

Community Information

Bonita





Bonita

The city is great for work, but if you want to live somewhere with more of a community feeling check out Bonita, a family-friendly area located just a short ride from downtown San Diego.

There are enough places here to call home, from condos and townhouses to single-family residences. Outdoor types will love the recreational trail that winds its way through central Bonita (and circles the Chula Vista Golf Course). Hundreds of residents bike and walk this route every single day, and it's perfect for that early morning run. The Sweetwater Reservoir offers a different option with equestrian trails and yet more paths to explore. Plus, there's enough golf for everyone (is that even possible?). For indoor types, there are shops, cafes and restaurants.

Every autumn, just about the whole the town—that's almost all of the 13,000 residents—turns out for Bonitafest, an annual celebration with parades, marching bands and live entertainment that all ends with an amazing barbecue.

Bonita is an unincorporated community in southern San Diego County, California, nestled between the cities of Chula Vista, National City, and San Diego. It is also a Census-designated place defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.



While Bonita is politically designated as an unincorporated community, bounded by the incorporated cities of Chula Vista, San Diego, and National City the community of Bonita is more closely associated with the geography of the Lower Sweetwater Valley. Thus considered, Bonita occupies about a five mile (8 km) stretch of the Sweetwater River, its valley, and surrounding hills on either side, bounded upstream (east) by the Sweetwater Reservoir, and downstream (west) effectively by Interstate 805. The community crosses west of I-805 — an area less than 160 acres (0.6 km²) — reaching as far south and west as East H Street and Hilltop Drive. Its northern boundary is State Route 54 and its southern extent reaches approximately one mile (2 km) south of the river.

Nestled in the Sweetwater Valley lies the family community of Bonita, an unincorporated area bordered by state route 54 on the north, Madre Grande mountain in the east (state road 125), Telegraph Canyon on the south, and Interstate 805 on the west. Early settlers were gentlemen farmers raising lemon trees. Some of these old trees still exist in the Sweetwater Regional Park. You can see our humble rural beginnings watching the many horses and riders along the miles of riding and hiking trails crisscrossing the valley.

From a slow two lane country road, to a busy four lane city street today, Bonita Road showcases several churches, shopping centers and professional buildings. Two accredited 18 hole golf courses line the river valley.

Large portions of modern Bonita consist of housing tracts built throughout the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, including: Bonita Downs, Bonita Fairways, Bonita Glen, Bonita Highlands, Bonita Long Canyon, Bonita Woods, Emerald Ranch, Lynwood Hills and Ames Ranch.





History

In 1888, the Sweetwater Dam was built, creating the Sweetwater Reservoir and forever changing the geography of the region. Soon after, in 1906, the dam broke as a result of extensive rains which overfilled the reservoir, and the Lower Sweetwater Valley was completely flooded.

Bonita has experienced minor flooding throughout history, generally as a result of high seasonal rains attributed to El Niño. The floods most affect the Central Avenue river crossing, as no bridge has ever been built, unlike the Bonita Road and Willow Road crossings which are bridges, the former of which was rebuilt in the late 1990s.

In the 1990s and 2000s, the development of State Route 125 (The South Bay Expressway) became a major issue to Bonita residents, much as Interstate 805 and State Route 54 did during their development. Opponents argued that Bonita's rural nature would be compromised without benefit while proponents argued that the highway would reduce the significant increase in surface-street car traffic the community had seen since the 1980s when the eastern Chula Vista communities surrounding Eastlake were developed. The tollway opened in November 2007.

The Bonita Historical Museum is the principal repository of historical information for the Lower Sweetwater Valley.



Climate

The climate in Bonita is a combination of the coastal and inland valley climates of San Diego County. Warmer (and sunnier during the May Gray and June Gloom periods) than areas directly adjacent to San Diego Bay or the coast, but not as hot as inland valleys such as El Cajon, or even nearby Spring Valley. In summer, Bonita's climate is pleasant.

Parks and Recreation

To visitors and residents alike, one of the most visible features of Bonita recreational life is the walking trail which loops the Chula Vista Municipal Golf Course in central Bonita. Hundreds of residents walk, run, and ride this trail every day for pleasure and fitness, and the trail has become a vital component of Bonita life for many residents.

