

Director's Corner

Parks, Recreation and Marine - October Highlights

Prepared by Director Brent Dennis

1. **Furloughs**: Friday, October 2, 2020 was the first furlough Friday for the department. Administrative offices were closed. Exceptions to operational closures included the El Dorado Nature Center, after school programs, and the Belmont pool, all of which remained open.
2. **Re-opening of Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment**: Monday, October 5th, all 70 City of Long Beach playgrounds were re-opened with posted health order compliance.
3. **Trees on the Bay**: Monday, September 14th, the process of assembly of the trees for the annual display began with illumination planned for Thanksgiving night.
4. **Employee of the Month(s)**: Community Recreation Services team member Mike Perez was recognized as Employee of the Month for the months of June, July and August. Among his many duties, Mike oversees the department's volunteer program and the new Mobile Recess program that is funded by the CARES Act.
5. **Mobile Recess**: Our mobile recreational programming is being launched in mid-October.
6. **Strategic Planning Retreat**: The PRM Executive Team conducted a facilitated planning retreat on Monday, October 5th with a focus on the data received to date from the community for a citywide master planning survey and discussion of department goals for the new fiscal year. Our fiscal year began on October 1, 2020.
7. **El Dorado Regional Park Entry Fees**: Council-approved increases to daily vehicle and annual access passes which went into effect on October 1, 2020. Entry fee increases were \$1/daily fees and \$5/annual passes.
8. **Citywide Memorial Bench Master Plan**: Plans are underway to develop a citywide master plan that will illustrate potential donor opportunities for memorial benches in all parks, marina and beach areas. Partners of Parks is supporting two intern positions to accomplish the master plan.
9. **Halloween and Virtual Programs**: Community Recreation Services team members are creatively developing and offering a wide array of Halloween holiday virtual programs.
10. **More Halloween**: El Dorado Frontier was approved to offer a retail-based pumpkin patch this season in El Dorado Regional Park.
11. **Willow Springs Park**: Mulching operations are being expanded at the park, cleanup of significant homeless encampments and expansion of Conservation Corps' role and responsibilities in the park are moving forward.
12. **Awaida Memorial Tree**: A memorial tree to be planted to honor the parents and child whose lives were lost last October during Halloween is planned for Los Cerritos Park.