Maintain Parks and Other Facilities



### RESIDENT SURVEY

% of San José residents that reported visiting a park at least once in the past year



### Activate SJ

In 2019-20, the City adopted ActivateSJ, PRNS' new 20-year strategic plan. The plan focuses on five guiding principles: 1) Stewardship 2) Nature 3) Equity & Access 4) Identity 5) Public Life.

Key outcomes include ensuring 100 percent of parks are in good or excellent condition; preserving a park and recreation system that preserves nature and supports wildlife; achieving a 10-minute walk to a quality park for all residents; completing Regional Master Plans to ensure that the park system reflects the culture and history of San José; and developing self-sustaining quality spaces to strengthen community pride and unity. The department plans to evaluate progress, measure success, and refine or adjust the benchmarks every five years from 2020-2040.

# PARKS, RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

## RECREATION PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

PRNS program offerings include (but are not limited to) after-school programs, camps, aquatic programs, arts and crafts, dance, early childhood education, health and fitness programs, sports, therapeutic classes designed for persons with disabilities, and programs for seniors. For a list of all programs and classes, see [Community Center Brochures](#). Participation in the City run programs was reduced from the previous year in 2019-20 because of the COVID-19 shelter in place restrictions. All 48 community centers were closed from March 17, 2020 through June 30, 2020 due to those restrictions and no programming outside of essential services such as curbside senior nutrition and some childcare occurred during that time.

In 2019-20, the City operated 16 community centers throughout the City. Three of those centers are combination community centers and libraries. In 2019-20 PRNS also managed 32 additional Neighborhood Center Program Partner sites. These sites, formerly known as reuse sites, are generally operated by nonprofits, neighborhood associations, school districts, or other government agencies or community service providers.

The City's hub community centers and the Bascom Community Center were open an average of 57 hours per week until the shelter in place orders, after which all community centers were closed to the public for the remainder of the fiscal year.

(See the CSA Dashboard chapter for results of recreation program participant surveys.)

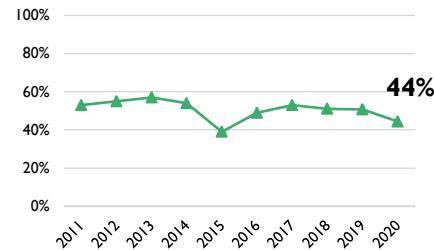
### KEY FACTS (2019-20)

Community centers (including Neighborhood Center Program Partner sites)	48
Community center square footage	553,464 sq. ft.
Average weekly hours open (hub community centers)	57
Estimated participation at City run programs*	709,264

\*This is a duplicated count (i.e., individuals are counted for each program attended). We should note that all community centers were closed to the public beginning March 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 shelter in place orders.

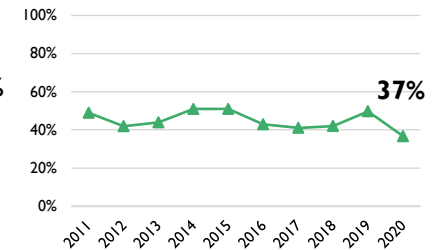
### RESIDENT SURVEY

% of San José residents rating recreational opportunities as "excellent" or "good"

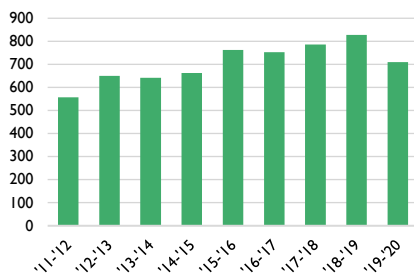


### RESIDENT SURVEY

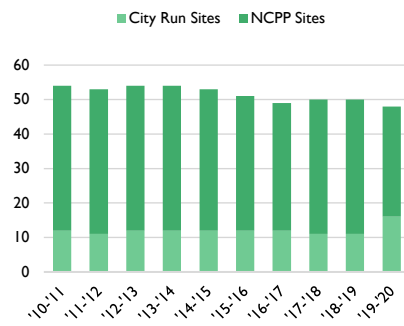
% of San José residents using a recreation center or facility at least once



