

We Create Community

**LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE AND
ANIMAL CARE SERVICES**

APRIL 2023 | VOLUME 12
ISSUE 4

NEW ADMIRAL KIDD PARK PLAYGROUND GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

BREAKING GROUND ARE L-R: ERIC LOPEZ, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR; CP PATSATZIS, MARATHON PETROLEUM FOUNDATION; NOEL HACEGABA, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS, PORT OF LONG BEACH; ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOSH LOWENTHAL; COUNCILMAN ROBERTO URANGA; MAYOR REX RICHARDSON; BRENT DENNIS, PARKS, RECREATION, AND MARINE DIRECTOR; TRINKA ROWSELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PARTNERS OF PARKS; AND MARIE LLOYD, MANAGER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AMAZON.COM



Mayor Rex Richardson, Councilmember Roberto Uranga, and the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Marine and Public Works hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Admiral Kidd Park Playground on March 31.

The original, nautical-themed playground opened in 2011 as part of a park-expansion project and was severely damaged by fire on July 18, 2021.

In October 2021, the non-profit Partners of Parks organization began a campaign to raise \$1 million to fund the rebuild of the structure. POP raised more than \$450,000 including support from the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation, Marathon Petroleum Foundation, Amazon, the New L Family Fund and Junior League of Long Beach.

On March 8, 2022, the Long Beach City Council approved the use of approximately \$550,000 in surplus budget funds from the Fiscal Year 2021 Measure A to fulfill the remainder of the estimated \$1 million project after all Partners of Parks funding requests have been completed.

The rebuilt playground will feature a nautical-themed children's play area, a new zip-line feature, new pathways to provide access to a playground ramp, friendship swings and harness swings, and additional safety elements and site enhancements such as shade structures and lighting.

Community members can support the effort by purchasing a personalized brick to be placed at the playground site with their family name or message for \$300 or \$600 at www.tinyurl.com/helpkidd.

Director's Corner

BRENT DENNIS, DIRECTOR, LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE AND ACS



April is one of my favorite months as springtime beauty flourishes

across our parklands. We see Easter events popping up at our community centers and Animal Care. Earth Day and Arbor Day are special highlights on the month that draw the community out into their beloved parks to plant trees, and volunteer in beautification and clean-up projects. I personally enjoyed spending time at many of our recreation centers and City libraries reading Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax" to celebrate these holidays.

Long Beach Animal Care Services has been welcomed back to the first City Council meeting of each month starting in April to introduce an available animal for adoption or fostering. This opportunity helps heighten the awareness of LBACS dogs and cats that are available to the community along with excellent ways that volunteers support our professional team to fulfill our Compassion Saves mission.

Our Department's Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services team has responded collaboratively with citywide efforts to address homelessness in Long Beach since the emergency proclamation was established by City Council in January. Marine Bureau Maintenance team members stepped up to assist in the establishment of a Safe Parking area at Queensway Bay. Park maintenance team members have assisted in encampment cleanup efforts that help make our parks cleaner and more welcoming. Our Department has team members actively supporting many essential planning and support duties for these important city-wide initiatives.

At the end of March, we celebrated the long-awaited groundbreaking for the new playground at Admiral Kidd Park. Many thanks to Partners of Parks for its fundraising campaign that attracted enough financial support to purchase all the new play equipment. This new signature playground should be completed by autumn, just in time to see the construction of a new playground at Silverado Park begin. New signature playgrounds will also soon be sprouting from the landscape at Ramona, Houghton, and El Dorado Park West parks.

Mother Nature has saturated our parks and beaches with record rainfall lately. Necessary closure of nature trails, dog parks, sports fields, and beaches have certainly limited the community's access and enjoyment of passive and active recreational amenities. Weather events have resulted in impacts and immense amounts of debris upon our beaches, and the ongoing need to shore up the protective beach sand berms have literally created the need to rebuild major portions of our beachfront on a daily basis by our Marine beach maintenance team. Kudos for jobs well done! Parks Make Long Beach...Parks Make Life Better!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT EL DORADO NATURE CENTER

Spring Turtle Show (Free)

Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Come visit with members of the California Turtle and Tortoise Club to learn about one of our favorite animals at the Nature Center. Parking \$8. For more information call 562.570.1745.

