

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 2021-22, PRNS operating expenditures totaled \$97.3 million. This included personal and non-personal/equipment expenditures. PRNS was also responsible for additional costs, including \$12.1 million in Citywide expenses. Staffing totaled 775 authorized positions, 33 more positions than in 2020-21. In 2021-22, the City consolidated management of BeautifySJ into PRNS, adding 26 positions. BeautifySJ program areas include anti-graffiti and anti-litter, illegal dumping, and homeless encampment trash services and abatement.

For 2021-22, PRNS reported its direct program cost recovery rate was 28 percent. Program fees, which accounted for 59 percent of collected revenues, totaled \$16 million, up from the prior year's low of \$2 million. [Happy Hollow Park & Zoo](#) served 311,300 visitors and generated \$6.5 million in revenues in 2021-22, up from the previous year's revenues of \$925,000 but not back up to pre-COVID revenues of more than \$7 million. Happy Hollow Park & Zoo remained closed Mondays and Tuesdays. In the previous fiscal year, the Zoo was closed Sunday through Wednesday.

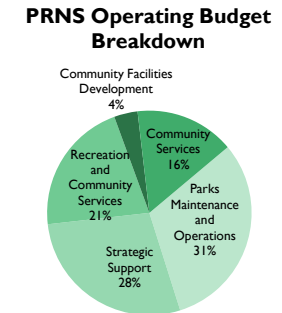
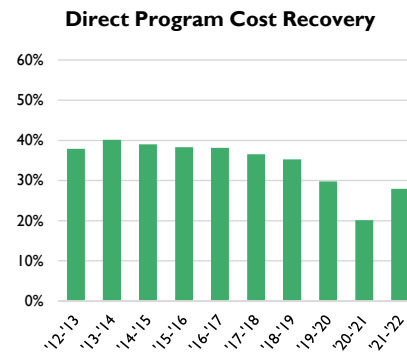
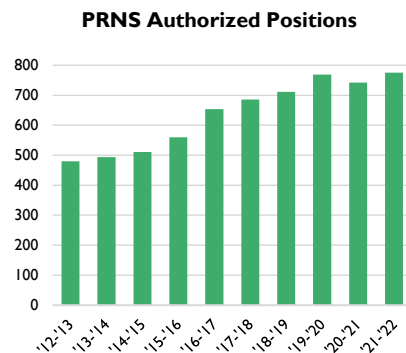
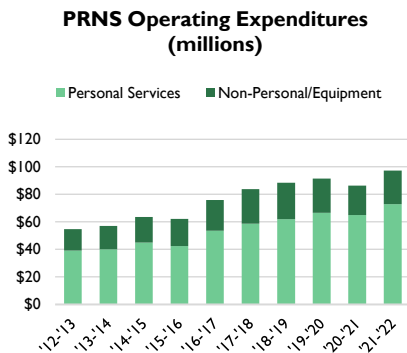
Graduation ceremony for the preschool program at the Calabazas Community Center



R.O.C.K. 'N' Learn program at the Berryessa Community Center



Source: PRNS



PARKS, RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

PARKS

The City has 200 neighborhood and 10 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 1,795 acres. There were an additional 1,501 acres of open space and undeveloped land. 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 \$14,234 per acre. This was lower than last year due to department vacancies. See the *CSA Dashboards* chapter for additional information on park condition.

In 2021-22, the five-year Parks and Community Facilities Development Capital Improvement Program (CIP) allocated \$355 million to parks for 2022 to 2026. PRNS estimates it has a deferred maintenance and unfunded infrastructure backlog totaling approximately \$464 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 are intended to interconnect as further development occurs. The 2021-22 network included 63.23 miles of trails that were open to the public (about 86 percent paved). An additional 82.46 miles have been identified or are being studied for further development, or are in the planning phases of development.

KEY FACTS (2021-22)

Neighborhood Parks (200 parks)	1,233 acres
Regional Parks (10 parks)	562 acres
Golf Courses (3 courses)	321 acres*
Open space and undeveloped land	1,501 acres
Total	3,617 acres**

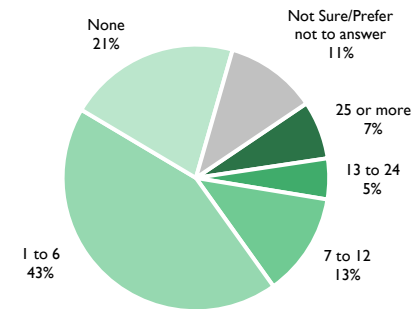
For list of City parks see: [List of parks and playgrounds](#)

*Does not include 50 acres open space.

