

# We Create Community



## El Dorado Nature Center Winter Break Workshops



Raw materials came in all shapes and sizes.



Matthew Billinghurst temperature checks a camper per safety protocols.



Creating art inspired by nature, suitable for framing.

El Dorado Nature Center offered kids opportunities for school vacation fun at nature-themed workshops held December 22-24 and December 29-31.

Participants in the “Winter Wonders” session on December 24 celebrated the season with inspiration from nature. They brought the outdoors in, creating their own wintery decorations.

## In Person Winter Camps

Camps for children ages 5–12 years old are continuing on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through January 28 at 21 parks. Campers can get out of the house and have safe options for fun social interaction with peers. Every day brings games, physical fitness activities, arts and crafts, seasonal celebrations, opportunities to explore science and nature, and much more.





*Brent Dennis, Director,  
Long Beach Parks,  
Recreation & Marine*

“HAPPY NEW YEAR”’s uttered to welcome in the promise of a better year in 2021 were certainly shouted in wildly different circumstances and settings compared to celebrations of years past. Times Square in New York City was a vacant canyon of urbanity with celebrants barred from our nation’s historic setting for the ‘ball drop’ at midnight. California’s “Stay in Place” orders with specific guidelines limiting gatherings and advising against traveling were part of the unique exclamation mark of 2020. I hope each of you could enjoy a safe and meaningful holiday season this past month.

With an uptick in COVID-19 positive cases across our Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services Team, as I reached out to scores of our affected co-workers I learned of the wide range of symptoms being experienced. Overall most of our team members were getting through their ten-day quarantine periods with limited discomfort, but we did have several individuals being hospitalized. We wish everyone a speedy recovery and a safe return to their jobs. Staff is encouraged to remain diligent to all the health protocols that remind them to watch their distance to others, wear masks, wash hands and consider getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it’s available in March. We will get through this together. I remain very optimistic in our future and look forward to the time when we can safely reopen our parks and recreation facilities and program offerings. I know that the community we serve is anxious for the return of our programs and community events.

Our Community Ambassadors program was extended through the end of January with a strong possibility of additional weeks through winter’s end. This team does an awesome job out in the parks and beach areas to remind the community of the important health orders and protocols.

Some good news that added some welcomed bright spots to the final week of 2020 was the completion of the transfer documents for Sunnyside Cemetery. This historic property will be a wonderful addition to the adjacent municipal cemetery as well as Willow Springs Park. We were saddened although in learning of the passing of Linda Meador, a long-time Sunnyside Cemetery board member and champion of this special place in the heart of Long Beach.

Following another bright and colorful tradition that ran throughout the holiday seasons were the recent Trees in the Bay displays. A grateful community enjoyed this spectacular presentation from Thanksgiving through New Year’s Day! Now the painstaking work of de-installing and storing the floating structures and miles of strings of lights and power supply cables is underway by our Marine Bureau team. Beach Maintenance has kept up with monitoring and preparing for the impact of King Tides upon the protective sand berms and the cleanup of storm debris that inevitably collects and lands upon areas within our marinas and beaches.



Pet adoptions at Long Beach Animal Care Services continue to see an increase over all previous years which is especially notable considering the challenges during the COVID-19 era. If you are interested in possibly adopting or fostering a cat or dog, you can do so by scheduling an appointment via email at [PetAdopt@longbeach.gov](mailto:PetAdopt@longbeach.gov) or calling 562.570.4925.

January kicks off a big winter month for our Parks Maintenance with a focus on landscape clean-up, tree trimming and dead tree removal. Several of our parks served as Christmas tree recycling drop off locations in early January with over 3,000 trees being chipped up into useful mulch.

Our creative Community Recreation Services team continues to roll out an amazing array of virtual programming for youth and seniors. Rave reviews were received for the holiday virtual programs, mobile REcess and Learning Hubs programming.

I wish all of you a very happy, healthy and safe new year in 2021. Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services continue to be an extremely essential department in providing and supporting critical programs and services for our community. Keep up the GREAT WORK!



## Mobile Recess Program



*Mobile Recess brings supplies, equipment and recreation activity to youth in their own neighborhoods while maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols.*

The free Mobile Recess Program got kids outside for fresh air and safe fun during the LBUSD Winter Break. Staff drove trucks loaded with supplies and equipment to 11 neighborhoods to provide activities for youth ages 5–14 (Grades K-8).

New sessions of this program will be offered in February at nine sites. Visit [longbeach.gov/park](http://longbeach.gov/park) to register or call 562.570.3226 for more information.

## Virtual Out of School Program



One of the safe options for youth for after-school activities and social interaction offered by PRM is the virtual out-of-school program available weekdays from 3 to 6 p.m.

The free program offers home-based activities for children ages 5 to 14 with live interaction with recreation staff, academic support, dance, art, trivia and much more.