Estimated Participation in Programs at City-Operated Community Centers (thousands)

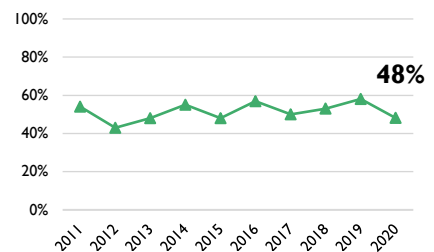


Community Centers

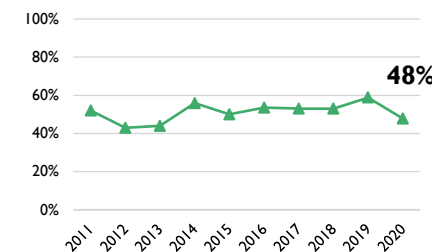


In 2019, PRNS rebranded the "Reuse Program" to the "Neighborhood Center Partner Program".

RESIDENT SURVEY  
% of San José residents rating San José's recreation centers or facilities "excellent" or "good"



RESIDENT SURVEY  
% of San José residents rating San José's recreation programs "excellent" or "good"



# PARKS, RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

## RECREATION PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY CENTERS (continued)

City of San José Community Centers Map



Source: Auditor generated based on Public Works data

In 2019, PRNS rebranded the "Reuse Program" to the "Neighborhood Center Partner Program". Currently there are 32 sites in the Neighborhood Center Partner Program with an additional 16 sites that are City-operated. For more information see our 2018 audit [Community Center Reuse: Efficient Monitoring and Better Data Can Help Determine the Next Phase of Reuse](#).

### Community Centers in Operation

#### City-Operated Sites

Almaden Community Center (hub)	Hank Lopez Community Center
Almaden (The Spot) Youth Center	Mayfair Community Center (hub)
Bascom Community Center (hub)	Millbrook Community Center
Berryessa Community Center (hub)	Northside Community Center
Calabazas Neighborhood Center	Roosevelt Community Center (hub)
Camden Community Center (hub)	Seven Trees Community Center (hub)
Cypress Senior Center (hub)	Southside Community Center (hub)
Evergreen Community Center (hub)	Willow Glen Community & Senior Center (hub)

#### Neighborhood Center Partner Program Sites

Alma Youth and Senior Centers	Kirk Community Center
Almaden Winery Community Center	Los Paseos Youth Center
Alum Rock Youth Center	Meadowfair Community Center
Alviso Community Center (closed)	Noble House Community Center
Alviso Youth Center	Noble Modular Community Center
Backesto Neighborhood Center	Olinder Neighborhood Center
Berryessa Youth Center	Rainbow Park Neighborhood Center
Bramhall Park Neighborhood Center	San Tomas Community Center
Capitol Park (Goss) Community Center	Sherman Oaks Community Center
Edenvale Community Center	Spartan Keyes Neighborhood Center
Edenvale Youth Center	Starbird Community Center
Gardner Community Center	Vietnamese-American Cultural Center at George Shirakawa Community Center
Hamann Park Community Center	Vista Park Community Center
Hillview Library (closed)	Washington United Youth Center
Houge Park Community Center	Welch Park Neighborhood Center

