

Avenida de Portugal Pocket Park Chronology (September 2021)

This is the chronology of the effort to create a three-quarter acre in Point Loma at the top of Avenida de Portugal.

1987 – City-owned land placed in Peninsula Community Plan as potential park site.

2007 – Peninsula Community Planning Board rejects effort to sell city-owned land to private developers.

2014 – Paper street across the parcel is vacated by the city.

2014 – Volunteers begin effort to create the park and are told by P&R Department that they must have a nonprofit sponsor and must find the money themselves.

2015 – Property is finally transferred from Public Works Department to Park and Recreation Department.

2015 – Volunteers do a \$30,000 pro bono clean-up of park site. Some 12.5 dump truck loads of debris are properly disposed of.

2016 – Board of United Portuguese SES votes unanimously to be the nonprofit sponsor for the park.

2016 – Volunteers find \$844,000 in an account the city has forgotten with a deadline looming to use the funds or return the money to developers.

2016 – Development Impact Funds must be used for capital projects, not operating costs. Council Member Lori Zapf gains Department Heads' consensus to make the pocket park the No. 1 priority for District 2.

2016-18 -- Volunteers gain unanimous approvals from the Peninsula Community Planning Board, United Portuguese SES, the public at three workshops, the Point Loma Park and Recreation Advisory Board and the city's Park Board.

2017-19 – Park design is awarded to KTU&A landscape architects. The Public Works Department takes on the project and resolves all construction issues.

2018 – San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture vets a piece of public art for the park and finds the funding.

2018-20–City staff is silent about progress, finally reports that because of inflation the park account is believed to be \$1.5 million short although no formal bids have been obtained.

2021 – Mayor Todd Gloria announces major effort to reduce city's park shortage with emphasis going to under-served communities.

2021 – Park and Recreation Department approves new rating system for proposed parks.

2021 – Seven years of effort and approximately \$1 million in spending later, Point Loma's pocket park may be pushed to the back of the line unless the city grants it grandfather status.