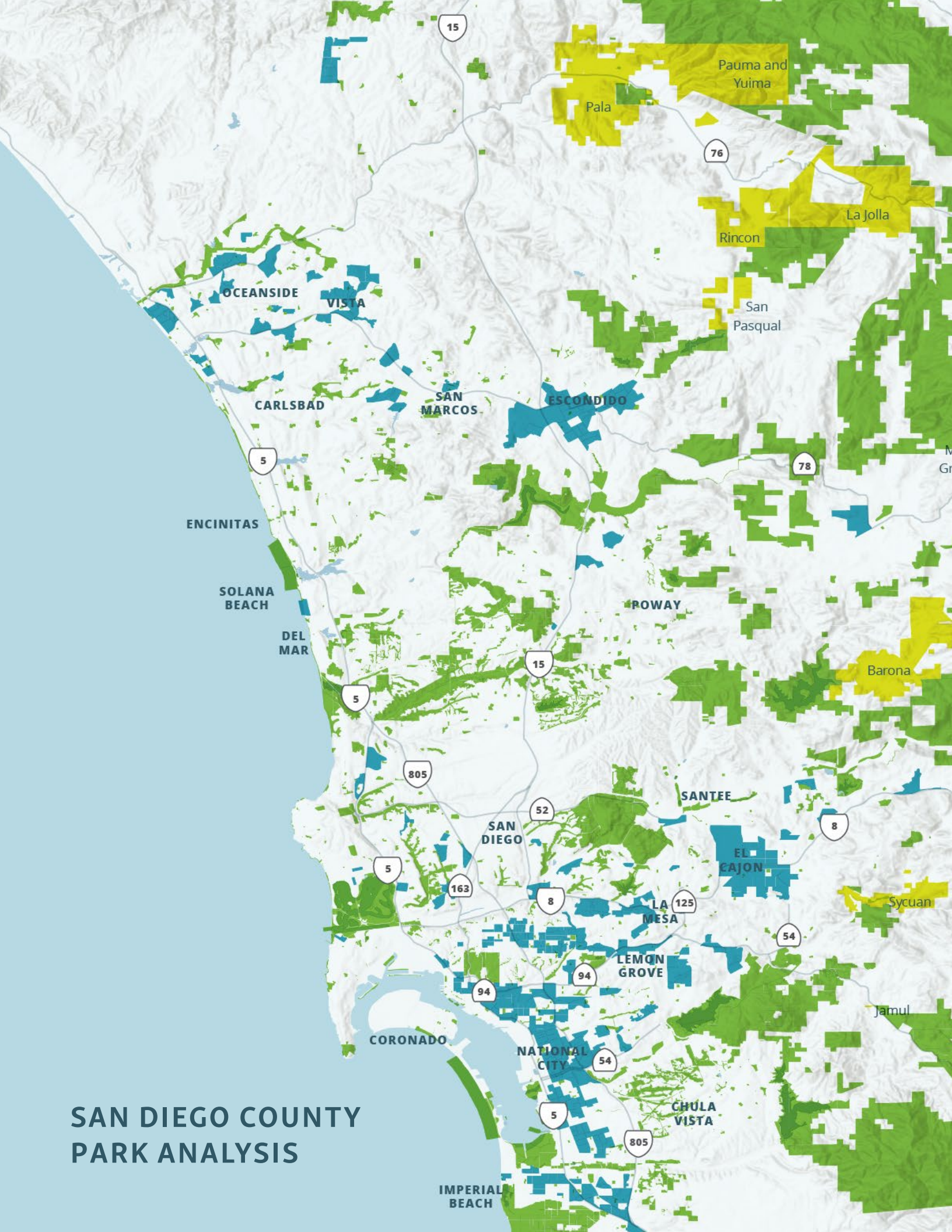


PARKS FOR EVERYONE

2.0: An Update to the Parks for Everyone Report



The San Diego
Foundation
Growing a Vibrant Region



SAN DIEGO COUNTY PARK ANALYSIS

BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY

From its iconic beaches to its abundant open space, San Diego County offers an array of recreational opportunities. Yet, a decade after the 2010 Parks for Everyone report illuminated disparities in available green space, it remains true that many local communities lack critical access to parks and green space. The map to the left shows that though the region is rich in green space, many San Diegans still lack equitable access to parks and nature. The report finds that the communities that historically suffer from the greatest inequities in usable green space are those with higher concentrations of lower income households, as well as communities with greater racial and ethnic diversity.

