

Community Information

National City





National City

The Spanish Land Grant, El Rancho de la Nacion, was purchased by Frank, Warren and Levi Kimball in 1868. The Kimball brothers cleared the lands, built roads, constructed the City's first wharf and brought the railroad to the City. They successfully advertised National City as the most healthful climate on earth. Soon tree-lined streets connected graceful Victorian homes, and orchards flourished over rolling hills.

National City, San Diego County's second oldest city, is truly "In the center of it all:" a thriving bi-national region of 5 million consumers. The City's competitive edge is its central location, transportation network, and business industry. National City is 10 minutes from everywhere and positioned for prosperity, with proximity to the San Diego Bay, US-Mexico border, downtown San Diego, international airport, rail, San Diego State University, and other colleges and universities.

National City is circled by interstates 5 and 805, and highways 54 and 15. The San Diego Trolley and the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) service National City 7 days a week. These transportation resources conveniently connect the City to the region.

National City is home to over 3,000 businesses - a remarkable number for a city with a population of 61,115. As one of the healthiest business climates in Southern California, National City businesses come from various industries and sectors. Business types range from small family-owned operations to multi million dollar corporations. National City also boasts the highest sales tax per capita in the County.

The National City Marine Terminal, part of the Unified Port of San Diego, is the most advanced vehicle import and export facility on the West Coast, processing more than 270,000 vehicles annually. Lumber is also imported from the Pacific Northwest for construction use throughout the region. National City's port area extends three miles along San Diego Bay and is part of the largest U.S. Navy installation on the West Coast.



City Attractions

Shopping. National City is a great place for shopping. The City is served by several major shopping centers; South Bay Plaza, the first regional shopping center in San Diego, National City Plaza Shopping Center, Sweetwater Crossing, Bay Plaza Shopping Center, Grove Shopping Center and Westfield Plaza Bonita. Plaza Bonita recently underwent a \$130 million expansion which added 30 new stores and an AMC theater, making Plaza Bonita the largest enclosed mall in the South Bay. If you are shopping for a car, visit the "Mile of Cars," where you will find 21 different franchise dealers and more than 5,000 cars. The Mile of Cars leads the San Diego area in number of vehicles sold and dollar sales.

Dining. If you're in the mood for Mexican, Japanese or a good old fashion cheese burger, National City has it all. The National City restaurant scene has over 200 restaurants to choose from, running the full range from affordable fast food, to interesting ethnic restaurants, to fine dining.





City Parks. National City's 87.2 acres of park land exceed the statewide norm. The city's four major parks include: El Toyon Park, Kimball Park, Las Palmas Park and Sweetwater Heights Park.

Recreation. Duffers of all ages are invited to golf the National City Golf Course. The nine-hole course offers discount rates for City residents and economical rates for non-residents as well. For the hot summer days, visit the National City community pool - Las Palmas. The National City recreation division provides programs at the Olympic-sized pool as well as at six recreation centers, nine schools, and two senior citizen centers. Over twenty different instruction classes are offered in athletics, dance, and crafts at the various centers. National City's recreation division offers a diverse year-round program of activities for all ages.

Historical Sightseeing. National City's Victorian heritage is one of its more important assets. Visit one of the four buildings in the City that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Granger Music Hall, Brick Row on Heritage Square, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, and the Santa Fe Rail Depot.



City Government

National City is a general law city and operates under the council-manager form of government. The City Council has five members who are elected at large for a term of four years. The citizens of National City also elect the City Treasurer and the City Clerk.

The City Council is responsible for setting policies, enacting ordinances, adopting the budget, reviewing the General Plan, appointing committees and appointing the City Manager. The city Manager is responsible for carrying out policies and ordinances of the City Council, appointing city Department heads and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the City. The City Manager also serves as executive director and secretary of the Community Development Commission of the City of National City and may delegate that authority.

Historic Sites

Often characterized by its rich historic past, National City is in fact the second oldest city in San Diego County. Incorporated on September 17, 1887, National City was originally part of the 26,000-acre El Rancho de la Nacion, which was purchased in 1868 by Frank Kimball and his brothers Warren and Levi. The Kimballs cleared lands, built roads, constructed the City's first wharf and brought the railroad to the City.

The Kimball's and other early visionary leaders of National City are embodied in the historical buildings and landscape dotted throughout the City. The historic buildings are evidence of the rich past which contributes to the cultural fabric of National City today. Such historical resources provide continuity with our past and enhance our quality of life.