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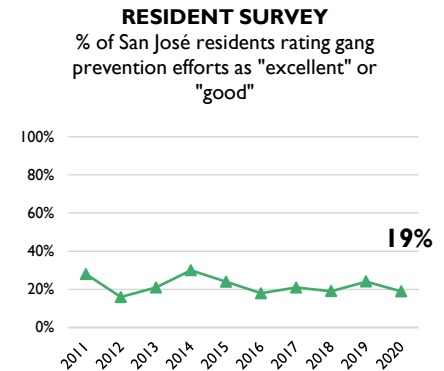
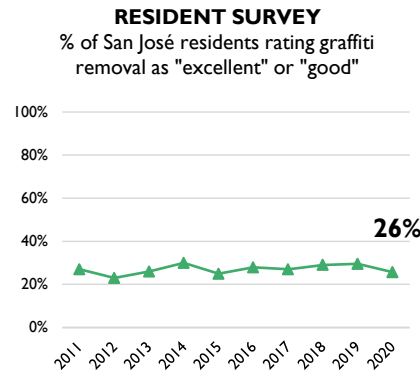
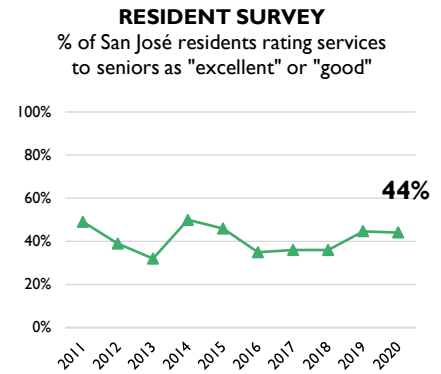
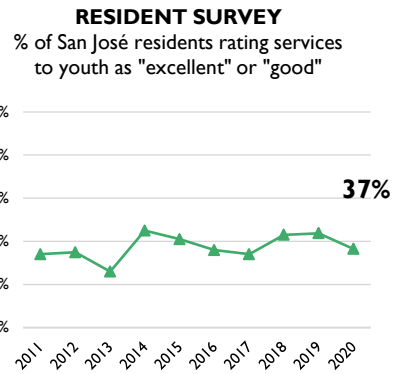
## NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

PRNS also provides a number of community services including anti-graffiti and anti-litter programs, gang prevention and intervention programs, the senior nutrition program, and others.

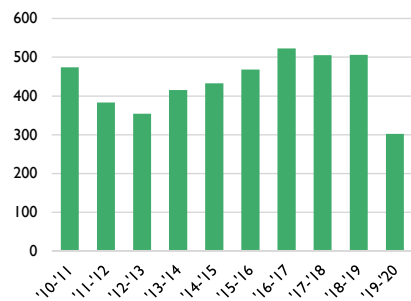
The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) has service components such as the Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together (B.E.S.T.) program, the Safe Schools Campus Initiative (SSCI) and the Safe Summer Initiative providing services to at-risk youth and their families.\* In 2019-20, the SSCI team responded to 302 incidents at 57 high, middle, and elementary schools which is down from the previous year due to school closures. There were an estimated 3,200 participants in programs offered by community based organizations that received B.E.S.T. grants; in 2019-20 grants totaled \$2.5 million. The 2019-20 expenditures for the B.E.S.T. program were \$5.1 million.

In 2019-20, the City's contractor completed 42,849 graffiti removal workorders. One of the reasons for the increase from the previous year was due to clean-up requests related to the civil unrest that occurred during the summer. The resident survey reports that 26 percent of residents viewed graffiti removal services as good or excellent. Survey responses were likely based on respondents' overall perception of graffiti removal, including graffiti on highways, expressways, and railroads that are the responsibility of others.

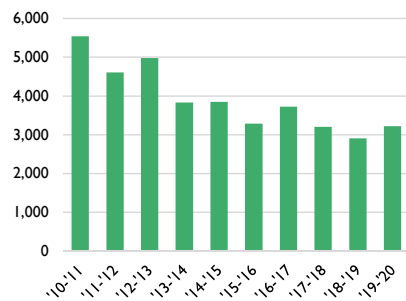
\* SSCI is a partnership between school districts and the City to address violence-related issues in schools. The Safe Summer Initiative did not occur until July 2020 due to COVID-19. For more information on Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force programs see our audit of [The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force: Better Coordination and Use of Data Can Further The Task Force's Strategic Goals](#)



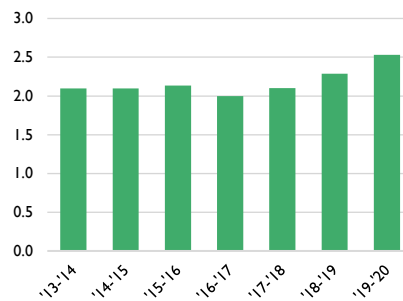
**Incidents Responses on Safe School Campuses**



**Participants in Grant-Funded B.E.S.T. Youth Service Program**



**Estimated Square Feet of Graffiti Eradicated (millions)**



**Graffiti Workorders Completed**

