



2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT

South Padre Island

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to South Padre Island,

A year ago, I shared with you the many challenges our community faced. This year I'm proud to say we have made great strides towards an even brighter future for South Padre Island.

With Texas opening up fully in March of 2021, businesses were able to operate without restrictions to better serve the community and visitors. There's been a positive growth in tax revenues as the Island became an idyllic retreat for many. Additionally, the City maintained its annual expenditures within budget and increased excess reserves to fund critical projects. The City continues to be fiscally prudent and the 2020-2021 fiscal year reflects our strong financial position.

Although there has been great growth throughout the last year, our community continues to face the effects of COVID-19, including staffing shortages in local businesses, lack of necessary inventory and variants of the virus causing even further disruption to our daily lives.

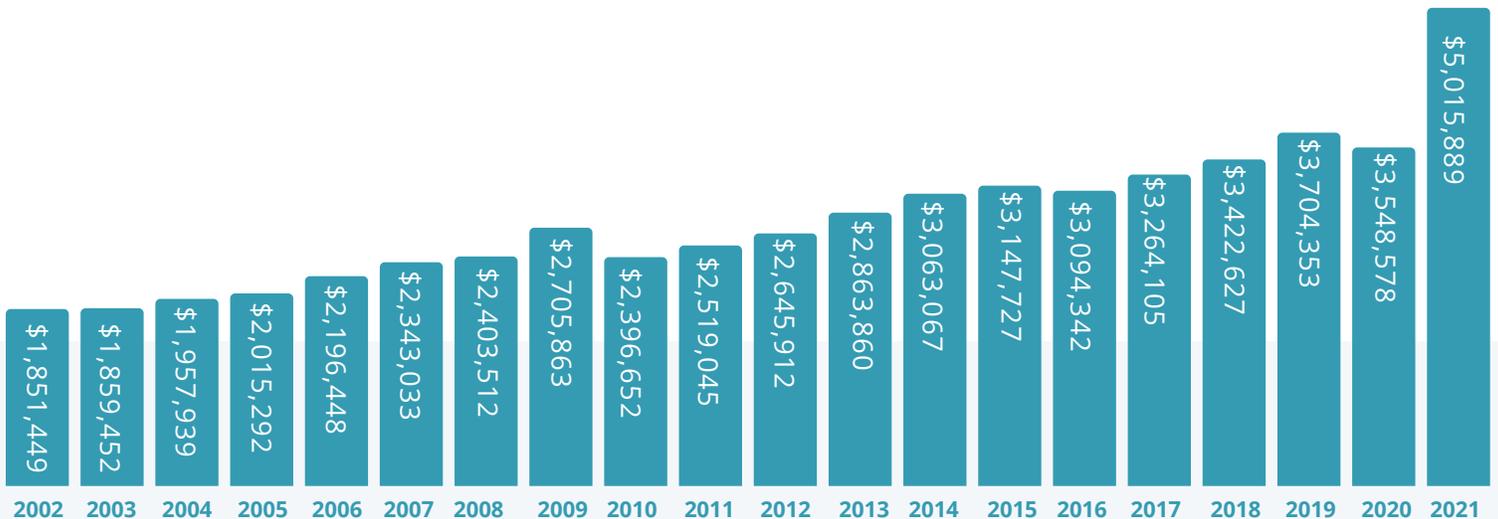
Despite these latest challenges, the City Council, City Manager, and staff continue their dedication in serving our community. Construction for the PR100 Median, Sidewalk and Boardwalk project has been completed, as well as the Skate Park in John L. Tompkins Park. I'm proud to announce that the Laguna Boulevard Reconstruction plans began February 25th, 2022.

I look forward to the coming year and all the great things it will bring to South Padre Island!

A blue ink signature of Patrick McNulty.

Patrick McNulty
Mayor

Sales Tax 20 Year Comparison



CITY COUNCIL

Role of a Council Member

The City Council Members are dedicated to serving the community by volunteering their time and expertise to maintaining and improving the quality of life for the citizens. Their contribution is invaluable in shaping the future of South Padre Island.