Two modules will be offered: one for elementary school-aged children and another for middle school-aged youth, ensuring that activities and peer engagement correspond with the participant's current grade level.



The creative Community Recreation Services team of: Rhiannon Wilson, Hunter Jenkins, Marissa Mobley, Lindsey Wells and Madelyn Herm are working out of Wardlow Park to connect remotely with the kids.

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## Lincoln Park Construction Planned Opening In 2021

The 3 or 5.1-acre Lincoln Park at the corner of Ocean Blvd. and Pacific Ave. is the oldest park in Long Beach. Originally known as Pacific Park, the area was officially designated as a park in 1888. The park area has historically included the Long Beach City Hall and Main Library. In 1915 a statue of Abraham Lincoln was unveiled and "Pacific Park" was formally changed



to "Lincoln Park" on July 9, 1920. Over the years the park had a Japanese Garden as a tribute to Yokkaichi, Japan, sister city of Long Beach, and shuffleboard and roque courts. The Downtown Dog Park opened on the site in 2009.

The park closed in 2016 for the construction of the new Civic Center complex that opened in July 2018 and the Billie Jean King Main Library which opened on September 2019. A newly constructed Lincoln Park is scheduled to open at the end of 2021.

The new park will feature:

- Playground with universally-accessible play components featuring a bright beach theme
- Dog park with areas for large and small dogs



*Lincoln Park, formerly Pacific Park, established in 1888, is the City's oldest park.*

- Outdoor fitness equipment arranged in nodes connected by a park fitness loop and exercise signage
- Synthetic turf sports field with cork/sand infill and energy-efficient LED field lighting
- Half basketball court with artistic court design
- Small skate park with ground-mounted skate features
- Outdoor reading room/classroom activated by activities at the adjacent Billie Jean King Main Library
- Overhead pedestrian lighting and festoon accent lighting
- Updated restrooms with safe and inviting design and durable fixtures and finishes
- Gateway elements and history features with an integrated cultural and history walking loop with interpretive signage
- Underground utility ducting to allow a future concession stand, with space for interim uses such as food trucks, events, temporary exhibitions and vendor kiosk opportunities
- Varied garden zones for learning and exploration and small grass areas for seating and play

A continuous First Street pedestrian connection will keep the visual through the park in a west and east direction, allowing clearly defined pedestrian connections from Pine Avenue through the Transit Mall to the new Civic Center plaza to the west.

## Mural Renovation Crew Keeps Long Beach Beautiful

Parks, Recreation and Marine works to conserve murals throughout the City to deter graffiti and enhance neighborhood beautification efforts. Over time mural can be effected by vandalism, environmental decay or even cars running into walls.

Artist Esaul Romo has worked doing part-time mural conservancy for the past 10 years. He says the work is important for the community to be able to enjoy "beautiful art that reflects the culture of the City." Vitanga Wettewa is also an artist by trade and has been using his skills to restore murals throughout the City as needed since 2018. He is grateful to be involved in keeping our visual treasures "vibrant and intact."



*Esau Romo and Vitanga Wettewa in front of a restored city mural tagged with graffiti.*

In December, the two removed gang graffiti that stretched an entire block along Cedar Avenue.



*The artist duo created this mural for Fire Station 3*

And once in a while when time and budget permits, Esaul and Vitanga paint a new mural like at Fire Station #3 at Daisy and Loma Vista. The work, "Willmore City" depicts the oldest, most historically rich area in Long Beach.



## ACS and Ashlee's Homeless Fund Compassion In Action

Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) recently received a call about two small animals locked in a tiny crate all day. Animal Control Officer Ryan visited the home but there was no answer. As she was leaving, Christine Barry, a social worker with Long Beach Police Foundation through Ashlee's Homeless Fund mentioned that the address Officer Ryan just left was the home of her clients, Brite and her daughter Helen. Christine said the owner and her daughter were home but afraid to open the door thinking the officer was there to remove the dogs.

Christine introduced Officer Ryan to Brite and Helen. The house belonged to Brite's mother who passed away in early December 2020. Brite and Helen were homeless when they inherited the house and dogs.

The home needed repairs and the dogs were placed in the crate while construction was taking place. Officer Ryan confirmed that there was no animal cruelty taking place.



*ACS Officer Ryan, left, with Brite, middle, Helen, right, and their dogs.*

Brite and Helen were able to receive beds, a dining table, chairs, clothes, food and a tiny crate for the dogs. LBACS and the SPCALA donated a larger dog crate, dog beds, leashes, collars, clothes, dog toys, blankets, dog food (wet & dry), treats, puppy pads and bowls.

LBACS would like to thank everyone who contributed to this happy ending. An extra special thanks to social worker Christine and Animal Control Officer Ryan for their compassion, understanding and handling of the situation.