As our region faces urgent needs to reduce carbon emissions and chronic disease, equitable access to parks and green space is more important than ever before to ensure every San Diegan has a strong quality of life. Parks not only improve quality of life and physical health, but provide venues to bring people together across social, economic and racial divides to build more resilient, socially-connected communities. In addition, expanding green space will reduce pollution, provide natural habitat to support biodiversity, and enhance climate resiliency, all of which are key elements for the region if we are to meet our climate action goals for the future.

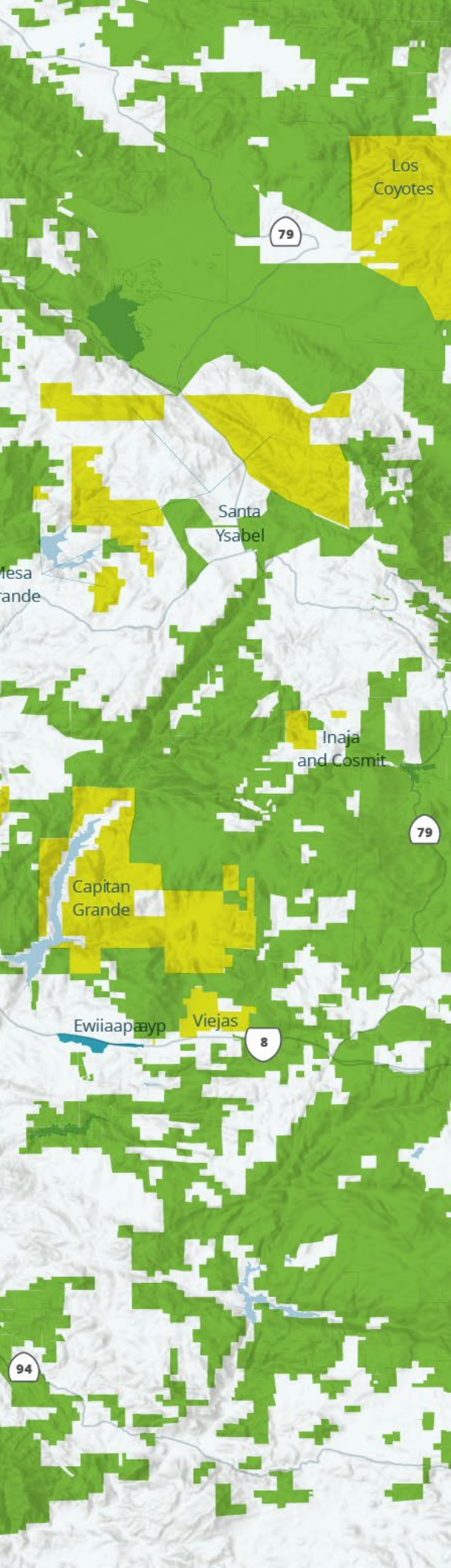
The San Diego Foundation is proud to partner with GreenInfo Network to publish this update to the 2010 Parks for Everyone report and remains committed to improving park access and equity for every resident, regardless of zip code or socioeconomic status.