The Council is proud to represent the citizens and through policy-making and legislative authority, they are vested in a governing council consisting of the Mayor and five Council Members. The Mayor and Council serve three-year staggered terms and are elected at large.

The City Council is responsible for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, hiring the City Manager and the City Attorney.



Ken Medders, Jr.
Council Member Place 1

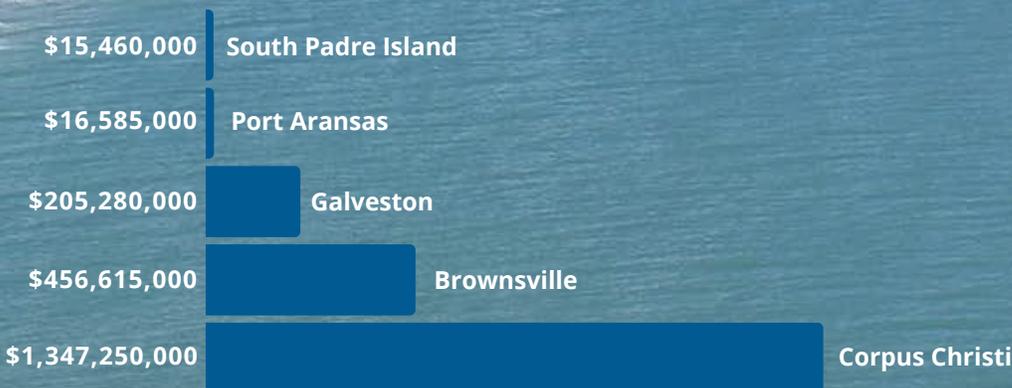
Kerry Schwartz
Mayor Pro-Tem Place 2

Joe Ricco
Council Member Place 3

Lydia Caballero
Council Member Place 4

Eva Jean Dalton
Council Member Place 5

Total Debt Comparison



Scan or click the QR Code above to contact the City Council Members

CITY MANAGER



Welcome to South Padre Island,

On behalf of myself and staff, we are honored to serve the South Padre Island community!

This annual report is a way for many of our departments to highlight some of the ways they help make the City great. This year brought a balance of new growth and development while preserving our Island culture. I appreciate the many dedicated staff members who are committed to maintaining and improving the quality of life for our community.

Some highlights of 2021 include national and state awards received by many departments, favorable economic conditions reflected in tax revenue increases, as well as effective budgetary management practices, resulting in the replenishment of reserves including a \$2.2 million balance in General Fund excess reserves.

In 2021, the City also increased a portion of shoreline by over 350,000 cubic yards with its beach renourishment project and will soon begin the Laguna Boulevard Reconstruction project. The City remains financially sound throughout 2021 as revenues outpaced expenditures.

I look forward to working with the City Council, City staff, and our community to accomplish our goals and to address any issues of concern with our City as well as the Island.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Smith
City Manager