Morning Bird Walk (Staff led - Free) Sunday, May 21, 8-10 a.m. Parking \$8. Must pre-register at 562.570.1745.

Volunteer Opportunities Make a difference in the lives of plants, animals and people. All ages welcome. Children and youth under 18 must bring an adult. Must pre-register at 562.570.1745.

3rd Saturday Wetland Warrior Cleanup, Saturday, May 20, 10 a.m. – noon. Help protect the critical habitat at Jack Dunster Marine Reserve, Boathouse Lane and Los Cerritos Channel.



4th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup

Saturday, May 27, 9-10 a.m. Join fellow park-lovers to clean up fishing line and other debris from our park and lakes. Meet at the parking lot on the left just past El Dorado Frontier in Area III.

LONG BEACH ANIMAL CARE SERVICES ADOPTION EVENTS IN APRIL

In effort to increase adoptions for long-term-stay animals,

Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) hosted a series of free adoption events on weekends throughout April for community members of all ages to attend. The series kicked off on April 1 with an Easter Egg Hunt Adoption Event at the Long Beach Shelter. Guests enjoyed music, photos and springtime family-friendly activities like egg hunts, creating pet grams, egg decorating and bunny hoppy hour. The kickoff event will also include free adoption promotions. A total of 10 dogs were adopted at the event.

The One Health Day Adoption Event was held on April 7 at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Administration Offices. Attendees were able to adopt a pet with no adoption fee and learn about One Health, a Long Beach Health Department

program being spotlighted in observance of National Public Health Week.

On April 8, the Silverado Park Adoption Fair was held in collaboration with the Office of Seventh District Councilmember Roberto Uranga. All adoption fees were waived and information and resources about spay/neuter vouchers, pet licensing and pet laws was available.

Events are also scheduled at the Proper LBC store on April 15 and at Pet Supplies Plus on April 22 with zero adoption fees.

Despite reaching their highest adoption rate ever in 2022, the shelter is at overcapacity, and anyone interested in getting a new pet is urged to adopt a dog at an LBACS adoption event. For more information about LBACS, visit <https://www.longbeach.gov/acs>.



PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE SUMMER DAY CAMP REGISTRATION

Online registration is going on now for

Summer Day Camps and Summer Aquatic Camps for youth to be offered weekdays beginning June 20 through August 25.

SUMMER PARK CAMPS



Youth ages 5 to 12 will enjoy games, crafts, physical fitness, enrichment activities and more. Summer Park Camps will operate weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for those enrolled in extended care. The weekly cost is \$100 for regular day and \$125 for extended care.

- Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St.
- Stearns Champions Park, 4520 E 23rd St.
- Veterans Park, 101 E. 28th St.
- Wardlow Park, 3457 Stanbridge Ave.
- Whaley Park, 5620 E. Atherton St.



SUMMER AQUATIC CAMPS

Two aquatic day camps for youth will be offered this summer. The Belmont Junior Beach Camp, for ages 5 to 7, features games, crafts, beach play, songs, excursions, kayaking, canoeing and American Red Cross swimming lessons. Campers at Bayshore Beach Camp, for ages 8 to 12, will enjoy the same activities as the Belmont Junior Beach Camp in addition to marine biology lessons. The weekly cost for both camps is \$165 for regular day; extended care for Belmont Junior Beach Camp is an additional \$28 weekly; extended care for Bayshore Beach Camp is an additional \$56 weekly. Financial assistance for the aquatic camps is available on a first-come, first served basis.

The Summer Park Camps will take place at the following sites:

- Bayshore Park, 5415 E. Ocean Blvd.
- Belmont Plaza Pool, 4320 E. Olympic Plaza
- Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave.
- El Dorado Park West, 2800 N. Studebaker Rd.
- Houghton Park, 6301 Myrtle Ave.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 1950 Lemon Ave.
- Pan American Park, 5157 Centralia St.

