

We Create Community

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Drake Chavez Greenbelt and Artificial Turf Field Dedicated



Players take to the new artificial turf field at Drake Chavez Park

A grand opening celebration for the new Drake Chavez Greenbelt and Artificial Turf Field at 1000 DeForest Avenue was held on January 20.

The project is part of the Drake Chavez Master Plan, which will create a 57-acre greenbelt along the lower Los Angeles River. The greenbelt provides continuous green space between Anaheim Street and Chester Place along the river with links to the adjacent Los Angeles River Bike Path and connections to Drake and Loma Vista Parks.

The project includes one formal artificial turf sports field, one informal natural turf field, landscaped passive park areas, a pedestrian walking trail and parking. The linear park has an eight-foot wide pedestrian trail traversing the park from northeast to southwest and a gateway entrance at Anaheim Street and DeForest Avenue.

The total cost of this project was \$3.81 million, with funding support of approximately \$2.5 million from Proposition 84 grant funding for statewide park development, \$300,000 from Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District "Per Parcel Discretionary" funding, and \$1 million of FY14 one-time funding that was designated for this project.



Front L-R: Public Works Director Craig Beck, Parks and Recreation Commissioner David Zanatta, Councilwoman Lena Gonzales, Mayor Robert Garcia and Parks, Recreation & Marine Director Marie Knight



Celebrants line up for first kicks on the new field.



Residents have new open space and picnic areas to enjoy.

The walkability factor in Long Beach just grew with a new walking path that traverses the 8.75 acre park space.



PRM Director Marie Knight to Lead Community Services Department for the City of Huntington Beach



Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) Director Marie Knight will leave the City of Long Beach on February 23 to accept a position as Director of Community Services for the City of Huntington Beach. Ms. Knight was appointed as Long Beach PRM Director in March 2016.

During her time with the City, Marie has made a positive impact on the community, overseeing over a dozen park projects including: Gumbiner Park, the Downtown Fitness Loop, Seaside Park soccer field, and El Dorado Park Nature Center improvements.

She oversaw notable programs and initiatives, such as: the first Senior Colloquium on Aging Re-imagined in partnership with SCAN and the Long Beach Health and Human Services Department; updating of the Coyote Management plan in partnership with Loyola Marymount University; and a staff leadership boot camp for over 150 team members a month.

She worked with Long Beach Health and Human Services to build a greater focus on Senior Services, and propose an Office of Aging to launch in late 2018.

Under her leadership, PRM was awarded the 2017 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence for the Long Beach Junior Beach Runners program from the League of California Cities, as well as the Award of Excellence for the Be S.A.F.E (Summer Activities in a Friendly Environment) program from the California Park & Recreation Society.

"I am very grateful to the women and men of the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department for all of their hard work, dedication to excellence and all that they do every day for this community. I am proud to have been able to lead such an awesome team, and as I move on to another new opportunity I know I am leaving the Department well positioned for greater success in the future," said Knight.

In February, the City Manager will announce the interim replacement and the process for selecting the next Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine.

PRM Youth Basketball Leagues Supported by Los Angeles Clippers



On January 15 The Los Angeles Clippers put on a youth basketball clinic at Silverado Park for the participants of the Parks, Recreation & Marine Youth Sports program. The clinic featured former Clipper Center Olden Polynice, former WNBA player Evan Unrau as well as other LA Clippers Youth Basketball Staff. More than 300 players ages 5-14 participated in the clinic that consisted of a series of stations that help build upon the fundamentals of basketball, talks about nutrition, hydration and exercise and some fun interactive basketball games.