Leadership Team



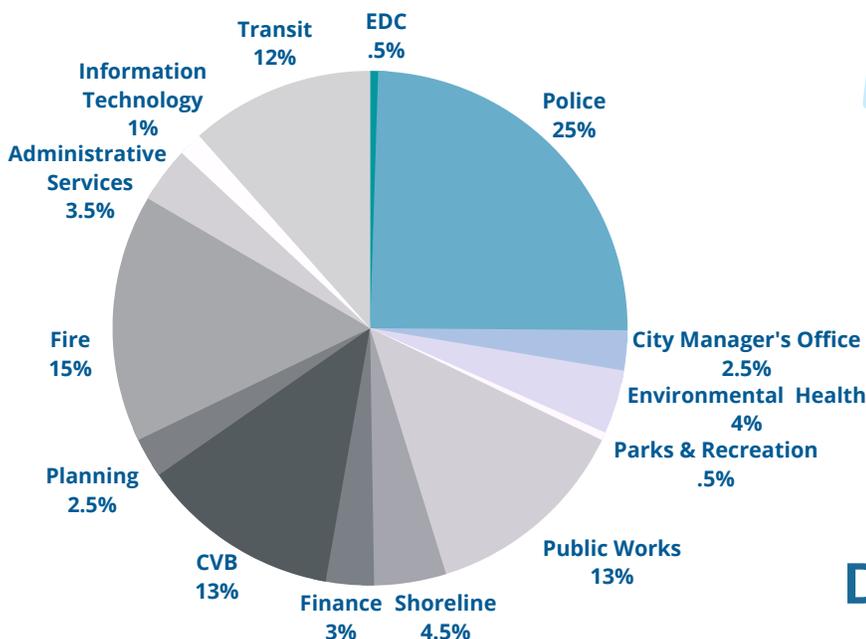
Front Row: Rodrigo Gimenez (Finance), Jon Wilson (Public Works), Kristina Boburka (Shoreline), Claudine O' Carroll (Police), Hilda Delgado (City Manager's Office), Carlos A. Sanchez (Public Works), Jim Pigg (Fire), Jesse Arriaga (Transit), Victor Baldovinos (Environmental Health). **Back Row:** Angelique Soto (City Manager's Office), Randy Smith (City Manager's Office), Wendi Delgado (City Manager's Office), Selena Treviño (City Manager's Office). **Not Pictured:** Victor Martinez (IT) and Darla Lapreye (EDC).

The City's key staff ensure that local regulations comply with state and federal laws, enforcing those regulations, and carrying out the more service-oriented aspects of their jobs.

Department heads come together as a team to lead the organization, they understand the critical role their departments play in the city. The work of each of these leaders is vital to providing for the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

The leadership team is proud to represent the City as a whole, not just their departments. This takes active work and only becomes easier with experience.

Employees by Department



ANNUAL BUDGET

The Annual Budget outlines the programs and services provided by the City to the citizens of South Padre Island. The budget is one of the most important decisions that the City Council makes every year as it determines projects to be funded, services to be provided to the residents and visitors and the related costs.

The City Manager, Budget Committee and the Finance Department work closely with various department directors to create the budget. This process includes the establishment of detailed business plans and performance analysis to identify internal strengths and weaknesses as well as external opportunities by each department.

The taxes collected by the City fund general government, public safety and public works, including funding for projects such as the Laguna Boulevard Reconstruction and John L. Tompkins Park. Tax revenues are also a critical component in bringing a unique quality of life that is enjoyed by all on South Padre Island.

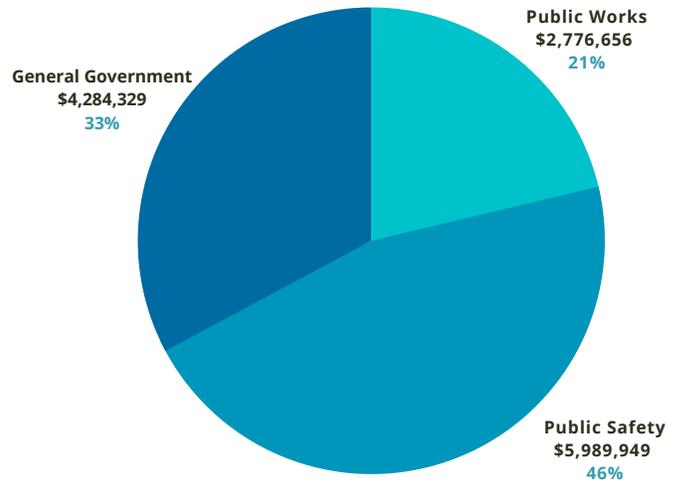
Financial Excellence Continues

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) announced that the City of South Padre Island received the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) for its 31st consecutive year and its 10th consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