We hope that this report will continue to advance important civic discussions around park access and equity, and we look forward to continuing to further this ambitious goal through our Thrive Outside San Diego initiative, Opening the Outdoors program and other regional partnerships. Learn how to get involved and support these efforts at SDFoundation.org/Outdoors

MAP LEGEND

-  Parks
-  *Less than 8 acres of parkland per 1000 people and below \$51,026 median household income*
-  Native lands

* Map reflects data as of December 2018



THE BENEFITS OF GREEN SPACE



REDUCES RISK OF CHRONIC DISEASE

Access to parks can reduce risk of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and stroke – leading causes of death in San Diego County.



SUPPORTS HEALTHY CHILDREN

Children connected to nature are more likely to have reduced levels of stress and anxiety.



SUPPORTS HEALTHY AGING

Older adults who spend time outdoors experienced fewer sleep difficulties and enjoyed improved mobility.



IMPROVES MENTAL HEALTH

Spending time outdoors improves mental health, relieves stress and anxiety, and can increase feelings of well-being.



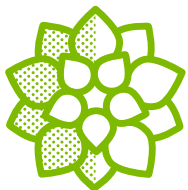
BUILDS STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Parks serve as powerful natural conveners and social gathering spaces that strengthens connections between people.



CREATES MORE RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT

Parks and greenspace reduce storm water and pollutant run-off, mitigate the harmful impacts of the urban heat island effect, and help clean the air we breathe.



PROTECTS OUR BIODIVERSITY

Conservation of habitat and green space is necessary to protect the region's native species, and ensures we maintain and preserve healthy, vibrant environments for the next generation.



FOSTERS ECONOMIC VITALITY

The availability of high-quality parks and outdoor spaces improves property values, attracts business and economic activity, and is an important component of the tourism economy.

DEFINING ACCESS



PHYSICAL ACCESS

Related to the geographical placement and physical attributes surrounding a designated location that considers infrastructure, location, natural and built environments, temporary obstructions (e.g. construction, homeless encampment) and street condition, that enable or disable access to a place.



FUNCTIONAL ACCESS

Related to other aspects that are not physical or place-based that enable or disable access to a designated location. Functional access considers other external and contextual factors that influence access in various ways. These factors could include cost, permitting and capacity, property ownership, political will, policing frequency, neighborhood safety/crime, transit frequency and schedules, cultural and linguistic influences, and climate change impacts.

EQUITY BARRIERS

EQUITY BARRIERS ARE OBSTACLES THAT HINDER A PERSON'S ABILITY TO ACCESS GREEN SPACE AND PARKS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. THOSE BARRIERS INCLUDE:



SAFETY



WALKABILITY



TRANSPORTATION



CULTURAL INCLUSION



FEES, PERMITS AND EXPENSES



SAFETY

Public safety remains a leading barrier for families and individuals who want to access open space across the County. Risk factors include both real and perceived barriers, which can include everything from poor trail conditions and flooding to crime and security concerns for families and children.

TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY COUNTY REGIONAL PARK/BORDER FIELD STATE PARK

“At present, for over half the year, people wanting to connect with loved ones through the border wall at Friendship Park have to walk 1.8 miles each way, often through mud and water that is contaminated with runoff from the cross-border flows of the Tijuana Estuary.”

- JOHN FANESTIL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VIA INTERNATIONAL

Pictured: The Navarro family walks along a narrow, unkept foot trail that is the only way to reach Friendship Park when the vehicle road is flooded. Having not seen their family members from Mexico in over 15 years, they were determined but had to walk and push their small children in strollers through mud and water to reach Friendship Park.