National Register of Historic Places

Four buildings in the City are listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

Granger Music Hall, 1615 East 4th Street

Ralph Granger, who struck it rich in the silver mines of Colorado and was making \$5,000 a day through the 1890's, located his family on an estate in Paradise Valley (8th Street). His love of violins led to his purchase of a large and expensive string collection, which prompted him to hire San Diego architect Irving Gill to build a private music hall for him near his house.

A wonderful 75-foot mural adorns the recital hall ceiling portraying the Muses Euterpe and Erato, surrounded by cherubs. Due to the way the building was constructed, no wall is exactly parallel, so a microphone is not needed. Sound travels from one end of the hall to the other without distortion.

Saved from demolition, Granger Music Hall was moved to its present site. In an effort spearheaded by National City Historical Society, it was lovingly restored by the citizens of National City. Painted its original colors, it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Brick Row on Heritage Square, 909 A Avenue

Designed by San Diego architect R. C. Ball (who designed Folsom Prison), it was constructed by Frank Kimball in 1887 for \$30,000. These 10 individual row houses were to be used by the executives of the Santa Fe Railroad. This architectural style is unique to this region and was molded after the row houses of Philadelphia and similar eastern cities. It was hoped that the railroad VIPs would not only feel at home surrounded by familiar architecture, but also be impressed by the cosmopolitan appearance of the young city. All the apartments have a formal dining room with fireplace, a kitchen, a parlor with fireplace, a butler's pantry, and four bedrooms upstairs

Twelve-inch thick interlocking brick walls divide the units. The brickwork on the row houses was laid with an artistic eye to break the severe lines of the long walls. The bricks above the second story are set upright at an angle. A one-story wooden porch runs the length of the building.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it now is an integral part of National City's Heritage Square. Each of the 10 units is privately owned and maintained; however, there is a protective covenant on the facade, so the exterior will always be in keeping with the Victorian surroundings.

Santa Fe Rail Depot, W. 23rd Street

(California Southern Terminus Depot)

Built in 1882, the Santa Fe Rail Depot is the only original transcontinental railroad terminus in the United States that is still standing. On November 14, 1885, the first train left from National City to Waterman (renamed Barstow in 1886), 78 miles from its transcontinental link in San Bernadino.

The restored Santa Fe Rail Depot serves as a railroad museum and community meeting place. Nearby on 24th Street, a restored National City & Otoy Railway coach will be installed in a park site.





National City Railcar Plaza, 840 West 24th Street

Once owned by National City founder Frank Kimball, the railcar played a significant role in transportation, serving as the region's first commuter-type train dedicated to passengers. Even the legendary Wyatt Earp rode the train!

The Original 1887 No. 1 Car of the old "MOTOR CANNON BALL" excursion train is now on display at the National City Railcar Museum.

St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 521 E. 8th Street

In 1872, the Kimball brothers donated a parcel of land for the future building of a church. The Episcopal Society was organized in 1882 and Frank Kimball was elected secretary. St. Matthews Church was built five years later. Designed by Chula Vista architect William Herman, it was patterned after an English Countryside church.

Parks & Facilities

The City of National City offers a variety of facilities to suit your needs. Most are conveniently located in city parks and are easy to find. You may reserve a facility, picnic area, multi-purpose field, or softball/baseball diamond for exclusive use. However, when not reserved, some areas (such as picnic areas and softball diamonds) are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a facility please call the Community Services Department at (619) 336-4290.



Reservation Information

National City Parks are available for use on a first come, first served basis. There are no reservations for tables or special locations. For groups with 100+ participants a "Use of Facility" application must be filed for approval by the Department Director within at least a week prior to the event. For a large-scale event with music, entertainment or food sales, a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) application must be obtained from Neighborhood Services (URL: Page 102), located at City Hall, 1243 National City Boulevard (619) 336-4210

Sports Field Rental

A "Use of Facility" application must be submitted at least two weeks in advance for approval by the Director of Community Services. National City ball fields are rented based on City Council Policy which gives priority use to National City residents. If use of field lights is required, there will be a fee of \$20.00 per hour for non-residents or \$10.00 per hour for residents. (2 hour minimum)

Facility Rental

A "Use of Facility" application must be submitted at least two weeks in advance for approval by the Director of Community Services. Insurance will be required either through using organization insurance, insurance acceptable to the risk manager, or through the purchase of event insurance through the City with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000. Please click on the "Field and Facility Rental Information" page for pictures and rental information. For additional information including fees, please contact the Community Services Department (619) 336-4290.