BRAILLE INSTITUTE STUDENTS VISIT EL DORADO NATURE CENTER



In May, visually impaired students from the Braille Institute of America enjoyed a docent-led tour of El Dorado Nature Center. In a letter to Naturalist Brooke Davis, the Braille Institute thanked staff for making sure the trail was accessible and accommodating,

and that inclusive language such as “experience and observe” was used instead of “see and watch.” Students were able to touch and feel various plants and animals while staff provided detailed descriptions. The participants are looking forward to future programs and activities at the Nature Center.

SOMERSET PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS



As part of the ongoing effort to provide places for pickleball play, the tennis courts at Somerset Park were recently restriped to accommodate game play.

LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

FREE MOBILE RECESS

**AGES 5-14
JUNE 20-AUGUST 25**



MONDAY/WEDNESDAY

GRACE PARK - 10 a.m.-noon
361 Plymouth St.

DEFOREST PARK - 1:30-3:30 p.m.
6255 Deforest Ave

TUESDAY/THURSDAY

ROSE PARK - 10 a.m.-noon
corner of Orizaba and 8th St.

DARYLE W. BLACK MEMORIAL PARK
10 a.m.-noon
2023 Pasadena Ave.

HILL STREET - 1:30-3:30 p.m.
at Hill St and Gale Ave.

JACKSON PARK - 1:30-3:30 p.m.
1432 Jackson St.



For more information, visit LBParks.org or call 562.570-3153



PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE STRATEGIC PLAN GUIDING THE FUTURE

The Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) Strategic Plan will guide PRM's operational, staffing and budget decisions through 2032 and help to adapt park services as community needs evolve. In the first quarter of 2023, many notable achievements have been made in meeting plan goals.

SAFE, ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES

21 beachfront public restroom doors were replaced and painted.

Storm related damage was repaired in Shoreline Marina on Dock A.

A Park Ambassador Program is adding staff to keep parks safe and usable by removing dumped items, litter, waste and encampments; and addressing park restroom health and safety.

125.5 tons of debris was removed from 293 encampment areas.

472 trees have been removed to improve safety in parks.

A total of 90, 213 square feet of community center floors, were stripped and waxed to provide a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment.

K9 Dog Park was renovated including installing a new composite wood path, repairing the drinking fountain and repainting the stucco planter improving park safety space.

HEALTH EQUITY

Marine Maintenance staff joined partners in painting 18 shipping containers to create a perimeter for the Safe Parking location for vehicle bound persons experiencing homelessness at Queensway Bay.

PARTNERSHIPS

Grounds Maintenance staff collaborated with Conservation Corp and Department of Developmental Services to plant 756 trees to help re-establish urban forest lost to drought and insect infestations.

Partnered with Long Beach Arts Council to complete murals in District 7 as part of the 7 for 7 art murals initiative.

PRM in partnership with the Los Angeles Galaxy Foundation, U.S. Soccer Foundation and Herbalife Nutrition, refurbished soccer mini pitches at DeForest Park in February.

SUSTAINABLE PARK ECOSYSTEM

Beach Maintenance staff have safeguarded life and property by maintaining the Peninsula Berm against an unprecedented volume of storm systems, high tides and wave action.

Since January 1 Beach Maintenance crews collected, dried and disposed of nearly 1,400 tons of debris created from a flush of the Los Angeles River into the Pacific Ocean coastal environment.

A new pump and PVC piping was installed at Rainbow Lagoon that circulates water.

Maintenance staff with the Marine Bureau Landscape Contractor elevated the condition of turf grass and other planted areas at Harry Bridges Memorial Park to improve conditions for special events.

Grounds Maintenance staff has been working with local beekeepers to remove hives throughout the city and ensure that bees are protected while keeping public areas safe.

The irrigation system at Pan American Park was upgraded with new valves to conserve water.

Planting projects at Daisy Lane and Drake Chavez Parks improved green space and sustainability.

COMMUNITY TRANSPARENCY

M.L. King Jr. and Scherer Park Vision Plans will help gauge community priorities for future park improvements. Community surveys were conducted for 14th St. and Bixby Parks to prioritize needs.

