

Director's Highlights

Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

June 2022 Highlights

Prepared by Director Brent Dennis

1. Remember Summer in Long Beach? I know that sounds like a crazy question but realizing that the past two summers have been totally out of the norm, it is so refreshing and motivating to see our parks, beaches, marinas and recreational facilities once again firing on all cylinders. At the close of May, I was so excited to welcome our 2022 Rookie School members of the Community Recreation Services Team at the opening of their two-day series of orientation and training in preparation for leading Summer Fun in our parks. Nearly 100 energetic youth came on board to complement our amazing CRS year-round team to plan and present a bounty of programs, camps, classes, and special events in the coming months.
2. The State of California's new water restrictions that were recently issued to address the extreme drought will bring greater attention to the health and greenness of our vast park system. In collaboration with the City of Long Beach Water Department, our park maintenance team will be strategically managing our water resources in compliance with new mandates that may affect our PRM management of park resources. A 2016 agreement with the Water Department will be adhered to that will allow for a reasonable allowance of watering throughout the week at lower levels to preserve the integrity of our older irrigation system. PRM and Water will be proactive in messaging to the public regarding our irrigation practices throughout the drought-related water restrictions.
3. One Earth Long Beach, the non-profit partner with our Department, with a goal of planting 1,000 trees to expand the city's urban forest, stepped up once again and planted ten more trees along the Red Car Greenbelt as a great contribution to Make a Difference Day. When our community's youth take such a passionate commitment to improving the environment and are willing to 'walk their talk', they certainly inspire those around them to also help make a difference.
4. Our Department will be participating in many park improvement dedications in the month of June. Of particular note is the new Recreation Park adventure playground featuring many of the dinosaur and pre-historic era themed play elements. The three new beach ADA access mats will be celebrated during an event at Alamitos Beach while also acknowledging the other two locations at Granada and Mother's beaches. The renaming of the facility in El Dorado Park as the Dr. Thomas J. Clark Community Center will round out the top tier of dedications and celebrations this month. Final dates and times will be posted on the PRM website.
5. A full concert season is ahead for the Municipal Band and under the second year for the new Conductor Kurt Curtis. The concert schedule is included in the 2022 Summer Entertainment Guide. The kickoff concert will be held in Whaley Park on Tuesday, June 28th and the summer series concludes on August 5th.

6. The amazing mosaic-laden sculptures by artist Katherine England are under production now and will be installed within the Red Car Greenbelt later this year. This project joins a growing number of artistic endeavors across our park system that also highlights local artists' murals.
7. The new WiBit, our second floating water playground, will be installed for summer fun at Alamitos Beach on the oceanfront. The opening date is set for June 18th in alignment with end of the LBUSD school year to allow us enough time to train the summer lifeguard team on the safety aspects of the WiBit.
8. As a reminder, many of our parks are offering Vote by Mail Drop Boxes for the current elections. Those sites are included within the following list and are open through Election Day, Tuesday, June 7th.

The 17 Long Beach locations include:

- Bixby Park Community Center (130 Cherry Ave.)
 - Bret Harte Neighborhood Library (1595 W. Willow St.)
 - Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E. Hill St.)
 - Dana Neighborhood Library (3680 Atlantic Ave.)
 - El Dorado Park West Community Center (2800 N. Studebaker Rd.)
 - Freeman Community Center (1205 Freeman Ave.)
 - Heartwell Park Community Center (5801 Parkcrest St.)
 - Houghton Park Community Center (6301 Myrtle Ave.)
 - Long Beach City Hall (411 W. Ocean Blvd.)
 - Long Beach Senior Center (1150 E. Fourth St.)
 - Marina Vista Park (5355 E. Eliot St.)
 - Mark Twain Neighborhood Library (1401 E. Anaheim St.)
 - Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library (5870 Atlantic Ave.)
 - Ramona Park (3301 E. 65th St.)
 - Scherer Park (4600 Long Beach Blvd.)
 - Stearns Champions Park (4520 E. 23rd St.)
 - Veterans Park (101 E. 28th St.)
9. Following the 30-day waiting period after the second reading and approval of the new Kid Zone ordinance, the informative signs will soon be installed in visible locations at all our PRM playground sites in parks and on our beaches. In simple terms, adults not responsible for the supervision of children at play on our playgrounds are not permitted in or on the play equipment intended for safe, creative play and enjoyment by kids.
 10. A citywide report on plans and facilities to meet the significant growth and interest in the sport of pickleball is nearing completion. Great appreciation is shared for the ongoing support and interest by our Long Beach Pickleball Advisory Group.