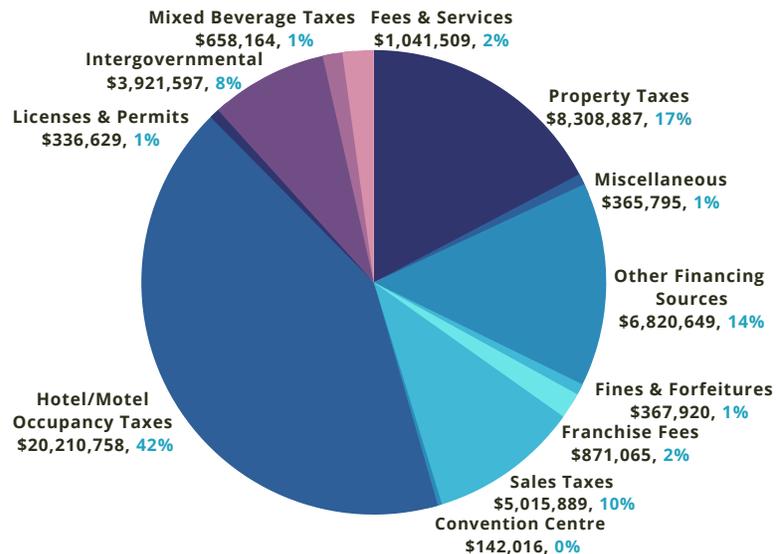
Both awards represent a significant accomplishment and reflect the commitment of the City Council and staff to meeting the highest principles of financial reporting. GFOA Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of financial reporting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

The City maintains its AA+ General Obligation Bond Rating through Standard's & Poor, a further reflection of strong financial management practices. This bond rating allows the City to issue bonds for major projects at an advantageous interest rate.

General Fund Expenditures



General Fund Revenues



31 Cent Tax Rate



AA+ Bond Rating

ECONOMIC IMPACT

EDC Fuels Economic Growth

The South Padre Island Economic Development Corporation (EDC) continues to give back to the community each year through grants and programs aimed at growing the economy year-round on South Padre Island.

The EDC awarded a total of \$27,700 to Café Karma and Isla Tours through the Sand Dollars for Success Grant. The grant provides much needed capital funds for local businesses to increase sales and create or retain jobs that will improve the economy on South Padre Island.

The EDC's Art Business Incubator Program welcomed six talented artists to South Padre Island in 2021. The one-year residency program sets out to "incubate" artists who have a desire to establish themselves as professional artists on South Padre Island. Graduates from 2021 will be opening three new art galleries on the Island this year.

Development for the Future

The South Padre Island Economic Development Corporation (EDC) selected Edgewater Resources to complete a feasibility study for a Deep Water Marina, a project included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan. The addition of a marina would allow visitors and community members a place to dock their boats, encouraging recreational fishing and boating on the Laguna Madre while enjoying the Island's unique natural resources.

The feasibility study will include a site review, marina market analysis, physical feasibility, environmental review and financial analysis. Results for the feasibility study will be presented in March 2022.



Rendering of the proposed Deep Water Marina.



Beach Resort at South Padre Island, located at 100 Padre Blvd.

New Businesses Join SPI

The Island drew in a variety of new businesses throughout the past year and further diversified what residents and visitors can enjoy while on the Island.

Restaurants that opened on the Island include Rockin' Cigar Bar & Grill, On the Border Restaurant, Ula's Poke Bowl, Taquitos Locos, Taco Palenque, Karma Coffee and Books, Karma Candy Corner, Coco Beach Café, Breaking Bread Burrito Express, and Rocotto Grill.

Additional development included SPI Cycle Pub, Hooked on Seafood, Beach Resort at South Padre Island, Beach Outlet, Bliss Bridal and Beauty Bar, SPI Urgent Care - Dr. Ybarra, and Elements Aqua Salon & Medspa.

TROPICAL TOURISM

Best Beach in Texas

With the reopening of Texas in March 2021, the Island became the ideal family retreat. The influx of visitors brought record breaking numbers, including Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues which rose 70% as tourism boomed.