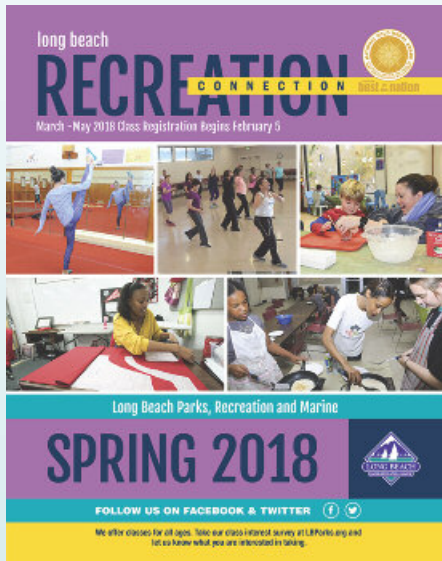
It was an exciting day as girls and boys from all over Long Beach, with different backgrounds, came together on the day that we celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. and all played basketball together.

This was a great start to a new and exciting partnership between Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine and the Los Angeles Clippers Youth Basketball Foundation.



Two of the 135 teams registered for this season's L.A. Clipper's-sponsored Youth Sports Basketball Program competes at Cabrillo High School Gym on opening day,

Spring Recreation Class Registration is Going On Now



With the days getting longer and feeling warmer, spring time makes everything feel new, and Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine has new classes coming up March through May. Visit www.LBParks.org for course requirements and registration information.

"All About Eggs! An Egg Dyeing Class" will be taught by A Yummy Future at El Dorado Park West on Saturday, March 31. Just in

time for Easter, children will get a history lesson on eggs, make a delicious egg recipe, then dye a dozen eggs. Register for course # 24815 for ages 2-5, meeting from 1-2:30 p.m. and course #25691 for ages 6-10 meeting from 3-4:30 p.m. Fee: \$30 and \$15 for materials.



Basic Cooking for Kids teaches cooking fundamentals and introduces kitchen tools, appliances, vocabulary, and kitchen safety and skills. Material fee: \$48. Instructor: A Yummy Future. Classes held at El Dorado Park West From March 3-24, April 7-28 and May 5-26. Ages 6-12 meet from 1-2:30 p.m. and Ages 12-17 meet from 3-4:30 p.m. Course fee is \$100 and a \$48 material fee.

Little Ballers Hoop School will help players ages 3-4 develop teamwork, confidence, and basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting, ball handling, footwork, and defense. Parent participation optional. Class held at Hoover Middle School, 3501 Country Club Dr., Lakewood, 90712. Sessions held March 3-24, April 7-28 and May 5-26 on Saturdays from 11-11:45 a.m. Course fee: \$65 and \$20 material fee.



B-Ballers Basketball Game Time

Participants ages 5-12 will play half and full court games against each other on teams and develop teamwork, confidence, and basketball skills. Class held at Hoover Middle School, 3501 Country Club Dr., Lakewood, 90712 March 3-24, April 7-28 and May 5-26 on Saturdays from 12:30-2 p.m. Course fee: \$75 and \$20 material fee.



Special Olympics "Top Flight on Ice" is designed for the Special Needs Community ages 12 - adult to learn to skate forward and backward, and gain confidence to skate on their own. Class fee includes skate rental, half hour of instruction and free practice session on registered class day. Practice session times: Wed 7:10-7:40 p.m. or Sat 10:45-11:15 a.m. Dress warmly. Check in early. Class held at The Rinks Lakewood - 3975 Pixie, Lakewood (Carson & Paramount). Courses held on Wednesdays from February 28-March 21, Saturdays from March 3-24, Wednesdays from March 28-April 18, Saturdays from March 31-April 21, Wednesdays from April 25-May 16 and Saturdays from April 28-May 19. Course fee: \$45.

Zumba® Gold with Mat For Ages 50+ is a fitness class disguised as dance. Students will have fun, burning calories, increasing stamina and enjoying light stretched on a mat. Class held at Wardlow Park on Thursdays from March 1-May 31. \$5 fee per person, per class.



The spring "Recreation Connection" publication is loaded with information about LBPRM programs such as free after school programs for youth and teens, youth sports leagues, summer day camp registration, El Dorado Nature Center activities and Long Beach Animal Care Services programs.

