

# **Balboa Park-San Diego High School Connections**

## *Recommendations ranked by priority, Sept. 2024*

With nearly 60 recommendations in the Working Group report, it's not possible to tackle everything all at once. It may take years, decades, to complete this to-do list. But some ideas are easier and quicker to implement than others. Imagine a tree with low-, medium- and high-hanging "fruit" as an analogy for short-, medium- and long-term actions. Short is 1-5 years, medium is 5-10 years and long is 10+ years. An ambitious goal is to accomplish all this by 2035, the 100th anniversary of the California Pacific International Exposition.

### **Low-hanging fruit, 2025-2029**

#### *Physical Infrastructure*

1. Joint public use of athletic fields, gyms and theaters at San Diego High School (SDHS) and San Diego City College (SDCC)
2. Enhanced landscaping along Park and Russ boulevards
3. Wider crosswalks and signalization on Park Boulevard
4. City College parking garages operated on holidays and weekends for park visitors
5. Honorary naming of Park Boulevard as "John Nolen Parkway.
6. Design Review system adopted by Parks & Recreation Board
7. Maintenance and security by Downtown San Diego Partnership's Urban Strategies group (similar to the DSDP/SDSU Mission Valley agreement)

#### *Social Infrastructure*

8. Life-long learning opportunities at park institutions
9. New learning modes partnered between park and educational institutions
10. Faculty-led research projects for higher education students
11. Internships and volunteer opportunities
12. Recurring forums of park leaders, business leaders and volunteers from surrounding communities
13. Checklist of park exhibitions and performances offered outside Balboa Park
14. Checklist of cultural and historic districts with collaboration opportunities with park counterparts
15. San Diego Tourism Authority marketing of Balboa Park
16. New marketing and promotion of sports and recreation events.
17. Checklist of sports and recreation programs
18. Speakers bureau
19. Independent study opportunities
20. Youth Advisory Board (or expansion of San Diego Youth Commission)
21. Checklist of park institutions' outreach programs
22. Survey of primary and secondary school curricula with potential for classroom-park collaboration
23. Data collection on park visitors
24. Solicitation to local foundations for research grants

#### *Governance and Finance*

25. Create comprehensive Balboa Park budget
26. Analyze potential revenues from transient occupancy tax, equivalent expenditure to San Diego Zoo's property tax income for park-wide benefit (e.g. Promenade parking project); dedicated revenue sources from new developments (e.g. hotels, restaurants, retail and

entertainment, special events, farmers and craft markets), parking fees.

27. Shift park management to a new agency or entity (JPA, district, city department)

28. Task Balboa Park Committee to monitor implementation of this report and report annually to the public on progress made.

### **Medium-hanging fruit, 2025-35**

#### *Physical Infrastructure*

1. Structured parking at Inspiration Point for SDHS/SDCC joint use
2. Existing lots repaved with permeable pavement
3. Signage, landscaping on sidewalks and medians in Park Boulevard
4. Added placemaking at SDHS and SDCC
5. Increased emphasis on alternatives to car transportation to the schools
6. Enhanced tunnel below Curran Plaza at SDCC
7. Recommendations in the Friends of Balboa Park Parking & Circulation Study (2021), implemented by the city's Sustainability and Mobility Department
8. Expanded and more robust park shuttle network
9. Redesigned Russ Boulevard as an attractive connection between SDHS and SDCC
10. Park Boulevard beautification
11. 14th Street Promenade beautification extended to and through SDCC and SDHS
12. John Nolen Parkway honorary designation to Harbor Drive and Laurel Street, completing a loop that becomes a scenic highway
13. Bay to Park Paseo temporary art installations replaced by permanent installations
14. New major monument entry signs to Balboa Park at Presidents Way and Upas Street with major directional sign at Park Boulevard/Interstate 5 ramps
15. Enhanced landscaping on Sixth Avenue bridge over I-5

#### *Social Infrastructure*

16. Joint-use and resource-sharing agreements among park, non-park business, educational, nonprofit and business institutions in addition to those with the city and SDHS and SDCC
17. Digitization of historic archives
18. Periodical highlighting volunteer opportunities
19. "Balboa Park Magazine," printed and online
20. Educational Passport offering free or low-cost admission to students through college level
21. Test marketing of new programs with accompanying research quantifying benefits
22. Coordinated internship, volunteer and employment efforts

### **High-hanging fruit, 2025-**

1. Rebuilding of eight SDCC buildings and 14 replacements
2. Rebuilding of SDCC Saville Theater
3. New SDHS performing arts center
4. New SDHS/SDCC Aquatic Center
5. New SDCC student housing at 16th & B streets
6. New SDCC flat-floor garages
7. Pedestrian bridges: Replacement for "cattle chute" bridge from Inspiration Point to Balboa Stadium; new bridge connecting Marston Point over I-5 to Tweet Street Park in Cortez Hill; new bridge over SR163 from roughly Ivy Street to the Palisades at Auto Museum or Balboa Park Club; new bridge over Florida Canyon from El Prado to East Mesa
8. Freeway lids over Interstate 5 - Sixth Avenue-Park Boulevard, G Street-Island Avenue