South Padre Island lies on the southern tip of Texas and is situated on the south end of Padre Island, the longest Barrier Island in the world and the largest stretch of undeveloped oceanfront in North America and is linked to the mainland by a two-and-a-half-mile long bridge, the Queen Isabella Memorial Bridge. The City of South Padre Island is home to an estimated 2,700 people with millions of visitors coming to the Island every year.

The Island's unique offerings guarantee each member of your family or group is sure to find something that fits their personality and interests perfectly. If you enjoy getting outdoors and having a new adventure, try ziplining, surfing, bay fishing, kiteboarding, stand-up paddle boarding, snorkeling, scuba diving, parasailing, jet skiing and deep-sea fishing.



Hotel Occupancy Tax Fiscal Comparison



Mixed Beverage Tax Fiscal Comparison



Click or scan the QR Code to plan your visit today!



The South Padre Island Visitors Center welcomed over 20,000 visitors from around the world.



The CVB booked 17,261 group room nights throughout 2021.



Over nine million people visited the Island in 2021.



McAllen International Airport began a shuttle service that runs directly to South Padre Island.

SHORELINE

RESTORE Act

The Shoreline Department was awarded \$140,625 from Texas Parks and Wildlife to be used in conjunction with the 1.8 million RESTORE Act grant which was awarded to purchase land and construct a boat ramp.

The RESTORE Act dedicates eighty percent of all administrative and civil penalties related to the Deepwater Horizon spill to a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Trust Fund) and outlines a structure by which the funds can be utilized to restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of the Gulf Coast region.

Coastal Management Program awarded

The Shoreline Department was awarded \$295,210 for Cycle 24 and Cycle 26 of the Coastal Management Program (CMP) for beach improvements and the City's management practices.

CMP 24

\$115,210 funded the restoration of approximately 17 acres of dunes damaged or destroyed during the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season.

\$60,000 funded the construction of 6 wooden lifeguard observation towers for Coastal Hazard Prevention.

CMP 26

\$120,000 will fund beach access improvements at Sea Island Circle including permanent restrooms, rinse stations and parking updates.

Beach Renourishment

The Shoreline Department, in partnership with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Texas General Land Office, and Cameron County, completed its beach renourishment project in July 2021.

Approximately 355,248 cubic yards were dredged, providing 150 feet of increased beach width! Sediment collected was placed at the northern end of the City limits and at Isla Blanca Park.

The project helps preserve critical wildlife habitat and allows more space for residents and visitors to enjoy the beach.



**OVER
350,000
CUBIC YARDS
DREDGED!**

INFRASTRUCTURE

PR 100 Median, Boardwalk, Sidewalk, and Traffic Signal Project Complete



The Public Works Department continues to improve infrastructure and provide safer streets for all modes of travel. The PR 100 Median, Boardwalk, Sidewalk, and Traffic Signal Improvements project is at 99% completion, pending upgraded crosswalk lighting to improve motorist visibility. This project is a component of the Venue Tax Project approved by voters in 2016.

The project stayed in budget with a grand total of \$7,529,903.25. The traffic signal improvements added two new intersections on Esperanza Street and Padre Boulevard, as well as at a yet unnamed intersection near 6600 Padre Blvd. In addition, 3.7 miles of center medians were built which included the installation of new 6-inch irrigation water meters. The completed project provides increased pedestrian and traffic mobility along Padre Boulevard.

Laguna Boulevard Reconstruction

The Laguna Boulevard Reconstruction project is finalized and ready to begin construction! A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for March 2022.

Several open houses and workshops took place throughout the past two years, where public comments and input were gathered to create concepts for the final design.

The budget for the project was approved January 5, 2022, totaling \$4,592,374. The bid was awarded to Clore Equipment. Engineering for the project was completed in-house, saving a total of \$478,000 on the project design. The project is estimated to be complete in the Fall of 2023.