Inflatable Jumps

Inflatable jumps are not allowed in National City Parks without an approved "Use of Facility" application and a \$1,000,000 insurance requirement. The City of National City requires that the company from whom the inflatable jump is being rented mail or fax a certificate of insurance which states that the City of National City is additionally insured. The application must be completed at least one week in advance for approval. No application will be approved without a mailed or faxed certificate of insurance. There is a \$25 processing fee (cash only, no checks) to obtain the required permit.

Camacho Recreation Center & Las Palmas Park

1810 East 22nd Street / (619) 336-6756

Casa de Salud Recreation Center

1408 E. Harding Avenue / (619) 336-6757

El Toyon Recreation Center, Park, & Sports Facility

2005 E. 4th Street / (619) 472-6486 or (619) 472-6487

Kimball Park & Recreation Center

148 E. 12th Street / (619) 336-6754

Kimball Park Skate Park

16th and B Avenue

Kimball Senior Center

1221 "D" Avenue / (619) 336-6760

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

140 E. 12th Street / (619) 336-4290

Butterfly Park

Palm Ave. and E. 22nd St.

Paradise Creek Park

Coolidge Ave. and W. 19th St.



Education

National School District

1500 N Avenue / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-7500 / FAX: (619) 336-7551 / nsd.us

The National School District is comprised of 10 public schools offering grades K-6. One location offers preschool. In addition to regular curriculum, the National School District offers extended programming and summer camps through its WINGS and Camp WINGS programs.

Elementary Schools

Central School

933 E Avenue / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-7400 / FAX: (619) 336-7455





El Toyon School

2000 E. Division Street / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8000 / FAX: (619) 336-8055

Ira Harbison School

3235 E. 8th Street / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8200 / FAX: (619) 336-8255

Kimball School

302 W. 18th Street / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8300 / FAX: (619) 336-8355

Las Palmas School

1900 E. 18th Street / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8500 / FAX: (619) 336-8555

Lincoln Acres School

2200 Lanoitan Avenue / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8600 / FAX: (619) 336-8655

Rancho de la Nación School

1830 E. Division Street / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8100 / FAX: (619) 336-8155

Olivewood School

2505 F Avenue / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8700 / FAX: (619) 336-8755

John A. Otis School

621 E. 18th Street / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8800 / FAX: (619) 336-8855

Palmer Way School

2900 Palmer Street / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8900 / FAX: (619) 336-8955

Preschool Center

2401 East 24th Street / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-8670 / FAX: (619) 336-8673



Sweetwater Union High School District

1130 Fifth Ave / Chula Vista, CA 91911-2896

Phone: 619-691-5500 / www.suhsd.k12.ca.us

The Sweetwater Union High School District has four campuses in National City, including its founding and namesake school, Sweetwater High, offering instruction primarily in grades 7-12. In addition to the high school which is steeped in tradition, National City Middle and Granger Junior High offer secondary instruction and National City Adult offers high school equivalency and continuing education.





Middle Schools

Granger Junior High School

2101 Granger Avenue / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 472-6000 / Fax: (619) 267-4107

National City Middle School

1701 D Avenue / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-2600 / Fax: (619) 474-1756

High Schools

Sweetwater High School

2900 Highland Avenue / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 474-9700 / Fax: (619) 474-7635

National City Adult School

517 Mile of Cars Way / National City, CA 91950

Phone: (619) 336-9400 / Fax: (619) 336-0641



Southwestern Community College District

900 Otay Lakes Road / Chula Vista, CA 91910

(619) 421-6700 / www.swccd.edu/Hecnc

One half of the award-winning Education Village in Downtown National City is dedicated to Southwestern College's Higher Education Center. Course offerings include an acclaimed dental hygienist program.

South County Regional Education Center

San Diego County Office of Education

800 National City Blvd. / National City, CA 91950

Phone: 619-470-5200

The South County Regional Education Center was born out of a growing need to advance student and teacher training using the best presentation and communication tools available today. It exists to continue the traditions established at SDCOE's main campus, which is to "...improve student achievement, educational leadership and home/school partnerships through the use of advanced technologies."