FINANCIALLY SECURE AND RESILIENCY OPERATIONS

The occupancy rate for marina slips was 94 percent.

Louisiana Charlie's food service opened in the beach concession at Mother's Beach.

Used FY22 State surplus funds to begin the first phase of improvements for El Dorado Ballfields.

Received FY23 State surplus funds totaling \$15.4 million for improvements at El Dorado, Stearns Champions, and Houghton Parks.

A \$2M federal earmark received for the 51st St. Greenbelt in the FY23 federal budget advocated by Representative Nannette Barragan.

In March, the Long Beach City Council approved a \$6 million grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways for revitalization of Davies Launch Ramp.



PRM CLASS INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT: ANNE PENNYPACKER



Long Beach PRM's contract class instructors enrich the lives of residents with recreational opportunities

and also supports local businesses who provide the programs. Anne Pennypacker began dancing at the age of three, training in a multitude of dance styles, including: ballet, tap, jazz, gymnastics, hip-hop, ballroom, Latin, African and bellydance. She is registered with the National Dance Council of America and currently competes with students in ballroom competitions worldwide. Anne has had students compete on *Dancing With*

the Stars. Teaching for over seventeen years, her passion for dance and performance continues to thrive. It is her continuous reward to share her knowledge with others and help them achieve their goals and dreams.

How did you get into Dancing? I was born with very turned in legs, the doctors could either reset my legs or I could use ballet classes to help the turnout. At three years old I began dance classes, and by five years old I knew I wanted to grow up to be a ballerina.

What was your inspiration for becoming a Dance Instructor? Twenty years ago, my grandmother suggested I turn my lifelong passion for dance into a career. I took her advice, began teaching at two wonderful studios in Ohio and competing in ballroom competitions worldwide.



How do you feel your work improves or impacts the community? My dance students are family, and to dance goes beyond just exercise. Within the years I've taught I have watched baby ballerinas grow to teenage hip hop dancers, I have choreographed wedding dances, hosted girl scout events, performed in local festivals and had a student perform on *Dancing with the Stars*. My lessons instill confidence, teamwork, memory retention, creativity, persistence and most of all, friendship and joy.

What do you like most about working with the Long Beach community? The people! I have the best students ever!

Tell our readers why they should attend your class... "Miss Anne dedicates her heart and soul to every child in her classes. She has given my daughter the confidence to get up on a stage and perform. I am forever grateful for her love and kindness to my daughter." -Julia Pycior

PRM COMMUNITY SERVICE • MAINTENANCE • WATER USE MARCH BY THE NUMBERS COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS PROGRAM

NUMBER OF
PERSONS
ENROLLED: 27



142 HOURS WORKED AT
BEACH MAINTENANCE

210 HOURS WORKED AT
EL DORADO PARK AREAS

83 HOURS WORKED AT LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS

80 HOURS WORKED
SPECIAL CLEAN-UPS

515 CSW HOURS WORKED
FOR SEPTEMBER

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

580
WORK ORDERS
COMPLETED

172 RESTROOMS CLEANED
ON A DAILY BASIS
BUREAU WIDE

28 FACILITIES & GYMNASIUMS CLEANED AND
STOCKED ON A DAILY BASIS

PARK ACRES MAINTAINED

PARK TURF: 814

PARK LANDSCAPE: 2310

WATER USE

MOB GENERAL FUND WATER REPORT FOR MARCH

PARKS POTABLE 8,895 CCF \$54,124

PARKS RECLAIMED 2,861 CCF \$16,507



CONGRATULATIONS FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

CARMEN VIVEROS



Congratulations to Carmen Viveros, Acting Building Services supervisor for Marine Maintenance on being named employee of the month for February.

Carmen is vital to the operation of Marine Maintenance. She is committed, hardworking, selfless and the ultimate team player and has recently been appointed Acting Building Services Supervisor where she has hit the ground running! Since stepping in as acting supervisor she has taken cleaning standards to new heights and encouraged her staff to embrace the Marine Bureau's Values: Teamwork, Integrity, Customer Service, Respect, Commitment, and Appreciation. She leads by example and is constantly providing suggestions to improve our operation.