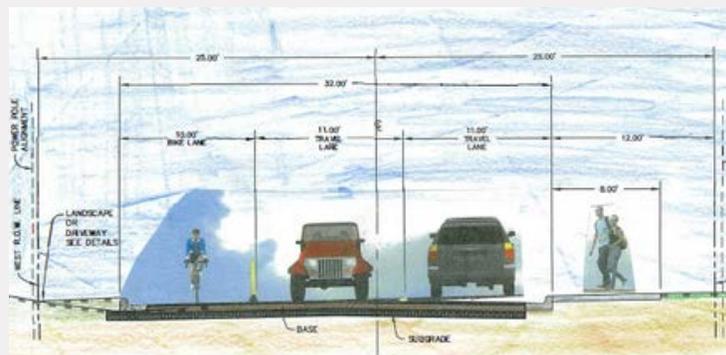
EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTRE

More Room to Work and Play

The City contracted with Charlie Johnson in June 2021 to update the Convention Centre Expansion Feasibility Study and Business Plan.

According to the study's projections, an expansion of the Convention Centre could bring an 82% increase in direct and supporting revenues within five years and a 107% increase in ten years.

The Convention Centre Expansion is a transformative project that embraces the future of South Padre Island as a prominent destination for all types of events.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Quiet Water Sports Park

The South Padre Island Wind and Water Sports Park is still underway.

The Park will provide a dedicated access point for wind and water sport athletes and will decrease the amount of damage to the wetlands that currently occur. The design includes parking areas and a laydown area where the athletes can set up their equipment and launch from.

The project is currently waiting for permit approval from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and a General Land Office lease. Invitations to bid will go out as soon as they are approved. This project is a component of the Venue Tax Project approved by voters in 2016.



The Island Way

The City has released the final draft of its Comprehensive Plan, The Island Way. The plan has been in the works since 2019 but faced some road blocks along the way due to COVID-19 and staff changes.

The Comprehensive Plan will serve as the official long-term planning document for future growth and development on South Padre Island. It outlines plans for Land Use, Business, Economy & Tourism, Thoroughfare, Parks & Recreation, City Facilities, Shoreline, Storm Drainage and Implementation. Each chapter of the plan was created and voted on by its corresponding department and/or committee.

An Open House was held on February 28, 2022 to gather feedback from the community before City Council votes for final approval of the Island Way Comprehensive Plan.



Click or scan the QR code to view the Island Way Comprehensive Plan!

KEEPING SPI BEAUTIFUL



Environmental Health Awards

This year, Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) named South Padre Island as a Gold Star Affiliate. KTB works with governments, businesses, civic groups, and volunteers to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to take individual responsibility for making Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation. The Gold Star recognition is the highest status any community affiliate can achieve.

The Environmental Health Services Department (EHSD) and the Parks & Keep South Padre Island Beautiful Committee highlighted their beach cleanups and how the Litter Patrol Program is utilized during the summer months to educate beach-goers on the importance of a litter-free beach and leaving nothing but footprints behind.



Thank you to those that keep SPI Beautiful!

Recyclable Materials Accepted

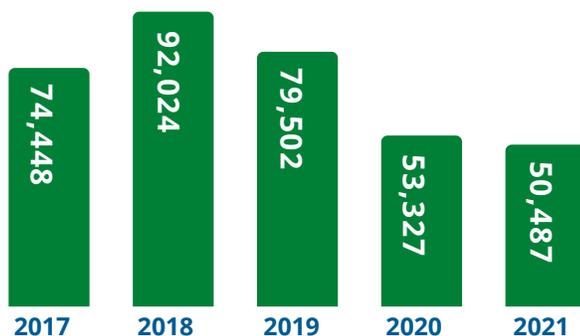
The Environmental Health Services Department, in conjunction with Republic Services, provides a drop-off location for recycling household items and once a month for brush.

The City Recycling hours are every Saturday from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM at 4501 Padre Blvd.