For more information about Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine programs and services, visit www.LBParks.org.

It's Easy to Register

On-Line: Register anytime. Visit <http://active.net.active.com/lbparks> or follow the link at www.LBParks.org. See "how to" videos and answers to "FAQs."

Click on the "request an account" button.

Fill in your information, then click submit (or click submit and add family member to register more people at the same address).

By FAX: to 562.570.3113. Confirmation will not be sent. Retain publication for reference.

By Mail: Send completed form and payment (include address, phone number and class # (s) on check) to City of Long Beach 2760 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, Ca 90815

In Person: Bring completed form and payment to office Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.. For more information, call 562.570.3111.

Long Beach Animal Care Services Achieves Another Record Year in 2017

Long Beach Animal Care Services (ACS) achieved another record year in 2017 with increased positive outcomes for animals in our community. The following year-end statistics show increasing progress being made at the animal shelter:

Stats compared to previous year, 2017 to 2016.

Total dogs and cats combined

Impounds were down 6.8% (record low).

Number of animals euthanized down 36% (record low).

Live release rate up 8% in 2017 to an all time high of 77%.

Dogs only

Impounds down 18.5% (record low).

Number euthanized down 63% (record low).

Live release rate up 8% in 2017 to an all time high of 93%.

Cats only

Impounds up slightly by 3.5%.

Number euthanized down 26% (record low).

Live release rate up 11% in 2017 to an all time high of 73%.

The Live Release Rate is the percentage of animals that leave the shelter with a positive outcome such as return to owner, adoption or transfer to a rescue organization.

Notable improvements at ACS in 2017 include:

Through generous supporters, ACS opened a new 800 square-foot medical suite to provide additional medical treatment to shelter animals. They also constructed and opened a new 230 square foot open air cattery.

ACS continued it's support of spay neuter programs and the Mandatory Spay Neuter law by helping to fund over 2,500 spay neuter surgeries for community cats and dogs, resulting in a significant drop in live impounds.

Thanks to another generous donation, ACS increased it's community presence and offsite adoptions with it's new mobile adoption vehicle.

ACS along with the Loyola Marymount Center for Urban Resilience embarked on the first year of a potential three-year study of the urban coyotes in Long Beach with the goal of improving our coyote management plan.

"We continue to look for new partnerships, programs and innovative ways to save lives, such as the mobile adoption van to increase adoptions, and the Twitter feed #LBLost-FoundPets to help reunite lost pets with their owners," noted Ted Stevens, Manager of Animal Care Services.



New Medical Suite Provides Additional Medical Treatment for Shelter Animals



Mobile Adoption Van Connects People and Pets Throughout the Community

Low Cost Pet Vaccination & Micro Chipping Clinics

Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Micro Chipping Clinics are held at the Uptown Dog Park at Scherer Park, 4600 N. Long Beach Blvd. on Saturdays and from 4-6 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Licensing is available at the Saturday clinics.

Pet owners must be 18 years or older. All pets must be on leashes or in carriers. Only healthy and non-pregnant animals will be vaccinated. Please bring prior vaccination information with you to the clinic. Vaccination and microchip services are provided for pets residing in any city. Licensing is provided for residents within our jurisdiction at Saturday clinics; please bring your renewal notice and rabies certificate with you.

Maintenance Operations Update

14th Street Park Play Courts

Children are enjoying colorful new play courts at 14th Street Park recently painted by Facility Maintenance staff.



Willow Springs Park Trail Signs



The Willow Springs Park Wetlands Restoration project opened in October, 2017. The project features a walking loop that takes visitors through a series of water capturing bioswales, 12 acres of open space with native plants and trees, ponding areas and bioswales.

In order to preserve the sensitive habitat and environment, staff recently installed signs to remind visitors to stay on the park path.



