**North Park**

# **Introduction**

Our group picked the community of North Park. It is very unique for having lots of small businesses that are usually family owned or are independent. North Park is a very diverse community with lots of people from lots of different backgrounds, ethnicities, and ages. We visited North Park and a few of it’s residents and focused on finding out what life is like in one of San Diego’s oldest communities. This documentary shows the things we saw, the people we talked to, and the stories we’ve heard.

# **History**

North Park began when Joseph Nash sold 40 acres of land northeast of Balboa Park to James Hartley in 1893. Hartley planned to turn the land into a massive lemon grove. San Diego grew and developed into the area that Hartley owned. He named the area “Hartleys North Park”. It was later named “North Park”. In 1911 Hartley’s oldest son, Jack Hartley developed it into San Diego’s first commercial residential districts. In 1905 Jack built North Park’s First High rise commercial building. Now it on the northwest corner of 30th st and University ave. Today 30th and University became an important part of North park. It is Important because it is the oldest intersection in North Park. In the 1910s North Park became one of a few neighborhoods with cars. This drew lots of attention to it because cars were very new back then. Then until around 1939 when streetcars became more common North Park started to die down a little bit. In 1942 a J.C Penney's was built in North Park. This was only one of two J.C Penney’s that was open during WWII. This was a big deal because it was the first big company that in North Park and started a controversial topic about big businesses in North Park. In the 1960s is when North Park began to have more buildings and roads. This was because one of the first malls in San Diego was build (Mission Valley Mall). This caused the need for more roads because of the constant traffic caused by the mall(s). Then in the 70s some of the small homes began to grow old and outdated, this is when apartments were first introduced to North Park.

# **Changes Over Time**

In 1939, San Diego became a hotspot for military production. Bomber and Aeroplane factories opened up and increased the United States Air Force to 6,000 planes. The Imperial Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor triggered America’s entrance into World War 2. San Diego became a staging ground for elements of the Marines, Air Force, Navy, and Army to wage war in the Pacific. Morley Fields, a famous sports complex in North Park, was occupied by elements of the United States Marine Corps and United States Navy. Balboa Park and the surrounding areas, including North Park, were utilized by the United States Navy. The Navy set up hospital wards, training grounds, and multiple barracks. Defense funding flowed into every community in San Diego, we were at war. After the war, San Diego was turned back over to the civilian population. Government funding came to repair and restore all the areas that the Military used up or damaged in their stay. Residential areas were vastly improved after the war, lots of new houses were constructed to fit the needs of returning veterans. Over time, small family owned businesses started to disappear and were replaced by chain restaurants and bars. This neighborhood grew in size, population, and culture over time. In 1978, a Boeing 727 and a Cessna 172 crashed mid-air over the residential areas in North Park. Many peoples homes were destroyed and many lives were taken. Though, 30th and University did not get affected directly by the destruction, everyone in the neighborhood felt the aftershock and aftermath of the crash. The residents of North Park were all brought closer together after this tragedy, and rebuilt their lives together. North Park, once a busy neighborhood known for it’s family retail stores and homemade goods, started to gain a different reputation. North Park’s focus shifted from being a residential area into a more modern night-light spot.

# **The Community Today**

#### Today North Park , is a place where people can feel free to be themselves, with a sense of unity around them. There’s many things that North Park has that other communities would wish to have, for example John Santos who at his home host, a community garden open to the public . There is also a North Park farmers market that goes on every Thursday. The main part of North Pask is made up of small business like, Crazee Burger, Hammond’s Gourmet Ice Cream, and more. There are also different kinds of events the North Park puts on like The North Park Festival of the Arts, The Taste of North Park, Concerts in The Summer and many other things. Some of the people that live in North Park are actually more on the elderly side. Since it is becoming more of a popular place. The people that do live there are starting to get worried about the fact that there’s starting to be a lot of local bars. Which are starting to bring a different effects to the location. There are many different reasons that people go to North Park, a big one is the art. The art is a big thing North Park not only can you see it on every corner. But there is over 20 Festivals, Galleries and Exhibitions there each year.

#### **Conclusion**

North Park is one of San Diego’s oldest communities. It’s history reaches far back into the early days of San Diego’s development. North Park has seen a lot of action over the years, and is directly affected by the people who live in it. The people are what make this community. North Park’s residents are all very diverse people from all sorts of different backgrounds, ethnicities, and heritages. The community of North Park is an ever growing branch of the tree that they call “San Diego”