Photo by: Maria Teresa Fernandez

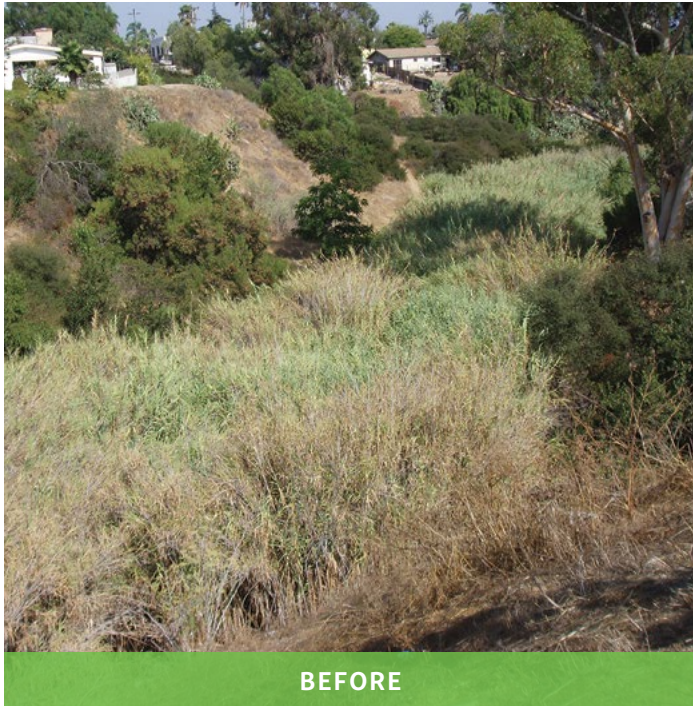


WALKABILITY

Many of the region's parks and open spaces lack the proper street access and walkability that is critical for pedestrians to enjoy what the region's environment has to offer.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT SAN DIEGO CANYONLANDS

City Heights is one of San Diego's most diverse communities but given its dense urban setting, there are few opportunities for its 65,000 residents to explore the outdoors. With grant support from The San Diego Foundation, San Diego Canyonlands was able to remove invasive species and build new trails for residents and families to enjoy.



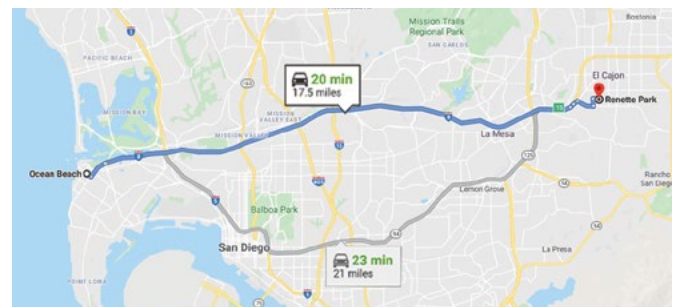
TRANSPORTATION

Without access to a vehicle or nearby public transit stops, many families are unable to visit local parks, beaches or open space.

As demonstrated by Google Maps, a trip from El Cajon to Ocean Beach that would take 20-25 minutes by car can take up to two hours by public transit.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT GROUNDWORK SAN DIEGO

With grant funding from The San Diego Foundation, the nonprofit has been able to provide hundreds of youth from park-deficient communities with transportation to open spaces throughout the County, experiences that otherwise would not be possible.



CULTURAL INCLUSION

When park signage, maps, events and other information leading San Diegans to green space are not presented in multiple languages, as well as other considerations and services that don't factor in diverse communities and immigrants, we exclude large groups of San Diegans from accessing the environment.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT **INDIGENOUS REGENERATION**

With grant support from The San Diego Foundation, Indigenous Regeneration created hiking trails and signage with the goal of making green space more welcoming and accessible to native youth, community members, and members of regional tribes. With the inclusion of the Kumeyaay language on signage, Indigenous Regeneration is prioritizing equity in access and community engagement.



FEES, PERMITS AND EXPENSES

For groups that face systemic barriers to outdoor access, including communities of color, people with physical disabilities, and low-income youth, subsidized and culturally appropriate outdoor engagement programs can be a critical entry point to parks and beaches. However, land management policies can present significant obstacles to the nonprofit organizations that provide equitable access to parks and beaches.

RESTRICTIVE PERMITTING

Many land managers require special event permits that limit equitable access programs to certain dates, less desirable locations, and low frequency of activities.

HIGH FEES

Special event fees can be prohibitive. For example, just the fees to run a four-hour beach event for a group of 12 youth can be as high as \$240.