Scan the QR Code to view all acceptable materials

Annual Recycling Comparison (Pounds)



Community Outreach

- Weekly recycling for household items is available every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 4501 Padre Blvd.
- Each November, the Annual Recycle Land event hosts local presenters to educate the community on how we can all do our part in keeping SPI Beautiful.
- "I Love SPI" Valentine's Day Campaign is held every year to help the residents and businesses by adding an extra brush and bulky item pick-up services.
- Composter Loan Program allows residents to lease a manual composter to create organic compost soil and provide nutrients to lawns and plants all year long.
- The Annual E-Waste Event is every April! This event allows the community to recycle unwanted electronics.
- Utility Easement Enforcement Program surveys all utility easements and educates property owners on the importance of eliminating high grass and dead vegetation.

Contact EHSD for more information!
(956) 761-8123



PARKS



John L. Tompkins Park

The City of South Padre Island has partnered with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife to complete the final Phases of John L. Tompkins Park. Phase II is nearly complete and features a soccer field, walking trail, shade structures, exercise stations, and bocce ball court. Phase III will include solar lighting throughout the park and a shade pavilion over the basketball court and is set to begin in early 2022.

The construction bid for John L. Tompkins Park was awarded to Bryant Industrial Services. The skatepark design contract was awarded to Newline Skate, Inc. The bid for construction of the skatepark was awarded to Spohn Ranch, Inc. in December of 2020, and was completed soon after. A ribbon-cutting was held on May 8th, 2021 in celebration of this great addition to South Padre Island.



Overview of the park's progress.

City Parks

The City maintains several City parks.

- Water Tower Park
- John L. Tompkins Park
- Turtle Park
- Butterfly Park
- Lis Memorial Park



Click or scan the QR code to view locations and amenities!



Ribbon cutting for the new skate park.

Monarch Trail

Savings from the PR100 Medians project provided a new amenity to South Padre Island!

The Monarch Trail was added on the northern part of the Island, providing more habitat for the migration of the Monarch butterfly.

This addition continues the Island's commitment of the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge initiative.

The Island Metro is a free, fixed-route system that operates within the City of South Padre Island, Port Isabel and Laguna Heights.



Click or scan the QR code to see where we go and when we get there!

Island Metro Ridership Comparison



POLICE



Texas Police Games

The City of South Padre Island Police Department proudly hosted the 2021 Texas Police Games! The annual games bring together commissioned Police Officers from all over the state of Texas to compete in organized events.

The Police Games, both state and international, have created numerous benefits for law enforcement officers in cities throughout the United States and for the citizens of the communities in which these officers serve.



SPI PD award winner!



Motorcycle rodeo



Wrestling match



Houston PD

Re-entry Stickers

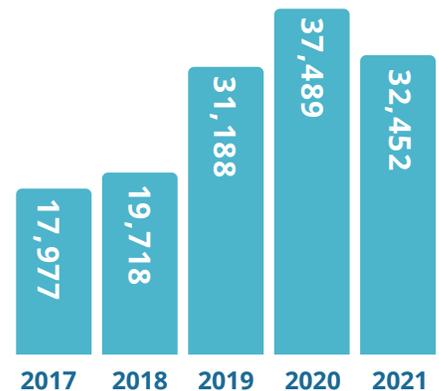
The City of South Padre Island utilizes Swift911 to notify citizens, businesses and visitors of emergency situations.

The emergency notification system is web-based giving the City the ability to message community members anytime day or night using text, voice or email alerts.



Click or scan the QR Code to sign up today!

Police Annual Calls for Service



FIRE



The City of South Padre Island Fire Department operates a variety of emergency service apparatus and support vehicles to provide services to the community.

USLA Championships

In August 2021, the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) held its National Lifeguard Championships on South Padre Island! It was the competitions first time being held on the Island.

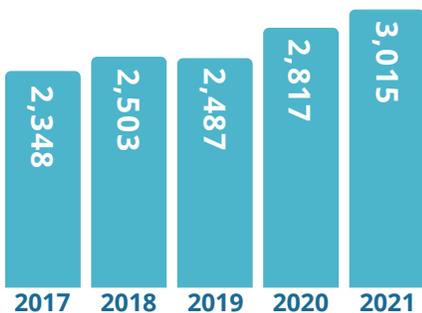
USLA is a nonprofit professional association of beach lifeguards and open water rescuers that work to educate, train, and promote high standards for safety in the aquatic environment.

