



The City of San Diego
PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.
Open Space Division
TIERRASANTA Maintenance Assessment District

STAFF REPORT
October 20, 2020
by Loren Boerboom

ACTIVITIES IN TIERRASANTA DURING COVID-19 (March – October)

Landscape Maintenance

- **Treebeard Landscape, the contractor, continues to provide landscape maintenance services in a timely manner and within budget.** Several additional tasks and frequencies beyond their normal landscape maintenance activities have kept them very busy. These additional responsibilities have included all park, JUA & trail closures, posting & maintaining COVID-19 signage, caution tape, barricades, playground cleaning, additional restroom cleaning, waste can maintenance, trail maintenance, and increased overall inspection and maintenance of all Maintenance Assessment District areas.
- **Parks, playgrounds, and trails are now open.** In March, all parks, playgrounds, and trails were closed to the public by Mayor Faulkner following San Diego County and California state guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. All sites remained closed for several weeks. Since that time, limited openings of grass and common areas have occurred in all parks. Deportola JUA, Tierrasanta Elementary School JUA, and Tierrasanta Community Park have opened up 24hrs per the Mayor's direction to provide more public use park areas during the pandemic. Trails have since reopened for public use. Joint-Use Fields and the tennis courts at Serra H.S. have also reopened for both public and user-group practice. Team sports games are currently not allowed. Playgrounds were the last to reopen, but are now open to the public. Proper safety signage exists at all sites reminding people of social distancing requirements, mask wearing around others, sanitation and hygiene recommendations, and Park Capacity totals for playgrounds.

- **Irrigation smart controllers are now active with remote capabilities.** ET Water controllers that were originally installed at all JUA fields and Tierrasanta Community Park have been disabled or replaced with older models over the past several years. This was largely due to errors in programming and inefficient antennas. They have all been completely reprogrammed with new software updates and new cellular antennas have been installed for wireless, remote access as designed.
- **Joint-Use Areas (JUA)-** During the COVID-19 pandemic closure, grass on turf fields was allowed to grow taller and mowed higher. This helps retain moisture and provides for a healthy warm-season growth . Pesticide-free rodent control in all fields have increased to help eliminate gopher damage. Off-leash dogs were not digging up turf areas looking for gophers during this time as well. Note: There are no off-leash dog parks in Tierrasanta. The turf in all fields have greatly benefitted from the lack of use by sports teams. Decomposed Granite (DG) was added to help level and fill in low areas of running tracks at Farb, Kumeyaay, Vista Grande, & Deportola. All fields are open for use by user-groups and the public with the exception of Vista Grande. The school is currently under construction.
- **Villa Norte Park-** Thirty (30) *Koelreuteria bipinnata* or "Chinese Flame Trees" were planted and are doing well. These replaced seventeen (17) sycamore trees that were removed due to poor health and development. Walkways, benches, tables, grass areas, and playgrounds are open for public use.
- **Villa Monserate Park-** The park has been partially closed for construction. ADA renovation to walkways, a new storm drain, new tot lot playground, and a new shade structure are being installed. Scheduled completion is in December. Some trees and turf have suffered during construction even though Tree Protection Zones have been set up and hand watering has taken place throughout this project. The contractor will be replacing a large section of turf and the remaining turf and trees should recover with time once heavy equipment and construction activities have completed. The construction temporary fencing has left the back of the park open. This fencing was recently downsized and now allows for most of the park to be used by the public.
- **Roadrunner Park-** Mulch has been installed under all trees and throughout the adjacent open space area. This helps maintain moisture, protects tree roots from mower damage, and aids in weed suppression. Walkways, benches, tables, grass areas, and playgrounds are open for public use.
- **Tierrasanta Community Park-** Twelve (12) new trees were planted to enhance bare areas: four (4) Crape Myrtles in the lower parking lot islands along with decorative river rock, (3) Chinese pistache trees by the basketball courts, and (3) Tristenia trees

in the grass slope by the hexagon building. Twenty (20) large boulders were placed along the driveway in the open space area from the entrance off Clairemont Mesa Blvd. to the end of the parking lot by the recreation center building. These are decorative, but designed to deter people from jumping the curb to park here during busy sports practice and game days when the lower lot fills up with cars. The upper lot and Deportola Middle School still provide adequate marked parking spots. All trees in the park and adjacent open space areas have been pruned for safety and growth. Dead trees in nearby adjacent open space areas have been removed. Mulch has been placed under the canopy of all trees to help maintain moisture, to protect the roots from mower damage, and to help aid in weed suppression. The picnic tables, grass areas, fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds, and parking lots are open for public use.