"Outdoor engagement programs can provide a critical stepping-stone for those who have been excluded to feel that they too belong in these spaces."

- BEN MCCUE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OUTDOOR OUTREACH

WHAT'S NEXT

The San Diego Foundation continues to prioritize grantmaking and programs that address the environmental inequities across San Diego County. We are committed to:



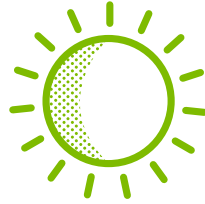
OUTDOORS FOR ALL

Outdoor engagement supporting equitable and inclusive access



OUTDOORS FOR HEALTH

Outdoor engagement to address critical health and wellness needs



OUTDOORS FOREVER

Outdoor engagement for conservation and environmental stewardship

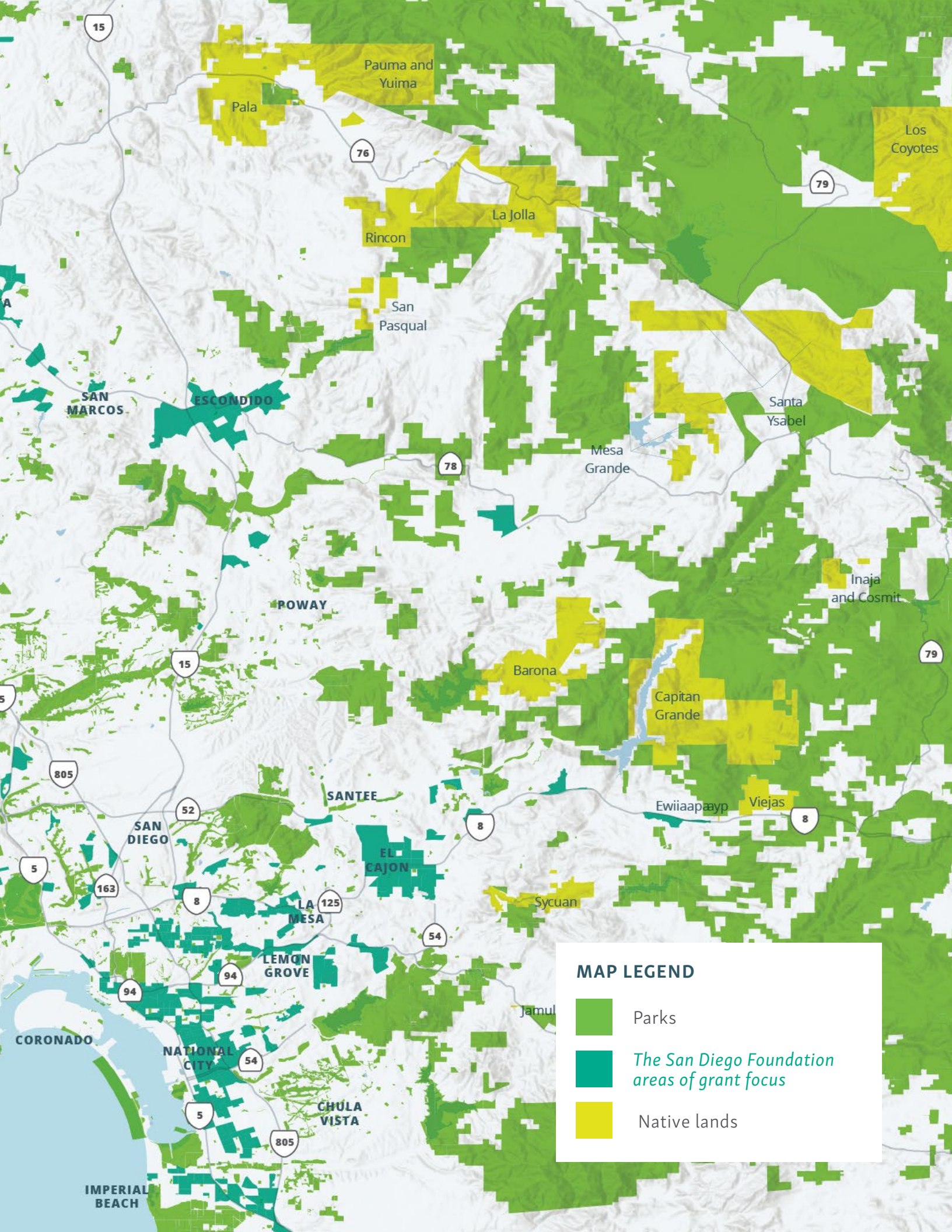


OUR IMPACT


The Foundation's Opening the Outdoors grantmaking program supports collaboration among nonprofit organizations working to protect, connect and increase equitable access to the outdoors. Building upon the success of the Opening the Outdoors program, the Thrive Outside San Diego initiative is a regionwide partnership of nonprofit, philanthropic, academic and government partners that will strengthen collaboration and regional efforts to promote repeat and reinforcing outdoor experiences. Learn how to get involved and donate at [SDFoundation.org/Outdoors](https://www.sdfoundation.org/Outdoors)

Since the 2010 Parks for Everyone report, the work of The San Diego Foundation and its partners has resulted in:

- ✓ 90+ local nonprofit organizations supported through 45 partnerships
- ✓ 50,000+ youth and families accessing the outdoors
- ✓ 48,000+ volunteers and residents engaged in community outreach, education and nonprofit programs
- ✓ \$179 million invested for land acquisition and stewardship
- ✓ 75,000 acres of green space protected or improved
- ✓ 1,100+ parks mapped in a new online park-finder tool, Get Outside San Diego
- ✓ 60 miles of trails created or restored
- ✓ 21,000 native plants installed



MAP LEGEND

-  Parks
-  *The San Diego Foundation areas of grant focus*
-  Native lands