By the Numbers: Maintenance Operations Bureau - JANUARY 2018

Community Service Workers (CSW) program

Number of persons enrolled in the program for January.....	42
Total number of CSW Hours for January.....	1,578
Total number of hours worked at Queensway Bay.....	8
(Water cleanup, debris removal, litter pickup)	
Total number of hours worked at Beach Maintenance.....	96
(Litter pickup on beaches, parking lots, Belmont Pool, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula)	
Total number of hours worked at Marine Maintenance.....	282
(Litter pickup at Belmont Pier, maintenance building, and custodial work)	
Total number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas.....	280
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)	
Total number of hours worked at Tree Farm.....	23
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility)	
Total number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands.....	172
(Litter and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon)	
Total number of hours worked at special clean-ups.....	717
(Neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti paint-outs and community events)	
Work orders completed.....	316

Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis	172
Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily.....	28

Park acres maintained

Park turf.....	814
Park landscape.....	2,310
Street (medians) turf.....	53
Street landscape.....	143

Water Use:

MOB GP105 Water cost & Consumption for December 2017	
Parks and Street Island Potable.....	\$67,215
Parks and Street Island Reclaimed.....	\$52,661

Tennis Program Update

During January, El Dorado Park Tennis Center hosted the USTA Long Beach Pro Circuit Futures Tennis Tournament. Mayor Robert Garcia, and Councilwomen Suzy Price and Stacy Mungo attended with fans and spectators who came to support the up and coming ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) players from around the world, who are the future of the ATP Men's tennis tour.



Mayor Garcia presented the winner's check to the three-time NCAA champion from the University of Virginia, Collin Altamirano who beat former USC star and eight-time singles Pro Circuit winner Emilio Gomez of Ecuador, 6-1, 7-5. Councilwoman Mungo presented the runner-up prize.

The GRIT (Generate Results In Tennis) program at BJK Tennis Center was started four years ago by USPTA coach Richard Nguyen, and has developed some of Long Beach's youngest champions competing on the tournament circuit. Two of GRIT's teams recently finished at #1 in the Greater Los Angeles region in USTA Junior Team Tennis and earned a ticket to the JTT (Junior Team Tennis) Section Championships. During the three-month long regional season, GRIT's 10U (age 10 and under) Advanced team and 10U Intermediate team established themselves as the best of Los Angeles County with undefeated and near perfect records. In January, they represented the LA region at the USTA JTT Southern California Sectionals at Indian Wells Tennis Center in Palm Desert, CA. GRIT's 10U Advanced Team, "Pure GRIT" came out on top to become the #1 10U team in SoCal.

USTA Leagues started the winter season. The USTA teams at BJK compete in the USTA Beach Cities League or in the South Bay area. The USTA teams at El Dorado Park compete in Orange County League. El Dorado is going strong and has several USTA League teams competing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The competition is exciting, the atmosphere is social and since players compete as teams, they have fun cheering on teammates during the matches.

The Singles Challenge Ladder has begun at both BJK & EL Dorado Park Tennis Centers. Players enter online to compete, pick opponents, select match dates and times, and they can challenge as many players as they like.

Employee of the Month: Pedro Sosas



Pedro Sosa has worked with Parks, Recreation and Marine for the past five years. He began as a part-time custodian with the Maintenance Operations Bureau and was then promoted to a full-time Maintenance Assistant. Pedro has been a dedicated and vital team member for Facilities Maintenance.

As a Maintenance Assistant III, Pedro has proven to be a true asset to the team. He completes any task that he is given regardless no matter how challenging they are. He often works alongside his mentor Luis Oviedo and as a team they help keep our parks and playgrounds safe.

Peace Park, Livingston Drive Park, and Silverado Park are just a handful of the parks that have been a real challenge to maintain due to the variety of their play equipment.

Pedro has been an essential piece to keeping them safe and playable. In addition, he has played an important role in restoring both basketball and volleyball courts at Whaley Park. Pedro also recently helped to improve the newly created play space at 14th Street Park that serves as the connector and front yard to many in the neighborhood. Pedro's work ethic and commitment to get the job done are beyond compare. He is not only dedicated but he's resourceful. Pedro has saved the city money by fixing and using salvaged sections of playground. His willingness to listen, learn, and creativity shows his ability to go above and beyond our expectations.

