

# We Create Community



## 2016: A Healthy, Fun Year With Improved Parks and Marinas, and Animal Welfare

Looking back on 2016, Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (LBPRM) can take pride in their accomplishments that improved the quality of life for residents.

**LBPRM was distinguished** in being ranked in the top 25



of the best park systems in the country by The Trust for Public Lands 2016 Park Score® Index. In May, Los Angeles County Supervisor Knabe honored seven LBPRM senior participants

at the Older Americans Recognition Day Awards program in Los Angeles. The Heartwell Park Golf Course was voted the Best Course to take junior golfers in Southern California by Southern California Golf Association's FORE Magazine.

**LBPRM contributed to public safety.** The BE S.A.F.E. program (Summer Activities in a Friendly Environment) reduced crime by keeping seven parks open late for organized games and activities from June 20 through August 26.



*Be SAFE Program*

In August, Grounds Maintenance staff and the City tree maintenance contractor began removing dead and dying trees in parks to ensure public safety and healthy tree growth.

**LBPRM improved and increased recreational open space in the City.**

Staff submitted 47 park projects for the LA County Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment for ballot



*MacArthur Park Renovation*

Measure M, which passed in November. Completed park development projects included the Long Beach Greenbelt from Termino to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, the Bixby Park Restroom, the Locust Tot Lot, Recreation Park Sand Volleyball Court, Promenade Park Tot Lot, Chavez Park Fitness Station, 14th Street Park/Seaside Park upgrades, Mac Arthur Park and Homeland Cultural Center renovations, and conceptual plans for Davenport Park Phase II.



*Promenade Park Tot Lot*

Projects under construction include Gumbiner Park, El Dorado Nature Center Entry/Bridge, Drake/Chavez Greenbelt, and the DeForest Wetlands restoration. LBPRM received a \$623,600 grant from Los Angeles County for the DeForest Park project.

Other improvements include the start of a new 4.8-mile Downtown Fitness Loop, renovations at Long View Point at Willow Springs Park; a new playground structure and park elements at Livingston Drive Park; a new ventilation system added to the King Park Pool roof; new or upgraded freestanding restrooms completed at Recreation and DeForest Parks, and El Dorado Nature Center; and enhanced outdoor lighting installed at Grace Park.

# 2016: A Year in Review

**LBPRM supported a healthy, active City** with the El Dorado Park West Health and Wellness Fair in May. The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, and LBPRM updated the Long Beach Older Adult Strategic Plan, that details actions to equitably deliver services to the City's older adults. Over 72,000 meals were provided through the Summer Food Service Program for chil-



dren at 32 sites in Long Beach and Signal Hill.

"Swimability" improvements at Alamitos Bay include a measured buoy line in Alamitos Bay, 15 swim ladders on public docks, and water quality information signs.



Local "bikeability" was enhanced with bike repair/hydration stations installed in parks and at the beach bike path. An Eco-Totem bike and pedestrian counter was installed on the beach Bike/Pedestrian Paths path, to collect data on the 3.1-mile side-by-side lanes.



**Residents were encouraged to have active fun** by trying the new sport of Foot-Golf at Recreation Park 9-Hole Golf Course in March or to

visit a park fitness zone. LBPRM received a grant of \$7,020 from Greensfield Playground Equipment for the Chavez Park Fitness Zone.

**LBPRM kept our parks safe and healthy.** Grounds Maintenance staff saved on water use including enhancing lakes with bulrush removal, developing an Aquatic Pesticide Application program and treatment parameters for lakes, converting the Paramount Blvd.



medians from Oleander plants to drought tolerant plants, laser grading Cherry Park field to improve water control, removing dead trees, developing a tiered water use plan by type of area (i.e.: sports fields, ornamental turf) identifying grant funding for additional tree removals due to the drought, and initiating a pilot project using bio pesticides to test for weed control. LBPRM began a partnership with Long Beach Water and Public Works to irrigate medians with reclaimed water.