The San Diego Foundation's success is based on partnerships with the following organizations through the support of generous donors including the Satterberg Foundation, Resources Legacy Fund, Outdoor Foundation, as well as the following funds at The San Diego Foundation – Brutton Family Fund, Hervey Family Fund, Colonel Frank C. Wood Fund, The Colwell Family Fund, TCJ Fund, and the Beyster Family.

4Walls International	Nature Collective
A Reason to Survive	Nature Conservancy
Anza-Borrego Foundation	Ocean Connectors
Back Country Land Trust	Ocean Discovery Institute
BAME Community Development Corporation	Olivewood Gardens and Learning Center
Bayside Community Center	Outdoor Outreach
California State Parks	Preserve Calavera
California Trout	River Partners
CALPIRG Education Fund Inc	San Diego Audubon Society
Casa Familiar	San Diego Canyonlands
Circulate San Diego	San Diego Children and Nature
Conservation Biology Institute	San Diego Coastkeeper
Earth Discovery Institute	San Diego River Conservancy
Endangered Habitats League	San Diego Second Chance Program
Environmental Health Coalition	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Escondido Education COMPACT	San Pasqual Tribal Environmental Protection Office
Friends of Daley Ranch	SAY San Diego
Friends of Famosa Slough	The Chaparral Lands Conservancy
Girl Scouts San Diego	The Conservation Fund
GreenInfo Network	The Escondido Creek Conservancy
Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek	The San Diego River Park Foundation
I Love A Clean San Diego, Inc	Trust for Public Land
Indigenous Regeneration	Urban Corps of San Diego
International Community Foundation	Urban Surf 4 Kids
International Rescue Committee	Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	Walk San Diego
Lakeside River Park Conservancy	Walking Shield, Inc
Living Coast Discovery Center	WILDCOAST
Move San Diego	Wildlife Research Institute
Native American Environmental Protection Coalition	Youth and Leaders Living Actively-YALLA

Special thanks to the following organizations for providing photos for this report: Outdoor Outreach (cover photo), San Diego Canyonlands, Indigenous Regeneration



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