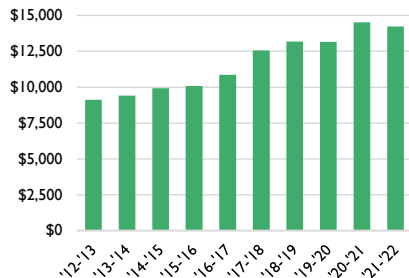
**State, county, or other public lands within San José's boundaries are not included in the above figures.

Community Survey 2022

Visited a large regional park in San José (not including local neighborhood parks)

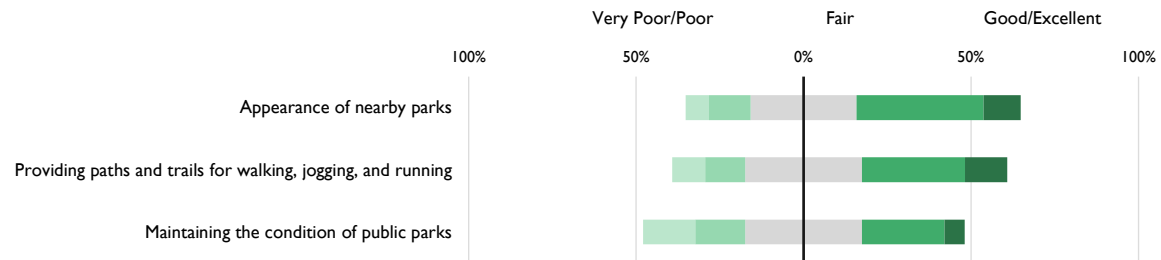


Cost per Acre to Maintain Parks and Other Facilities



Community Survey 2022

Ratings of Neighborhood Characteristics and City Services



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](#).

In 2021-22, the City operated 16 community centers throughout the city. Three of those centers are combination community centers and libraries. In 2021-22, PRNS also managed 31 additional Neighborhood Center Partner Program sites which were operated by community partners in the role of lead operator or service provider. These sites, formerly known as reuse sites, are generally operated by nonprofits, neighborhood associations, school districts, or other government agencies or community service providers.

PRNS provided nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to individuals for its various programs such as Camp San José, Camp San José Strong, and R.O.C.K. afterschool program.

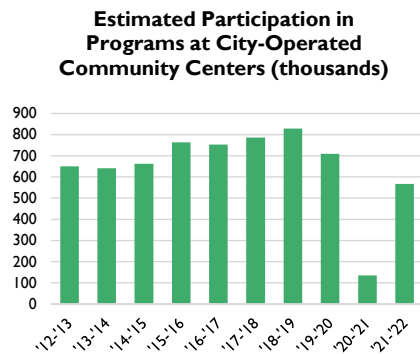
As most services reopened after the COVID-19 closure, community ratings for recreational services increased from the previous year.

See the *CSA Dashboards* chapter for results of recreation program participant surveys.

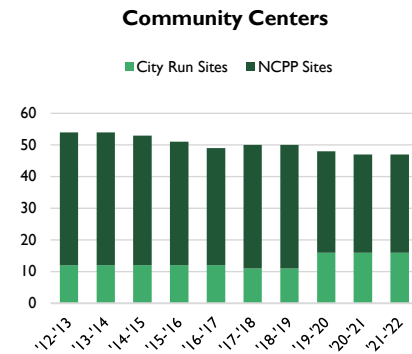
KEY FACTS (2021-22)

Community centers (including Neighborhood Center Partner Program sites)	47
Community center square footage	547,704 sq. ft.
Average weekly hours open (hub community centers)	49
Estimated participation at City-run programs*	567,590

*This is a duplicated count (i.e. individuals are counted for each program attended).

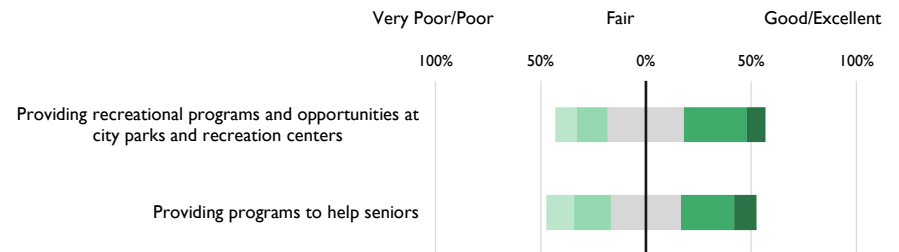


Note: The decrease in 2020-21 is due to the County's public health orders in response to COVID-19.



