



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Irvine, CA
June 22, 2023

STAFF REPORT: Orange Coast District Overview

STAFF: Kevin Pearsall, Orange Coast District Superintendent

SUBJECT: Overview of the Orange Coast District Programs and Operations

OBJECTIVE

Kevin Pearsall, Orange Coast District Superintendent, plans to provide a brief overview for commissioners and the public regarding the recent updates, events, and information pertaining to the district. Highlights from the commission tour will also be discussed.

INTRODUCTION

The Orange Coast District is divided into 3 Sectors with a total of 7 State Beaches with one unit managed by a partner. With over 6,000 acres, services provided include beach access, camping, trails, and group and family picnic sites. The district also hosts a variety of programs, including Junior Lifeguard Program, surf camps, beach clean ups, and volleyball youth camps and tournaments.

DESCRIPTION

Winter Storm Damage

This past winter created some unique and drastic storms that affected the entire coastline of California. The Orange Coast District coastal units were not left out of the experience. Ocean high tide levels inundated areas of coastal units that had not seen sea water in years or ever.

Bolsa Chica State Beach and El Moro Beach in Crystal Cove State Park saw tides collapse roadways and remove access roads. Responding quickly and collaboratively to mitigate the storm damage, staff from the district, the department, Cal-Trans, and the Coastal Commission, all helped to make the damaged areas safe and open to visitors. Visitation is back in full swing.

Program Updates

Orange Coast Parks are some of the most visited parks, offering the best recreational programming in the department.

The Junior Lifeguard program, consisting of five beach locations with over 5000 participants ages 7-15 years old. It's anticipated to grow to over 6000 children by 2025. It is the largest and most successful programming in the department.

The district hosts over 75 beach volleyball courts. In 2022, sixty-eight volleyball organizations were permitted through the districts special events and offices to hold youth camps and tournaments. It is the largest and most successful programming in the department.

The Coast of Orange County is known as the surfing capital of California. Just over 10,000 visitors participate in surf camps and clinics through the district's beaches. It is the largest and most successful programming in the department.

Interpretive and volunteer beach clean ups have become a great environmental and volunteer educational awareness experience for school children and corporations. Many non-profit organizations and partnerships as well as State Park staff have made a human error a positive contributing experience for all. We host over 500 beach cleans annually with the Orange Coast District... one more time, the largest and most successful programming within the department.

ATTACHMENTS

Orange Coast District Fact Sheet

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Orange Coast District](#) webpage

Orange Coast District Fact Sheet

North Sector

- 2 Park Units
 - Bolsa Chica SB (~165 acres)
 - **Popular site and/or concession – known as “Tin Can Beach” – popular for surfing, beach bonfires, surf fishing, and wildlife viewing.**
 - Year acquired in 1960
 - RV Hookup Campsite only (59 sites)
 - Day-use Group Picnics (5 sites/1,000 capacity)
 - Bike/Pedestrian Trail (1 - 5.2-mile trail)
 - Huntington SB (~121 acres)
 - **Popular site and/or concession – surfing, swimming, birdwatching, fishing, and bonfires. Day-use only.**
 - Established in 1942
 - Day-use Family Picnics (6 sites/60 capacity)
 - Bike/Pedestrian Trail (1 – 2.1-mile trail)

Central Sector

- 2 Park Units
 - Corona de Mar SB (~30 acres)
 - Managed by the City of Newport Beach
 - **Popular site and/or concession – surfing, swimming, birdwatching, and fishing. Day-use only.**
 - Year acquired in 1947
 - Day-use Family Picnics (5 sites/40 capacity)
 - Bike/Pedestrian Trail (1 – 0.1-mile trail)
 - Pedestrian Trails (2 – 0.1-mile trail total)
 - Crystal Cove SB (~3,310 acres)
 - **Popular site and/or concession – tidepools, scuba diving, mountain biking, shopping in Historic District**
 - Year acquired in 1979
 - 30 developed camp sites
 - 28 RV Hookup camp sites
 - 32 Environmental/Trail camp sites
 - 24 Cottages (overnight use)
 - Day-use Family Picnics (1 site/160 capacity)
 - Day-use Group Picnics (3 sites/225 capacity)
 - Multiple use trails (10 – 20-mile total)
 - Bike/Pedestrian Trail (3 – 3-mile trail total)
 - Pedestrian Trails (1 – 2.5-mile trail total)
 - Primitive Trails (10 – 13-mile trail total)

South Sector

- 3 Park Units
 - Doheny SB (~254 acres)
 - **Popular site and/or concession – day use surfing, picnic facilities, volleyball courts, tide pools and aquariums.**
 - Year acquired in 1931, and California's first state beach
 - 8 developed camp sites
 - 1 Hike in/Bike in camp site
 - 1 Group Camp site
 - Day-use Family Picnics (134 sites/1,072 capacity)
 - Day-use Group Picnics (17 sites/2,350 capacity)
 - Bike/Pedestrian Trail (3 – 2-mile trail total)
 - San Clemente SB (~117 acres)
 - **Popular site and/or concession – San Clemente city slogan is “Spanish Village the Sea”. Popular among water sports enthusiasts.**
 - Year acquired in 1931
 - 88 developed camp sites
 - 72 RV Hookup camp sites
 - 2 Group Camp sites
 - 1 Hike in/Bike in camp site
 - 1 Group Camp site
 - Day-use Family Picnics (15 sites/120 capacity)
 - Day-use Group Picnics (2 sites/300 capacity)
 - Bike/Pedestrian Trail (1 – 0.1-mile trail total)
 - Pedestrian Trails (3 – 1.5-mile trail total)
 - Primitive Trails (2– 0.5-mile trail total)
 - San Onofre SB (~2,168 acres)
 - **Popular sites and/or concession – surfing, swimming, camping, kayaking, and birdwatching. Site of the ancient sacred Indian village called “Panhe”. One of the top five most visited state parks.**
 - Year acquired in 1971
 - 176 primitive/undeveloped camp sites
 - 90 developed camp sites
 - 67 developed (oversized) camp sites
 - 72 RV Hookup camp sites
 - 1 Hike in/Bike in camp site
 - 2 Group Camp site
 - Day-use Family Picnics (4 sites/32 capacity)
 - Multiple use trails (4 – 4.5-mile total)
 - Pedestrian Trails (2 – 3-mile trail total)
 - Primitive Trails (3– 1.5-mile trail total)