In the late 1990s the Sweetwater Regional Park was expanded and significantly improved, extending the walking and equestrian trails to an even greater number, and introducing a camping area at Summit Meadow Road. Now, virtually the entire valley from the reservoir to I-805 formally serve recreational purposes as either park or golf course.

Equestrianism has long been a part of the Bonita community, and many trails exist throughout the Lower Sweetwater Valley. There are a number of connections to trails external to Bonita as well. In fact many residents still keep their own horses and can be seen riding the trails regularly. The Bonita Valley





Trails organization monitors and supports the network of trails throughout the valley.

The following parks serve the Bonita community:

- Fred H. Rohr Park
- Sweetwater Regional Park
- Sweetwater Reservoir Riding and Hiking Trail
- Bonita Golf Course
- Chula Vista Municipal Golf Course

Clubs & Organizations

- Bonita Agua Dulce 4-H Club
- Bonita Business and Professional Association
- Bonita Kiwanis Club
- Bonita Optimist Club (<http://bonitaoptimist.optimistweb.org/>)
- Bonita Road Runners (<http://www.bonitaroadrunners.com/>)
- Bonita Valley Garden Club
- Bonita Valley Trails (<http://bonitatrails.org/index.html>)
- Las Primeras (charity organization)
(<http://www.angelfire.com/nf/spectreroms/lp/index.htm>)
- Sweetwater Valley Civic Association
- Sweetwater Valley Little League (sweetwatervalley-ll@cox.net.)
- Sweetwater Women's Club
- Sunnyside Saddle Club (<http://sunnysidesaddleclub.org/>)



Events

Bonitafest is an annual community event, held in early autumn, highlighted by a parade and street fair along Bonita Road which includes crafts, music, entertainment, and food. The Kiwanis Club hosts a Bonitafest Golf Tournament in conjunction with this event.

Bonita Business & Professional Association was informally founded in 1971 by the tireless efforts of Emily Ritter who organized a group of 30 local business and professional people. Early morning meetings were held at the old Brookside Winery, and it was there where Bonitafest was born.

Bonita Business & Professional Association is the proud sponsor of Bonitafest. This annual event lines Bonita Road with craft, game, and food booths, and is highlighted by a parade with marching bands and hometown entries.

With the rolling hills, parks and open spaces, friendly people, and near perfect weather, there could not be a better place to raise your family or have your business.





Community Services

Bonita Museum & Cultural Center - www.bonitamuseum.org

Bonita Optimist Club - bonitaoptimist.optimistweb.org

Kiwanis Club of Bonita

San Diego Better Business Bureau - www.sandiego.bbb.org

South Bay Expressway - www.southbayexpressway.com

South Bay Family YMCA - www.southbay.ymca.org

Southwest SD County Lion's Club - www.podtheglobe.com/Lions/locateclub.htm

Water Districts

Otay Water District - www.otaywater.gov

Sweetwater Authority - www.sweetwater.org

Chula Vista Golf Course

5540 Sweetwater Rd

Bonita, CA 91902-2137

P: (619) 267-1103 / F: (619) 267-1146

<http://www.bonitagolfclub.com>

The 18-hole "Bonita" course at the Bonita Golf Club facility in Bonita, California features 6,287 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 71. The course rating is 68.8 and it has a slope rating of 117 on Bahia grass. Designed by William F. Bell, ASGCA, the Bonita golf course opened in 1954. Robert Scribner manages the course as the General Manager/Supt.



Education

The following schools serve (or served) the local Bonita community:

Chula Vista Elementary School District

Ella B. Allen Elementary School

Sunnyside Elementary School

Tiffany Elementary School (Chula Vista)

Valley Vista Elementary School

Sweetwater Union High School District

Bonita Vista Middle School (Chula Vista)

Bonita Vista High School (Chula Vista)

Southwestern College (Chula Vista)