Note: In 2019, PRNS rebranded the "Reuse Program" to the "Neighborhood Center Partner Program (NCCP)."

Community Survey 2022 Rating of Services



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 and PRNS data

Note: In 2019, PRNS rebranded the "Reuse Program" to the "Neighborhood Center Partner Program." Currently there are 31 sites in the Neighborhood Center Partner Program with an additional 16 sites that are City-operated.

Alma Community Center



Almaden Harvest Festival



Source: PRNS

PARKS, RECREATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

COMMUNITY SERVICES

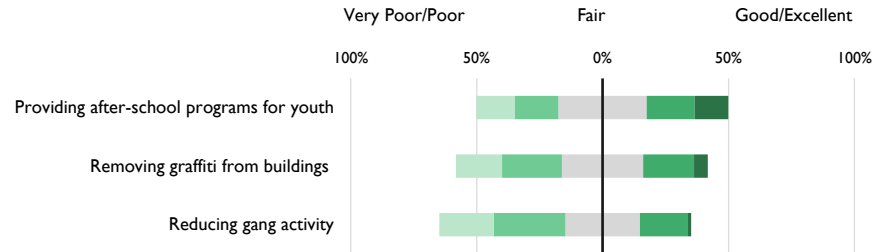
PRNS also provides a number of community services and programs including anti-graffiti and anti-litter, illegal dumping, and homeless encampment trash collection and abatement, gang prevention and intervention, and others.

The San José Youth Empowerment Alliance* has service components such as the Bringing Everyone’s Strengths Together (B.E.S.T.) program, Youth Intervention Services, the Safe Schools Campus Initiative (SSCI), and the Safe Summer Initiative Grants (SSIG) providing services to at-risk youth and their families.** In 2021-22, the SSCI team responded to 446 incidents. There were an estimated 2,400 participants in programs offered by community based organizations that received B.E.S.T. grants. B.E.S.T. program expenditures for 2021-22 were \$5.5 million, of which \$2.7 million were for B.E.S.T grants and SSIG.

In 2021-22, the City’s contractor completed 26,990 graffiti removal work orders. The community survey reports that 26 percent of residents viewed graffiti removal services as "good" or "excellent." BeautifySJ conducted about 70 encampment cleanups throughout the city. Over 300 participants signed up for the City’s Cash for Trash program. This program helps mitigate blight in San José by providing incentives to unhoused residents to pick up trash at encampments.

* Formerly known as the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF)
 ** SSCI is a partnership between school districts and the City to address violence-related issues in schools.

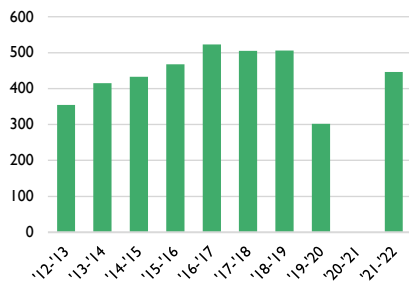
Community Survey 2022
 Ratings of Services



Beautify San José

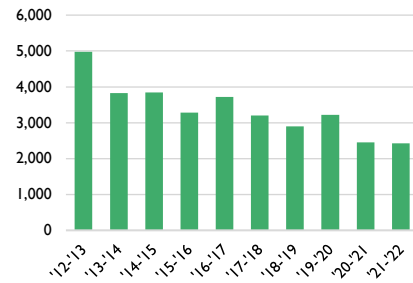
Beginning in 2021-22, the City consolidated the Beautify San José (BeautifySJ) program within PRNS. The program is intended to provide dedicated and enhanced focus on ridding the city of blight. The consolidation added 26 new positions and other funding and created a new Community Services Division to address illegal dumping, homeless encampment trash collection and abatement, youth gang prevention and intervention services, and support litter cleanup and graffiti abatement. A portion of this funding was one-time resources from the American Rescue Plan Fund.

Incidents Responses on Safe School Campuses

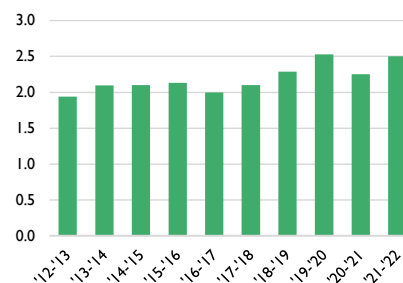


Note: In 2020-21 there were no SSCI responses due to COVID-19 school closures.

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



Estimated Square Feet of Graffiti Eradicated (millions)



Graffiti Workorders Completed