Population and Housing Estimates

City of National City



Jan 1, 2021

Total Population	62,749
Household Population	56,745
Group Quarters Population	6,004
Persons Per Household	3.45

Housing and Occupancy

Structure Type	Total		Vacancy Rate
	Units	Households	
Structure Type	17,287	16,468	4.7%
Single Family - Detached	7,535	7,285	3.3%
Single Family - Attached	1,650	1,587	3.8%
Multi-Family	7,715	7,214	6.5%
Mobile Home and Other	387	382	1.3%

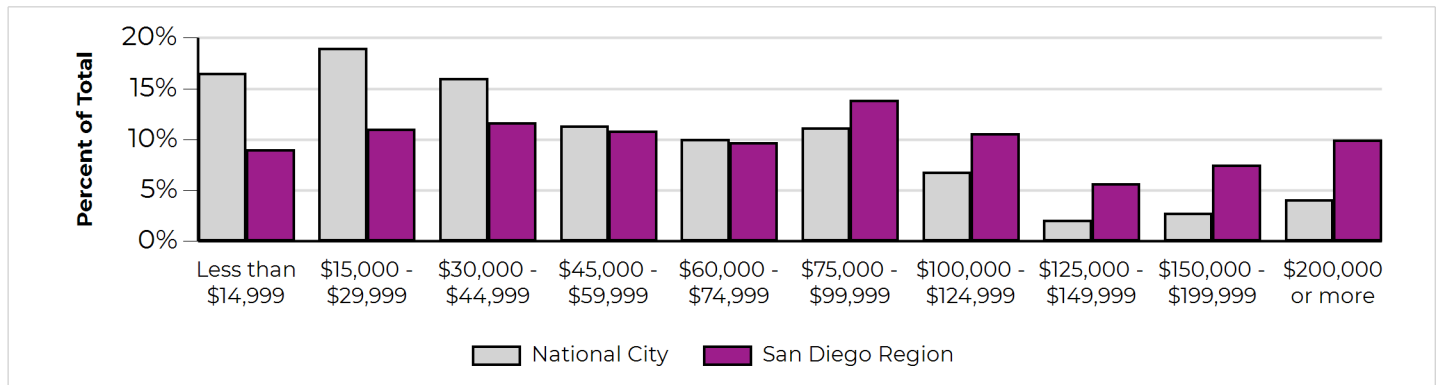
Household Income

Households by Income Category (2010 \$, adjusted for inflation)

	Less than \$15,000	\$15,000- \$29,999	\$30,000- \$44,999	\$45,000- \$59,999	\$60,000- \$74,999	\$75,000- \$99,999	\$100,000- \$124,999	\$125,000- \$149,999	\$150,000- \$199,999	\$200,000 or more
% of Total	17%	19%	16%	11%	10%	11%	7%	2%	3%	4%

Median Household Income

	2021
Adjusted for Inflation (2010 \$)	\$43,497
Not adjusted for inflation (current 2020 \$)	\$53,858



DATA SOURCES AND IMPORTANT ADVISORY:

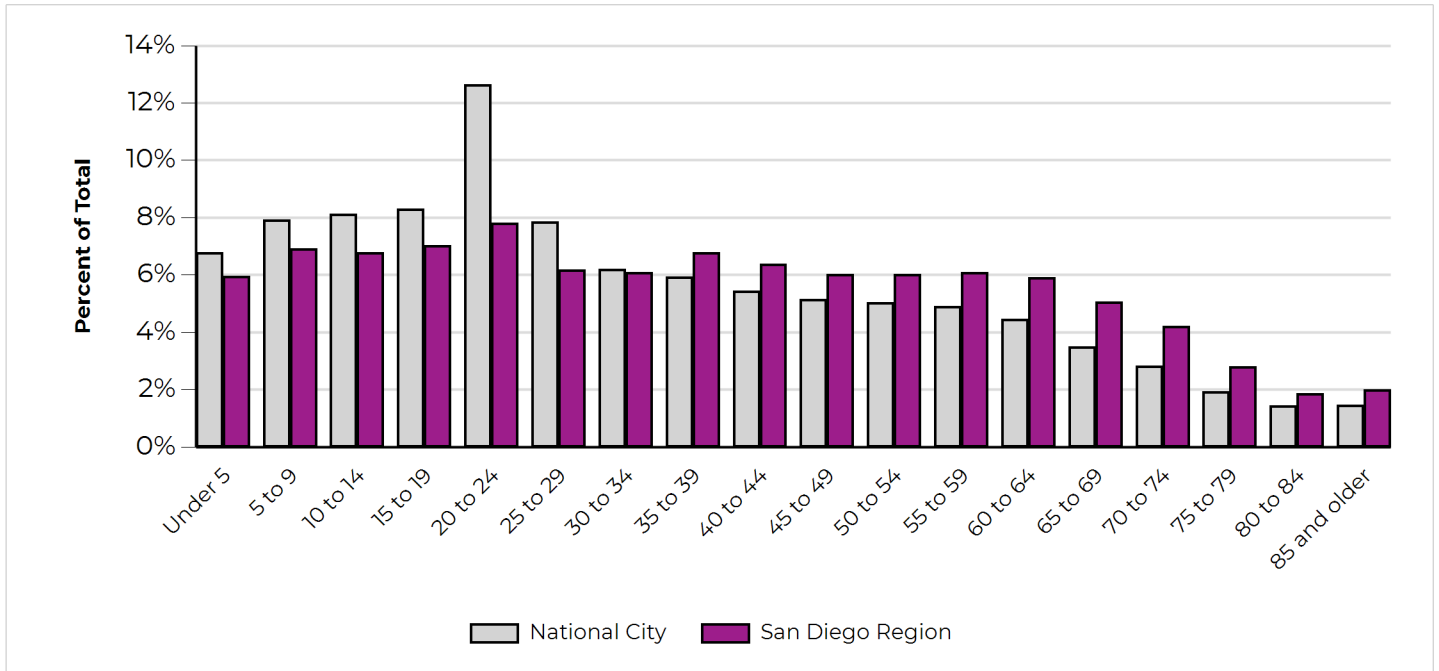
SANDAG Population and Housing Estimates are derived from a composite of data sources, including the California Department of Finance (DOF) E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020-2022; the 2021 SANDAG Land Use and Housing Units inventory; the Census American Community Survey (ACS) Detailed tables; and the vintage 2020 DOF P-3 Race/Ethnicity and Sex by Age for California and Counties.