**El Dorado Nature Center staff encouraged environmental stewardship** by coordinating over 1,000 volunteers who picked up 3,200 pounds of debris at the September 19 California



Coastal Cleanup Day. On April 23, 300 Earth Day Coastal Cleanup volunteers removed 500 pounds of trash from four sites.

**Department efficiency improvements** included using the Grounds Maintenance work order management system to evaluate landscape contract scope of work. Grounds Maintenance staff is using tablet-enhanced systems to evaluate park and median MOU sites, and back-up lots. On-line day camp registration led to the Music and Arts Specialty Summer Camp filling up in just seven minutes and providing easy registration for the popular Aquatic camps.

Donations to Long Beach Animal Care Services (ACS)



provided more space for outdoor housing to showcase adoptable cats. A Mobile Adoption vehicle and meet & greet room is increasing the number of animals taken to offsite adoption events. ACS reports that impounds and euthanasia rates declined

compared to 2015. Timmons Subaru of Long Beach donated over \$21,000 to ACS in April to support emergency medical needs for shelter animals and spay and neuter programs. On July 8, Long Beach City Hall became "Kitty Hall" to encourage adoptions and 39 cats were adopted. In July, 99 adoptions were made from ACS and spcaLA through Telemundo's Clear the Shelters event.



## 2016: A Year in Review



**The LBPRM Community Recreation Services Bureau engaged residents in fun, enriching programs.**

The LA84

Summer Youth Tennis program offered in collaboration with the Southern California Tennis Association, was conducted at Drake, Ramona, and Veterans Parks. A pilot Teen Sports Enrichment program for ages 15-16 focused on good sportsmanship and fundamentals while promoting good citizenship and community involvement.

The 10-week Peace League basketball season supported by Councilmember Austin engaged over 100 young adults in job skill assessment, etiquette, and character building.



Over 97,000 youth ages 5-12 participated in six free sport leagues offered during four seasons. Approximately 100,000 adults played in leagues for baseball, softball, volleyball, basketball, roller hockey and kickball.

Long Beach Unified School District funded free recreational swimming to LBUSD youth age 5-17 at Belmont pool, King pool, Silverado pool, and the Millikan, Jordan and Cabrillo High School pools.



The 100 Days of Summer partnership with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to encourage residents to stay and play in Long Beach from Memorial Day to Labor Day. On May 27, the '80s cover band Flashpants started the countdown for the Department's "100 Days of Summer" campaign at Marine Stadium.

Families enjoyed events throughout the summer including the 107<sup>th</sup> season of the Long Beach Municipal Band which expanded to a six-week concert season in partnership with Partners of Parks and Friends of Long Beach Municipal Band.



The 11<sup>th</sup> year of "Movies in the Park" was funded at 30 parks in Long Beach and Signal Hill by Signal Hill Petroleum through Partners of Parks.

Long Beach Sea Festival events drew over 72,500 people for boating competitions, festivals, sand sculpture contest, movies on the beach and much more.



On July 17, the Homeland Cultural Center Dance Fest 2016 showcased their resident performing groups at the Scottish Rite Event Center.

There were more than 501,000 visits to the Department's six senior centers at Chavez, McBride, El Dorado West, Houghton and Silverado Parks, and the Long Beach Senior Center. Arts and cultural experiences, dance, fitness, health and social services, nutrition programs and special interest groups were accessed.





# Community Recreation Services

## Lowe's Heros Program and Partners of Parks Benefit El Dorado Nature Center

Since 2006, the Lowe's Companies Inc. Heros Program has encouraged their employees to complete volunteer projects that transform lives one community at a time. The Lowe's Long Beach store on Bellflower Avenue chose the El Dorado Nature Center for their Heroes project this year. The Lowe's team renovated the Nature Center volunteer nursery, that is used to grow seedlings for replanting throughout the Nature Center.



Lowe's provided employees from the store and materials in the value of approximately \$2500. Partners of Parks accepted the donation and helped to facilitate purchasing. The team rebuilt tables, and provided a new shed and shade structure. The Nursery was dedicated on November 18, 2016.