His loyalty and dedication to the team, and to the City of Long Beach, is truly the "PRM WAY," and that is why he our "Employee of the Month."

Know Your Long Beach Parks: Los Angeles River Bike Path Long Beach Connections



A recumbent bike rider glides along L.A. River Bike Path near Willow and Golden Mini Park

The Los Angeles River Bikeway Class I bicycle and pedestrian path known as LARIO, is a smooth, unbroken expanse of car-free bike riding that extends nearly 20 miles from the City of Vernon to Long Beach. Riders travel along dry river beds and discover Long Beach's "bikeability" amongst the grass and foliage of Queensway Bay and the Queen Mary.

Access points in Long Beach include street crossings of the river at Del Amo Blvd., Wardlow Road, Willow Street, Pacific Coast Highway, Drake Chavez Park, and Golden Shore Drive.

Following floods in Los Angeles in the late 1930s, concrete banks were built along the banks of the river as a flood control measure. Bicyclists were able to ride nearly all the length of the river, into Long Beach.

In recent years, the Friends of the Los Angeles River, a local civic and environmental group, have attempted to restore portions of the river as parkland in a manner that includes and encourages bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine adopted the "Riverlink" Plan in 2003 to create open space along the L.A. River and make it more accessible to local neighborhoods that lack park space.



L.A. River Bike Path Entry near Willow and Golden Mini Park



View of DeForest Park Sports Field from the Los Angeles River Bike Path



The Long Beach River Gate was dedicated in 2007 as part of the County of Los Angeles Earth Day Celebration. It is located near the Wrigley Greenbelt near 34th Street and DeForest Avenue.



The Los Angeles River Trail ends in Long Beach at Shoreline Drive near Shoreline Park

By the Numbers:

Community Recreation Services: December 2017

Permits to Gather.....	48
Reserved Picnic Sites.....	3
Number of Contract Classes.....	128
Facility Use Permits Issued.....	71
Field Use Permits Issued.....	51
El Dorado Regional Park Annual Passes.....	477
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries.....	5,857
Adult Sports League Participants.....	7,818
Visits to City Pools.....	9,307
Youth and Teen Participants.....	36,564
Senior Citizen Participants.....	25,862
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center.....	26,259

February - March 2018 Calendar of Events

February

Sat. 17	10 a.m.	Wetland Warriors Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Mon. 19		Presidents Day Holiday	
Wed. 21	9 a.m.	Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center

March

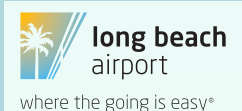
Th. 1	4 p.m.	Mobile Pet Vaccination and Microchip Clinic	Uptown Dog Park
Sat. 3	10 a.m. 11 a.m. 1 p.m. 2 p.m.	First Saturday Stewards Volunteer Cleanup* Houghton Park Community Center Groundbreaking Admiral Kidd Artificial Turf Field Grand Opening "Out of the Wilds and Into Your Garden" Native Plant Class	El Dorado Nature Center 6301 Myrtle Avenue 2125 Santa Fe Avenue El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 5	Varies	Spring Recreation Class Registration Begins Four-Week Swim Mon/Wed Lessons Begin	Silverado Park Pool
Tue. 6	Varies	Four-Week Swim Tu/Th Lessons Begin	King Park Pool
Th. 8	2:30 p.m. 4 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission Meeting Mobile Pet Vaccination and Microchip Clinic	Long Beach Yacht Club Uptown Dog Park
Th. 15	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Senior Center
Sat. 17	10 a.m.	Wetland Warriors Cleanup	Golden Shore Reserve
Wed. 21	9 a.m.	Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
Sat. 24	Noon	Red Car Greenway Grand Opening	Park Ave. & Fourth Street

*Call for registration and fee information.

NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER!



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