- **Deportola JUA-** Mulch has been placed under the canopy of all trees to help maintain moisture and to protect the roots from mower damage. This site incurs more trash now that the gate is to remain open 24hrs. Tierrasanta Little League has recently installed new batting cages for team use.
- **Clairemont Mesa Blvd-** The center island by Tierrasanta Community Park has been renovated. Ten (10) large boulders and river rocks were installed. Twelve (12) *Tristania* trees were planted. Coral Aloe, Sticks of Fire, and Blue “Chalk Sticks” *Senecio* were planted. These new drought tolerant species replaced the juniper and lantana that were doing poorly here.
- **Tierrasanta Blvd-** The Right-of-Way on the south side between Ducos Pl. and Rueda Dr. by the open space is under renovation. The turf in this section was failing and the City of San Diego is no longer planting turf in City right-of ways, center islands, or other common areas. Twenty (20) *Arbus marina* “Strawberry Trees” were planted in the right of way. Several hesperaloe succulents and blue “chalk sticks” *senecio* have been planted. Several San Diego native sunflowers were planted on the open space side of the walkway. More natives along with tan colored DG and a few large boulders will help dress up this area at the trailhead. The irrigation was converted from outdated rotors that watered over the sidewalk to subgrade drip irrigation which is much more efficient.

Tree Maintenance

- Routine tree maintenance has continued throughout Tierrasanta parks, Joint-Use Areas, center islands, right-of-ways, pocket parks, and open space areas. Priority in the open space continues to be in areas where there are several targets. Such areas include: trails, roadways, parks, schools, fence lines, and adjacent to houses. Additionally, several dead trees have been felled or removed from open space canyons to reduce the likelihood of fires.

- Structural tree trimming and the removal of dead trees will continue throughout the year in all areas.
- Open Space policy is to allow for the development and growth of trees and other plants in open space canyons. The City of San Diego and the Tierrasanta MAD will prune trees to reduce the risk of endangerment and to improve safety. Tree trimming will also take place to improve structural integrity, development, & growth.
- Note: Live, healthy trees growing in the open space with nearby houses are not a cause for removal. The City of San Diego and the Tierrasanta MAD does not prune or remove trees to improve views, reduced leaf mess, or other incidental and non-priority reasons.
- Several tree plantings are planned for this fall and early spring. Many tree sites have been identified in medians and ROW's for this year. Native trees may also be planted in open space canyons where some Eucalyptus trees have been removed.

Open Space Canyons

- **Shepherd Canyon-** Fifty (50) cubic yards of Decomposed Granite was added to washed out areas of the trail between Via Valarta and Santo Rd. Erosion control berms were repaired from springtime rains. Brush encroaching on the trail was trimmed back. Dishwasher Pond levels have been maintained.
- **Rueda Canyon-** Brush encroaching on the trail was trimmed back. Mulch has been added to the sides of some single-track trails to help aid in weed suppression.
- **La Cuenta Dr-** Native San Diego Sunflowers were planted in the open space area of the cul-de-sac. The existing irrigation was repaired and adjusted. The lot next to 4465 La Cuenta Dr. was purchased and the new owner has installed a small 3' rail fence. This lot is zoned RS-1-14, which is residential. There are no Parks & Rec. or Open Space violations on this site. Any site plan submittal for private property would go through DSD.
- **Area G-** Nine (9) 6" x 6" posts were installed at the trailhead off of Via Valarta to keep trespassing vehicles from entering the trail. All brush was cleared at the adjacent pipe gate to allow for maintenance vehicle access.
- **Trail Signs-** Two (2) custom wood trail signs have disappeared from their posts this summer. One was located on the west side of Via Valarta next to the Catholic Church. The other was stolen from Rueda Dr. by Clairemont Mesa Blvd. A police

report was filed. Currently there is no information about the whereabouts or the persons involved.