*Front Row L-R Parks, Recreation and Marine Director Marie Knight, Randy Zarn, Executive Director of Partners of Parks (with sign), Recreation Superintendent Joy Warren and El Dorado Regional Park and Nature Center Supervisor Meaghan O'Neill proudly pose with Lowe's employees.*

## Outdoor Youth Connection (OYC) Teen Leadership Camp



This past summer 55 Long Beach teens and seven Community Recreation Services Chaperones from Hudson WRAP, and Wardlow, McBride, Bixby, Freeman, Houghton, Drake and Admiral Kidd Parks participated in a three-day, two-night Outdoor Youth Connection Teen Leadership Camp at Castaic Lake State Park coordinated with the State of California Parks Office of Community Involvement. For Parks, Recreation and Marine staff, the most rewarding part of camp was to hear the teens share that PRM programs give them positive things to do and keep them away from negative forces in their neighborhoods.

The teen youth received basic camping knowledge and leadership skills training while enjoying the great out-

doors. The OYC Graduates recently put their new leadership skills to use by organizing community service and peer recreational projects in the Long Beach community.

On November 22, the teens hosted an intergenerational event with Long Beach seniors on called "A Grandfriend's Thanksgiving" at Silverado Park.

The teens engaged the seniors in crafts, cupcake decorating, bingo, games, a "Dancing Through The Decades" Dance Performance and a scrumptious Thanksgiving Lunch.



# Recreation Class Instructor Profile: Anne Pennypacker



Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (LBPRM) is fortunate to have talented instructors to teach recreation classes for residents ranging from art and dance to fitness, sports, and enrichment subjects.

Anne Pennypacker is a long-time LBPRM class instructor who teaches preschool and youth dance classes.

Anne 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 belly dance. 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, Anne's 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. Staff recently asked Anne about her profession.

*Q: How did you get into dancing?*

A: I was born with turned in legs and the doctors could either reset them or I could use ballet classes to help them 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.

*Q: How were you inspired to become a Dance Instructor?*

A: 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.

*Q: How do you feel your work improves or impacts the community?*

A: 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 have 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.

*Q: What do you like most about working with the Long Beach community?*

A: The people! I have the best students ever! The mother of a student, Julia Pycior said, "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."



Beginning January 10, preschoolers can start "Hip Hop Tots" and "Musical Minis" theatrical dancing. Youth ages 5-12 can try "Hip Hop," "Musical Theater Stars," and "Rock Star Pop Star" taught by Anne Pennypacker.

## *By the Numbers: Community Recreation Services - October 2016*

Permits to Gather .....	103
Reserved Picnic Sites .....	22
Number of Contract Classes .....	207
Facility Use Permits Issued .....	70
Field Use Permits Issued .....	54
Adult Sports League Participants .....	2,360
Visits to City / City Operated LBUSD Pools .....	17,085
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries .....	7,545
El Dorado Regional Park Annual Passes .....	385
Youth and Teen Participants .....	45,168
Senior Citizen Participants.....	37,484
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center.....	18,151



## Know Your Long Beach Parks: Lookout Park



The .82-acre Lookout Park was created in 1964 and is a collection of green spaces at the end of Appian Way at Alamitos Bay. The spaces include the greenbelt parallel to the entrance channel, the walkway around the Long Beach Yacht Club on land leased from the City of Long Beach, and several median islands.

The beautiful scenic view make the area a popular place for memorial beach dedications. The area was landscaped with the construction of Long Beach Yacht Club and the Alamitos Bay Marina Basin Four.



## Animal Care Services Tech Tools



Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) offers technological tools to help residents with animal care information, and reporting and inquiring about lost pets.

The LBACS app allows local pet owners and animal lovers to easily search for adoptable cats and dogs, find local dog parks, search impounded animals and locate emergency and after-hours veterinary facilities. In addition, App users can receive notifications from ACS with news and updates about upcoming low-cost clinics and special events. The free app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play.