Carmen started working for the Marine Bureau on December 2016 as Maintenance Assistant I-NC and her career has been ascending upward from that day forward. She was promoted to a Maintenance Assistant II-Lead in March 2020. Now she's the Acting Building Services Supervisor since January 2022. Carmen is not resting on her laurels, she has been attending LBCC since 2018 taking English Second Language courses.

Congratulations, Carmen!

THIS PROGRAM IS OFFERED FREE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Youth Sports

**T-Ball, Baseball
and Fastpitch Softball**

**It's Time For the Dodgers
Dreamteam Season**

**For Youth Born 2006 – 2018
Registration Dates May 1 – 31**



Visit:

dodgersdreamteam-longbeach.leagueapps.com or
teamsideline.com/longbeach for details

T-Ball and Coach Pitch Ages 5-8 born 2015-2018 at all listed parks

Baseball and Fastpitch Softball Ages 9-17 born 2006 – 2014* Offered at parks marked with an asterisk

Bixby Park	(562) 570-1601	El Dorado Park*	(562) 570-3225	Orizaba Park	(562) 570-1427	Somerset Park	(562) 570-1690
Chavez Park*	(562) 570-8890	Heartwell Park*	(562) 570-1635	Pan American	(562) 570-1660	Stearns Champions Park	
Cherry Park	(562) 570-1615	Houghton Park*	(562) 570-1640	Ramona Park	(562) 570-1665		(562) 570-1685
College Estates Park	(562) 570-1710	King Park*	(562) 570-4405	Seaside Park	(562) 570-1625	Veterans Park	(562) 570-1695
Coolidge Park	(562) 570-1618	Lincoln Park	(562) 570-3551	Scherer Park	(562) 570-1674	Wardlow Park	(562) 570-1705
Drake Park	(562) 570-1625	McBride Park	(562) 570-1605	Silverado Park	(562) 570-1675	Whaley Park	(562) 570-1710

Please call the Youth Sports Office at 562 570-1707 for more details.

APRIL 2023 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Program	Location
Tue. 18	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Eco Fair-Celebrate Sustainability w/Food & Games	Civic Center Plaza, 411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Sat. 19	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Nature Challenge with Workshops, Art & Activities	Willow Springs Park
Th. 20	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 21	11 a.m.	Pet Supplies Plus Pet Adoption Event	2806 N. Bellflower Blvd.
Sat. 22	9 a.m.	4th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Volunteer Cleanup	El Dorado Regional Park Area III
Mon. 24	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 25	10 a.m.	Free Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
Wed. 26	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 27	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 28	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites

MAY 2023 CALENDAR

Mon. 1	24 Hours Varies M-F	On Line Summer Class Registratioon Begins Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 2	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Wed. 3	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 4	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 5	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat. 6	10 a.m.	First Saturday Steward Volunteer Cleanup	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 8	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 9	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Wed. 10	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 11	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 12	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat. 13	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Pet Adoption Event	Veterans Park
Mon. 15	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 16	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Wed. 17	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 18	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 19	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat. 20	11 a.m. 3-5 p.m.	Pet Supplies Plus Pet Adoption Event Bottle-Feeding Baby Bonanza Workshop & Donation Drive	2806 N. Bellflower Blvd.
	10 a.m.	3rd Saturday Stewart Wetlands Cleanup	Long Beach Animal Care Services Jack Dunster Marine Reserve
Mon. 22	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 23	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Wed. 24	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 25	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 26	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat. 27	6 p.m. 9 a.m.	Free Summer Kick-Off Concert with FlashPants 80's band 4th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Volunteer Cleanup	Recreation Park El Dorado Regional Park Area III
Mon. 29	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 30	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Wed. 31	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites

Free Mobile Recess Program - Visit a site to register:

Mondays and Wednesdays	2-4:30 p.m.	Grace Park, 361 E. Plymouth Street
Tuesdays and Thursdays	3-5:30 p.m.	Rose Park, corner of Orizaba Avenue and 8 th Street
Friday	2-4:30 p.m.	Hill Street, Hill Street and Gale Avenue

LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

WWW.LBPARKS.ORG



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