- **Brush Management-** The City of San Diego Brush Management Division has completed their annual work in Tierrasanta Open Space areas adjacent to houses. Many areas were cleared of dry brush and smaller tree limbs in close contact to the ground were pruned. These areas are determined by the Fire Marshall and some areas vary each year. The Tierrasanta MAD does not perform brush management other than invasive weed control and access clearance for trails. For more information regarding brush management, please visit the links provided below.

Requested Input

- **Trash Cans-** The Tierrasanta MAD maintains over 40+ trash cans throughout the area. During the closure, more people are home and enjoying the outdoors. I am requesting input from the community about new locations to add more trash cans. Possible locations include: trails, trailheads, pocket parks, joint-use areas, and right-of-ways. Neighborhood parks would require a DRP expense and are not considered at this time.
- **Pet Waste Bag Dispensers-** The Tierrasanta MAD maintains and refills over 40+ dog bag dispensers throughout the area. During the closure, more people are home and enjoying the outdoors with their dog. I am requesting input from the community about new locations to add more pet waste bag dispensers. Possible locations include: trails, trailheads, pocket parks, joint-use areas, and right-of-ways. These may be placed together with a new trash can, or standalone.
- **Native Trees and Shrubs-** I am requesting suggestions for locations to plant natives in the open space canyons. Possible locations include: trailheads, slopes, or other bare areas within open space lands. I would like to plant species that are native to San Diego and already exist in Tierrasanta. Watering for the establishment period of one year will be provided by the MAD contractor.

Please contact me with suggestions or recommendations about these requests.

I welcome community input & discussion on these items.

Miscellaneous

- **Your Dogs and City Parks-** All dogs shall be maintained on a leash not to exceed 8 feet, including trails and canyons in all parks. Dogs benefit by being protected from

rattlesnakes, ticks, traffic and various other hazards and distractions. Also, poison oak is spread from dogs to humans. Owners are always required to clean up after their dogs.

We understand that people love their dogs and want a place for them to run free, play fetch and socialize with other dogs. The City of San Diego has designated off-leash dog areas for just this reason.

For a list of designated off-leash dog areas visit:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/dogs/leashfree>

For a downloadable map of designated off-leash dog areas visit:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/park-and-recreation/pdf/offleashmap.pdf>

The nearest off-leash dog park to Tierrasanta:

Kearny Mesa Community Park located at 3170 Armstrong St. in Kearny Mesa, this 1-acre park near the Kearny Mesa Recreation Center offers one area for all dogs. The site is now lighted which allows for evening use. Hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. everyday. There is a water station for dogs and fountains for people.

For more information about **Your Dogs and City Parks** visit:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/dogs>

- GET-IT-DONE San Diego is the official app. for reporting non-emergency problems to the City of San Diego. You can report problems like potholes or graffiti and connect directly to the City's work tracking system. Walking down the street and see a problem? Take a photo and upload it from home or while still nearby. GET-IT-DONE will automatically update the problem report with information about where the photo was taken. Please download the app and participate in making your San Diego neighborhood a better place!

GET-IT-DONE is a valuable tool and helps issues get referred to the correct department.

I encourage everyone to become familiar with GET-IT-DONE.

<https://www.sandiego.gov/get-it-done>

Informative videos are available here:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/files/how-use-citys-get-it-done-app>

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- The City of San Diego Brush Management Contractor works in Tierrasanta at select Open Space locations periodically. The Open Space Division conducts brush management in accordance with Section 142.0412 of the San Diego Municipal Code and the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's Canyon Fire Safety guidelines and

policies related to brush management. For more information please visit the City of San Diego website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/osp/brush>.

- The City of San Diego offers expedited *Right-of-Entry Permits at no charge* for homeowners wishing to hire a contractor or to perform brush clearing work themselves on City property adjacent to their home. For more information please visit the City of San Diego website at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/osp/brush>.

The **Open Space Parks Brush Management Right of Entry Application** is available online at <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/osp/brushform>.

City of San Diego Phone Numbers

- Code enforcement (619) 236-5500
- Environmental Services (858) 694-7000
- Park & Recreation (619) 525-8213
- Storm Water (619) 235-1000
- Street Division (619) 527-7500
- Police Non-Emergency (619) 531-2000
(858) 484-3154

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