LBACS also has a Twitter feed to help reunite pets with their owners as quickly as possible. The Twitter handle #LBLostFoundPets will be updated every thirty minutes as animals arrive in the shelter or are picked up by officers in the field. People in the community who find a lost pet are also encouraged to tweet using the new hashtag, giving frantic owners a useful one-stop shop for reuniting with their beloved pet. The feed is also embedded on Lost and Found page of the Animal Care Services website [www.LongBeachAnimalCare.com](http://www.LongBeachAnimalCare.com).



# Marine Bureau Update

## Lighted Trees Welcome Holiday Season



Lighted Trees In The Bay is a long time tradition in Long Beach that residents and visitors enjoy throughout the holiday season.

The Long Beach Marine Maintenance team oversees the tree installation, which this year includes trees at Rainbow Harbor, Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier, 2nd Street, Rainbow Lagoon, Alamitos Bay, Spinnaker Bay, and El Dorado Park West and Heartwell Park Lakes.

Residents gathered to experience the traditional tree lighting ceremony on Thanksgiving evening at several of these locations.

### *By the Numbers: Maintenance Operations Bureau November 2016*

#### **Community Service Workers Program**

Total number of persons enrolled for November: .....	157
Total number of CSW hours for November 2016 .....	1,963
Total number of hours worked at Queensway Bay: .....	75
<i>(Water cleanup, debris removal, litter pickup)</i>	
Total number of hours worked at Beach Maintenance: .....	36
<i>(Litter pickup along beach areas, parking lots, Belmont Pool area, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula area and maintenance yard)</i>	
Total number of hours worked at Marine Maintenance: .....	199
<i>(Litter pickup including Belmont Pier, maintenance building, and assist with custodial work)</i>	
Total number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas: .....	252
<i>(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)</i>	
Total number of hours worked at Tree Farm: .....	78
<i>(Litter pickup, custodial and facility)</i>	
Total number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands: .....	195
<i>(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other Various Wetlands)</i>	
Total number of hours worked at special clean-ups: .....	1,128
<i>(Neighborhood clean-ups and events, graffiti paint-outs)</i>	
Work orders completed: .....	520
Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis bureau wide: .....	172
Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily: .....	28
Park turf acres maintained: .....	814
Park landscape acres maintained: .....	3,120
Street (medians) turf acres maintained: .....	53
Street landscape acres maintained: .....	212

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## December

Th. 15	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission	El Dorado Senior Center
Sat. 17	10 a.m.	Promenade Park Opening	215 E. First Street
Mon. 19	Ongoing	Register for Winter Workshops (ages 5-8)	El Dorado Nature Center.
Wed. 21	9 a.m.	Senior Citizen Advisory Commission	Long Beach Senior Center
Sun. 25		Christmas	
Mon. 26		City Holiday	
Tue. 27	Hours Vary	Winter Break Youth Teen Recreation	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Wed. 28	Hours Vary	Winter Break Youth Teen Recreation	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Th. 29	Hours Vary	Winter Break Youth Teen Recreation	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Fri. 30	Hours Vary	Winter Break Youth Teen Recreation	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Sat. 31		New Year's Eve	

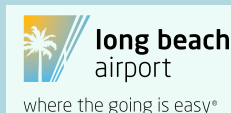
## January

Sun. 1		New Year's Day	
Mon. 2		City Holiday	
Tue. 3	Hours Vary	Winter Break Youth Teen Recreation	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Wed. 4	Hours Vary	Winter Break Youth Teen Recreation	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Th. 5	Hours Vary	Winter Break Youth Teen Recreation	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Fri. 6	Hours Vary	Winter Break Youth Teen Recreation	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Th. 12	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission	Long Beach Yacht Club
Wed. 18	9 a.m.	Senior Citizen Advisory Commission	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 19	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission	El Dorado Senior Center
Wed. 25	6 p.m.	Commission on Youth and Children	El Dorado Park West
Mon. 30		Spring Recreation Connection Published	

\*Call for registration and fee information.



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