

Director's Corner

Parks, Recreation and Marine - November Highlights

Prepared by Director Brent Dennis

1. **Furloughs:** PRM's first three furlough Fridays have gone very well with no complaints from the community. 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. The Marine Bureau chose to use Tuesdays as their furlough day of office closures since Fridays are their busiest business day. As a reminder, the FY/21 furlough program contributed \$11.0 million in savings towards the City of Long Beach's projected \$30.0 million operating deficit.
2. **Reopening of Lawn Bowling Joins Reopening of Playgrounds and Outdoor Fitness Equipment:** Monday, October 26th, lawn bowling and bocce ball joined the reopening of all 70 City of Long Beach playgrounds with posted health order compliance protocols similar to those of tennis and pickleball.
3. **Trees on the Bay:** The installation process of 67 colorful, floating illuminated trees for the annual display is scheduled to open on Thanksgiving night at 5:30pm and stay lighted until midnight. The popular community holiday display will run through New Year's Day.
4. **Employee of the Month(s):** Business Operations Bureau team member Accounting Supervisor Denise Beck was recognized as Employee of the Month for September and Maintenance Operations Bureau Grounds Maintenance team member Olivia Casillas was recognized as Employee of the Month for October. Congratulations to both of these outstanding and dedicated PRM team members!
5. **Mobile RECESS:** Our mobile recreational programming that was launched in mid-October has been expanded to include Grace Park on Fridays as our tenth neighborhood program site. The participation by neighborhood kids has increased nicely with each passing week. The Program that is FREE for ages 5-14 is CARES Act funded and will run through December 18th.
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. **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.
8. **Halloween and Virtual Programs:** Community Recreation Services team members creatively developed and offered a wide array of Halloween holiday virtual programs.
9. **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. Cleanup scheduled for mid-November.
10. **Awaida Memorial Trees:** Three beautiful olive trees were planted in Los Cerritos Park as a meaningful memorial to honor the parents and child whose lives were lost last October during Halloween.

11. **Conservation Corps Partnership Highlight:** Good news for tree lovers as the Conservation Corps received a grant for the planting of 400 trees for the west side of Long Beach. The organization continues to be very involved and supportive of DeForest Park and active in Willow Springs Park.
12. **Director Dennis Out of Office:** I will be out of the office on vacation November 20-29. Deputy Director Steve Scott and Marine Bureau Manager Elvira Hallinan will be the primary PRM contact in my absence.