More than 1000 competitors, coaches, and families competed over four days in intense athletic competitions in the ocean and on the sand.



USLA competitors in action.

Fire Annual Calls for Service



Swift911 Alerts

The City of South Padre Island utilizes Swift911 to notify citizens, businesses and visitors of emergency situations.

The emergency notification system is web-based giving the City the ability to message community members anytime day or night using text, voice or email alerts.



Click or scan the QR Code to sign up today!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2020 brought fires, storms, electrical and water outages that affected the Island within a few months. The Island only has one bridge that the public can enter and exit from. Understanding and implementing emergency operations is vital to the residents, businesses and visitors.

As all emergencies begin at the local level, the City of South Padre Island's Emergency Key Staff are experienced and trained to handle these situations as they arise. The City works with County, State and Federal officials to coordinate assistance needed for each individual emergency.

Emergency Operations Center

The EOC is activated to address emergencies and to allow for situational awareness, communications and coordination. Locations will vary on the type of emergency and access to City Hall.

Each Spring Break, the City activates the EOC as annual training and preparation.

Situations

The City has been challenged with extreme events over the past few years impacting operations.

- 2019 July Water Main Break
- 2019 October Weather Event
- 2020 COVID-19
- 2020 May Structure Fire
- 2020 July Hurricane Hanna
- 2020 September Causeway Threat
- 2020 September Water Main Break
- 2021 Winter Weather Event



EOC activated during the 2019 October Weather Event.

Unity in Community



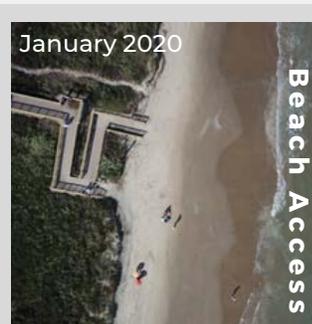
The City partners with both the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. They have provided shelter, supplies, food and emotional support during all emergencies.

Thank you for all that you do!

Storm Surges

The Shoreline Department takes various proactive measures when a storm enters the Gulf to prevent damages and street inundation. All trash barrels that are directly on the beach are moved up to higher points to avoid the excessive rising tides and access mats are rolled up and removed to prevent damage.

There are certain lower-lying accesses that are highly susceptible to inundation during storm surges. To prevent these accesses from being breached and the streets from flooding, beach quality sand is trucked into 'berm' the access down. The sand is piled up to create a continuous berm between the dunes in the access points.



Sandbag distribution.



Emergency Essential Staff on scene.

Key Contacts

(956) 761-8104	Building Division
(956) 761-8101	City Hall
(956) 761-8110	City Manager's Office
(956) 761-8168	Community Center
(956) 761-3000	Convention & Visitors Bureau
(956) 761-6805	Economic Development Corporation
(956) 761-8123	Environmental Health
(956) 761-8130	Finance
(956) 761-3830	Fire Department
(956) 761-3225	Municipal Court
(956) 761-8168	Parks & Recreation
(956) 761-8112	Planning
(956) 761-5454	Police Non-Emergency
(956) 761-8159	Public Works
(956) 761-8166	Shoreline
(956) 761-8178	Transit
(956) 761-6433	Visitors Center

Stay Informed

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Sign up to receive updates delivered to your inbox.
<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/f4MLswz/islandvibes>

Social Media

The City of South Padre Island's social media pages have more than 26,500 followers. Follow us today to stay up to date.
<https://www.facebook.com/CityofSPI>
<https://twitter.com/CityofSPI>

For tourism and event information follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/sopadre/>

Meetings

View upcoming meeting agendas, live stream meetings in session or watch archived meetings.
<http://www.myspi.org/egov/apps/services/index.egov?view=detail;id=20>

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