### By the Numbers December 2020

#### Maintenance Operations Bureau

##### Community Service Workers Program

*Attendance figures for the month of December 2020*

Number of persons enrolled in the program for December:.....	29
Number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas:..... <i>(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)</i>	384
Number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands:..... <i>(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other Various Wetlands)</i>	252
<b>Total number of CSW hours for the month of December:.....</b>	<b>636</b>

During the month of December, the program continued to operate efficiently with Community Service Workers playing a key role in helping the Department meet its objectives.

Work orders completed: .....	558
Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis bureau wide: .....	172
Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily: .....	28
Park acres maintained:	
Park turf.....	814
Park landscape.....	2310

##### **Water Use**

MOB General Fund Water report for December		
Parks Potable .....	27,785 ccf .....	\$117,136
Parks Reclaimed .....	24,301 ccf .....	\$58,032

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## November Employee of the Month Rhiannon Wilson

Congratulations to Recreation Leader Specialist Rhiannon Wilson on being named the November Employee of the Month. Rhiannon oversees the Virtual Out of School Program which is safely engaging youth in enriching recreation activities. She recently answered a few questions about herself so we could get to know her better.



**What's the last TV show you binge-watched?** hmmm.. Hallmark Christmas movies are taking up most of my TV time right now.

**What's the best thing you've learned in your current position?** Google Meets every day can be fun! Haha I tell myself this every day because I know kids are having a hard time with school all online. It is our job to make sure that we bring the best experience to them!

**What's your own advice that you always follow?** I always have encouraged my staff to be cheerful and positive. I think something that I wanted to make sure to carry with me after leaving Wardlow where I volunteered and then worked at for 15 years is no matter what community we work in there will always be someone who is in need of a smile and good energy!

**What's one small thing that makes your day better?** Boba!

**Who inspires you?** My mom! My friends! I think it is so important to surround yourself with people who inspire you!

**What is or would be a good nickname for you at work?** My staff call me Rhi Rhi haha not my favorite!

**What song always gets you onto the dancefloor?** Ummm. No song haha I like to have fun but, I am no dancer lol.

**If you could have a superpower, what would it be?** Read people's minds haha. I think that would good and bad but, I would love it.

**Who would play you in a movie of your life?** I would choose Blake Lively.

**Using one word, how would you describe your family?** Ummm (that's all I will say).

**A genie gives you one wish. What is it?** No pain and suffering for anyone or anything.

**Would you rather be able to skip any line or eat anything you want whenever you want?** If I'm gaining weight when I eat whatever I want, that would be a NO! But, if not, eating anything I want sounds GREAT!

## Know Your Long Beach Parks: Promenade Square Park



*Promenade Square Park offers precious open space to residents of downtown Long Beach.*

The .68-acre Promenade Square Park located at 215 E. First Street near The Promenade is a vital patch of green that provides downtown residents with much need open space.

The park is at the southern end of a six-block long thoroughfare. Its amenities include a tot lot with a slide, climbing structures and rocks, and safety surfacing and benches.

CITY OF LONG BEACH  
PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

# YOUTH LEARNING HUB

Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

This free Community Learning Hub will offer kids enrolled within LBUSD, in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade, a safe space at a Park Community Center to attend LBUSD Distance Learning. After the school day concludes, participants will be offered in-person, after school activities led by recreation staff. Health safety protocols will be implemented, and activities will include academic support, sports, fitness and much more. Participants must bring their own device and lunch.

**REGISTER  
TODAY!**

Space is limited  
Visit [LBParks.org](http://LBParks.org)

**FREE HIGH SPEED  
INTERNET ACCESS  
FOR ONLINE LEARNING**

## LOCATIONS

Houghton Park, 6301 Myrtle Ave, (562) 570-1640  
Veterans Park, 101 E. 28th St., (562) 570-1695  
McBride Park, 1550 MLK Jr. Ave. (562) 570-1605  
Orizaba Park, 2937 E. 14th St., (562) 570-1427  
Please call park location for more information.







Here in California we get migrating colonies west of the Rocky Mountains that overwinter along our coast. Unfortunately, loss of habitat, and milkweed plants are reducing the monarch populations. Many organizations are asking for help to reintroduce this butterfly specific plant to home gardens. For more information on how you can help visit <https://www.monarchwatch.org/>.



What a strange looking flower cluster?

The monarch is the only butterfly known to make a winter migration like birds. Using a combination of air currents and thermals to travel long distances, some fly as far as 3,000 miles to reach their winter colonies. The largest migration colonies are in the mountainous regions of Central Mexico, where populations can be over 500,000.



Encourage butterflies to visit your yard with these plants.

Goldenrod is a member of the aster family and is a favorite of Monarchs.

The name Butterfly Bush says it all! The butterfly bush attracts Lepidoptera species of all types, including Monarchs.

As a member of the daisy family, Cosmos flowers are appealing to Monarchs.



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[www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org)

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