Caution should be taken when using Population and Housing Estimates, especially for small areas of geography. Sampling error inherent with the data may materially impact the reliability of the estimates, resulting in a substantial margin of error. Additionally, conclusions should not necessarily be drawn about small differences between two or more estimates because they may not reflect statistically significant differences.

Population by Age and Sex

	Total	Male	Female	Percent Female
Total Population	62,749	33,059	29,690	47%
Under 5	4,257	2,188	2,069	49%
5 to 9	4,975	2,548	2,427	49%
10 to 14	5,095	2,577	2,518	49%
15 to 17	3,015	1,560	1,455	48%
18 and 19	2,202	1,154	1,048	48%
20 to 24	7,942	5,096	2,846	36%
25 to 29	4,934	2,858	2,076	42%
30 to 34	3,894	2,196	1,698	44%
35 to 39	3,732	2,022	1,710	46%
40 to 44	3,416	1,752	1,664	49%
45 to 49	3,236	1,596	1,640	51%
50 to 54	3,164	1,590	1,574	50%
55 to 59	3,074	1,531	1,543	50%
60 and 61	1,162	586	576	50%
62 to 64	1,644	798	846	51%
65 to 69	2,196	1,014	1,182	54%
70 to 74	1,772	780	992	56%
75 to 79	1,214	544	670	55%
80 to 84	908	364	544	60%
85 and older	917	305	612	67%
Under 18	17,342	8,873	8,469	49%
65 and older	7,007	3,007	4,000	57%
Median Age	28.9	27.5	31.2	N/A

Population by Age



Population by Race, Ethnicity and Age

	Non-Hispanic					
	Hispanic	White	Black	American Indian	Asian & Pacific Isl.	All Other
Total Population	37,230	10,370	3,519	292	9,347	1,991
Under 5	2,610	740	196	23	488	200
5 to 9	3,319	654	201	31	535	235
10 to 14	3,256	588	233	46	604	368
15 to 17	1,971	290	144	13	408	189
18 and 19	1,279	422	202	14	187	98
20 to 24	4,052	2,002	671	48	883	286
25 to 29	2,916	855	381	26	594	162
30 to 34	2,279	615	252	21	651	76
35 to 39	2,302	502	224	14	614	76
40 to 44	2,209	413	152	5	568	69
45 to 49	2,188	331	140	3	527	47
50 to 54	2,047	373	144	6	552	42
55 to 59	1,870	404	141	5	615	39
60 and 61	658	210	59	2	226	7
62 to 64	883	331	71	4	334	21
65 to 69	1,108	471	104	5	491	17
70 to 74	836	421	86	6	396	27
75 to 79	585	296	50	6	266	11
80 to 84	444	204	28	11	209	12
85 and older	418	248	40	3	199	9
Under 18	11,156	2,272	774	113	2,035	992
65 and older	3,391	1,640	308	31	1,561	76
Median Age	28.6	27.9	26.5	22.0	37.6	18.1