Private Schools

Bonita Country Day School

Bonita Rd. Christian Academy

Kindercare Learning Center



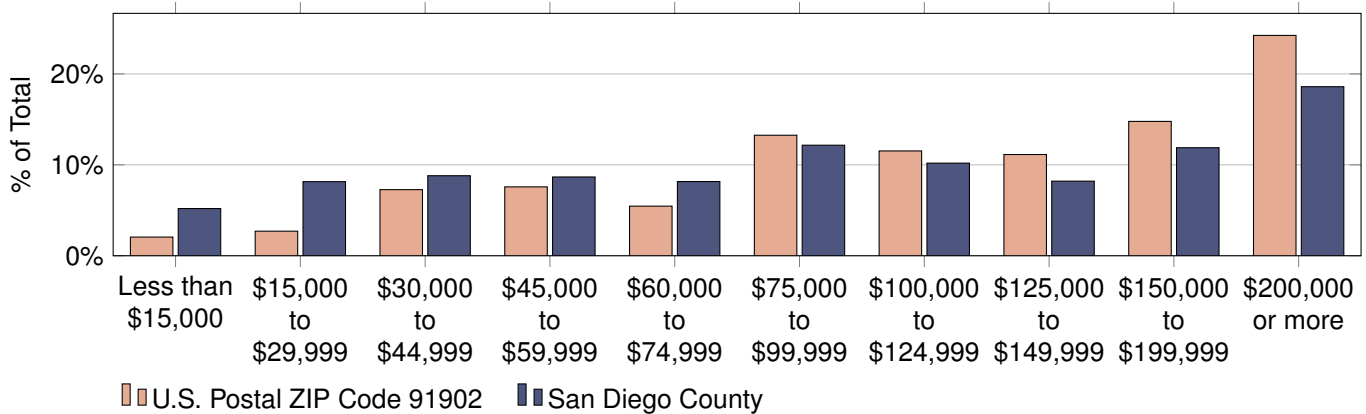
Population and Housing Estimates

U.S. Postal ZIP Code 91902

January 1, 2022

Population Type	Population	Housing Structure Type	Total Units	Households	Vacancy
Total Population	16,570	All Types	6,056	5,846	3.5%
Household	16,549	Single Family - Detached	4,669	4,521	3.2%
Group Quarter	21	Single Family - Attached	776	746	3.9%
		Multi-Family	611	579	5.2%
Persons Per Household	2.83	Mobile Homes and Other	0	0	N/A

Income category (2022 Constant Dollars)	Households	% of Total	Median Household Income (2022 Constant Dollars)	Median Household Income (2021 Current Dollars)
Less than \$15,000	120	2.1%	\$125,346	\$116,373
\$15,000 to \$29,999	158	2.7%		
\$30,000 to \$44,999	425	7.3%		
\$45,000 to \$59,999	443	7.6%		
\$60,000 to \$74,999	319	5.5%		
\$75,000 to \$99,999	775	13.3%		
\$100,000 to \$124,999	674	11.5%		
\$125,000 to \$149,999	651	11.1%		
\$150,000 to \$199,999	864	14.8%		
\$200,000 or more	1,417	24.2%		



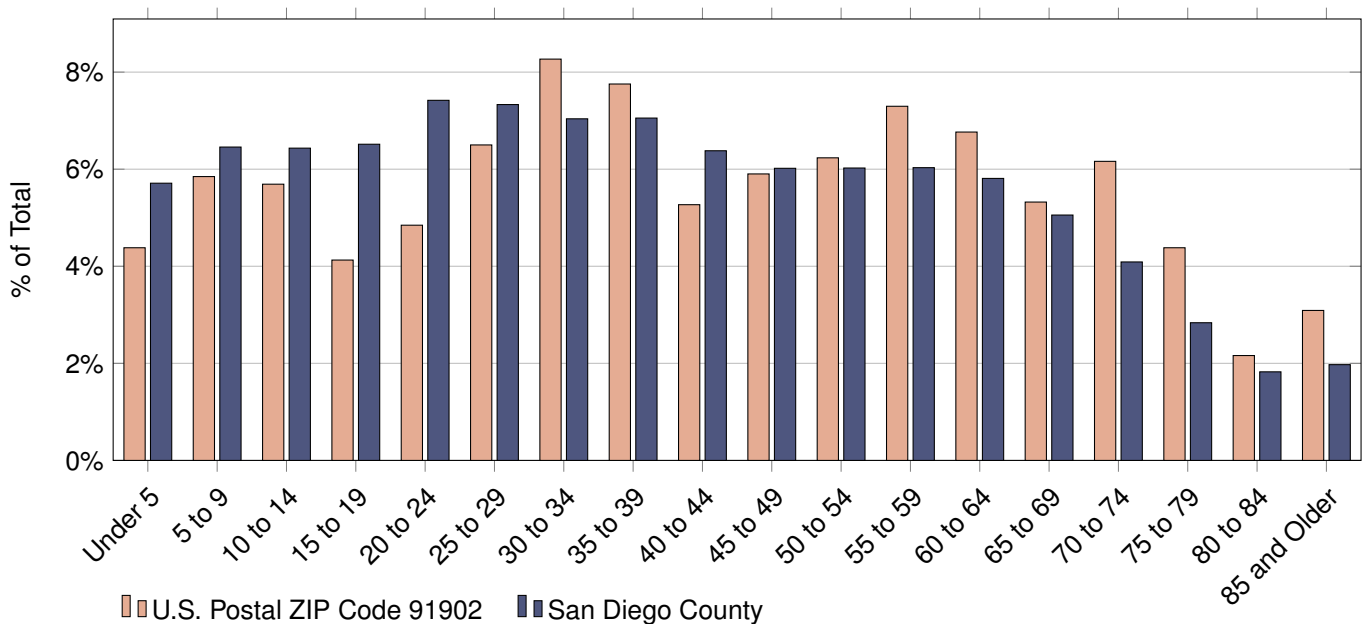
Data Source and Important Advisory:

SANDAG Population and Housing Estimates are derived from a composite of data sources including but not limited to (1) the California Department of Finance (DOF) E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2020-2022, (2) the vintage 2020 DOF P-3 Race/Ethnicity and Sex by Age for California and Counties, (3) the 2022 SANDAG Land Use and Housing Units inventory, and (4) the Census American Community Survey Detailed tables

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

Age Category	Total	Male	Female	Percent Female
Total Population	16,570	7,794	8,776	53.0%
4 and Under	726	386	340	46.8%
5 to 9	969	424	545	56.2%
10 to 14	943	422	521	55.2%
15 to 17	464	223	241	51.9%
18 and 19	220	111	109	49.5%
20 to 24	803	285	518	64.5%
25 to 29	1,077	541	536	49.8%
30 to 34	1,370	798	572	41.8%
35 to 39	1,285	744	541	42.1%
40 to 44	873	492	381	43.6%
45 to 49	978	441	537	54.9%
50 to 54	1,033	436	597	57.8%
55 to 59	1,209	544	665	55.0%
60 and 61	539	245	294	54.5%
62 to 64	582	251	331	56.9%
65 to 69	882	397	485	55.0%
70 to 74	1,021	471	550	53.9%
75 to 79	726	299	427	58.8%
80 to 84	358	124	234	65.4%
85 and Older	512	160	352	68.8%
Under 18	3,102	1,455	1,647	53.1%
65 and Older	3,499	1,451	2,048	58.5%
Median Age	42.5	39.8	45.8	N/A



Population by Age and Race/Ethnicity

Age Category	Total	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic (NH)				
			White	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Isl.	All Other*
Total Population	16,570	7,836	4,764	379	0	2,782	809
4 and Under	726	438	138	17	0	76	57
5 to 9	969	609	142	18	0	70	130
10 to 14	943	528	135	47	0	104	129
15 to 17	464	228	95	28	0	62	51
18 and 19	220	133	17	15	0	42	13
20 to 24	803	397	161	8	0	201	36
25 to 29	1,077	650	263	25	0	97	42
30 to 34	1,370	697	409	26	0	205	33
35 to 39	1,285	684	361	20	0	189	31
40 to 44	873	428	196	20	0	188	41
45 to 49	978	428	254	22	0	210	64
50 to 54	1,033	465	269	13	0	227	59
55 to 59	1,209	582	424	20	0	147	36
60 and 61	539	257	219	10	0	36	17
62 to 64	582	268	227	26	0	33	28
65 to 69	882	300	373	28	0	154	27
70 to 74	1,021	271	418	18	0	301	13
75 to 79	726	218	292	10	0	205	1
80 to 84	358	113	144	6	0	95	0
85 and Older	512	142	227	2	0	140	1
Under 18	3,102	1,803	510	110	0	312	367
65 and Older	3,499	1,044	1,454	64	0	895	42
Median Age	42.5	36.7	53.9	36.2	N/A	48.7	23.3

* All Other Includes Non-Hispanic Other and Non-Hispanic Two or More Races

