

We Create Community



Groundbreaking Ceremony for DeForest Park Environmental Education Center



Breaking Ground for the new Environmental Education Center at DeForest Park are L-R: Teresa Marino, Board Member, Conservation Corps of Long Beach; David Zanatta, Chair of the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission; Dan Knapp, Executive Director/CEO Conservation Corps of Long Beach; Councilwoman Dr. Suley Saro, Mark Stanley, Executive Director, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, Councilmember Al Austin, Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, and Herlinda Chica, Vice President, Area 4 Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees.

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on September 28 for the new DeForest Park Environmental Education Center, which will serve as a satellite office for the nonprofit Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB).

The development of the center is made possible by a \$1.9 million grant by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to the CCLB to build the new facility along the Lower Los Angeles River.

The new CCLB satellite office at DeForest Park will serve as the base of operations for the organization's work along the Lower Los Angeles River along with community environ-

mental stewardship activities at DeForest Park Wetlands. It will feature office space and training areas for CCLB, which offers environmental-related work and training opportunities to young people in Long Beach, as well as community rooms open for public use.

The development of the center was planned in accordance with the DeForest Park Vision Plan, which was produced in partnership with PRM, CCLB, City Fabric, Camp Fire Angeles Council and the DeForest Park Neighborhood Association to serve as a guide for future developments at DeForest Park and Wetlands. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2022.



*Brent Dennis
Director, Long Beach Parks,
Recreation & Marine and ACS*

Autumn has arrived and the colors and scents of the season are upon us and throughout all our parks! The Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services Team has taken a leadership role in many of the recent community celebrations and events that included the El Dorado Park West Sports Field, the dedication of Pressburg Parkway, and the groundbreaking of the DeForest Environmental Education Center in collaboration with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach.

The Marine Bureau Team contributed greatly to many aspects of a successful Acura Grand Prix that touched many parts of the downtown waterfront and marina environs. The Winners Circle and Dolphin Fountain specialty areas were prominently featured in televised segments throughout the weekend making Long Beach proud. Believe it or not, the team at Marine Bureau Maintenance has already been preparing various components of the upcoming holiday season's Trees on the Bay displays.

October also marks the beginning our new fiscal year for Parks, Recreation, Marine, and Animal Care Services. Fortunately, our FY/21 budget from last year essentially was carried forward with no cuts for FY/22 that began on October 1, 2021. Thanks to our Business Ops Bureau for all your work related to all aspects of both fiscal years' budgets. Many important

capital improvement projects will also be moving forward in the coming year.

Park Maintenance led efforts to beautify Daisy Lane with the planting of cedar trees as a landscape restoration project that supports a popular neighborhood holiday tradition. The Maintenance Operations Bureau Team made significant advancements in park improvements throughout Long Beach parks and recreation facilities to help these areas become safer and more welcoming.

Last month, the September Parks and Recreation Commission met at the Billie Jean King Main Library for an agenda that contained the presentation of the Lincoln Park master plan. After the Commission meeting, we adjourned to the upper level of the library to enjoy a birds-eye view of the park under development. We look forward to a ribbon-cutting celebration of our newest park in February 2022.

Our Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau team has been super busy on scores of community partnerships while working on important grants seeking funding for capital projects and equity-based programming and initiatives.

I want to offer a special "shout out" to everyone at Long Beach Animal Care Services for their increased focus upon fostering and adoptions of the animals under their care. The recent open house for walk-ins instead of appointment-based visits yielded several new adoptions and fostering.

Reading, writing, arithmetic and recreation...last month saw thousands of students returning to the classroom and our Community Recreation Services team delivered an impressive array of after-school programs. As we approach the end of this month, the 'spirit of the season' will bring some haunting fun in unique ways for Halloween. Trunk or Treat events and other safe, masked, and costumed gatherings will certainly be a part of popular holiday of fall. Have an awesome October! Enjoy the beauty of autumn!

Naturalist Notes: Coyotes at the Nature Center



El Dorado Nature Center staff reports that this is a busy time for coyotes!

Last year's babies are old enough to begin looking for their own territories away from their parents, and adult coyotes are looking for a good place to den and prepare for new pups. With all of this activity, you may see or hear coyotes more frequently than at other times of the year.

Do not attempt to approach a coyote. It will likely run away, but any cornered or frightened wild animal can be dangerous.

If you encounter a coyote on the trail, stand your ground and scare it away by making loud noises and waving your arms. Coyotes play an important role in the web of life at the Nature Center. With a little effort, we can coexist with these special animals.

El Dorado Park West Multi-Purpose Sports Field Opens to the Public

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine held an opening ceremony for the new El Dorado Park West Multi-Purpose Sports Field on October 2.

Now the largest sports field in the City of Long Beach, measuring 210 feet by 315 feet, the new synthetic turf at 2700 Studebaker Road was constructed using renewable cork and sand infill material as an alternative to crumb rubber. The field perimeter is lined with boulders to prevent damage to the field and provide a decorative alternative to a standard fence.



Breaking Ground for the Multi Sport Field at El Dorado Park West with community youth are L-R: Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works; Sharleen Higa, Commissioner, Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission; State Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell; David Zanatta, Chair, Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission; Councilmember Al Austin, Councilwoman Stacy Mungo; Mayor Robert Garcia, and Bob Livingstone, Commissioner, Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission.



Among the benefits of replacing natural grass with synthetic turf is reduced water use and better storm water runoff management through subsurface drainage systems. The field does not require regular irrigation and has heat dissipating properties. Synthetic turf fields also have lower maintenance costs, are more accessible year-round than grass and have been shown to improve usability, safety and performance for athletes.

The approximately \$3.1 million project is funded with \$2.35 million from Measure A and \$761,644 in one-time funds for City Council District Priority Funding.

Parkway Named for North Long Beach Resident Dan Pressburg

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine held a dedication ceremony for the Pressburg Parkway at South Street and Jaymills Avenue. on September 25.

The South Street Parkway is located adjacent to the Pressburg residence and is being named in recognition of Mr. Pressburg's contributions to the Uptown and Deforest Park Neighborhood community, where he has worked to beautify open space, enhance civic engagement, and foster community.

Mr. Pressburg was recognized by Neighborhoods USA, for initiating the "One-Day Christmas Store," that allows families in need to shop for the holidays with dignity, and for his "Back to the Future the North Long Beach History Project," a historic documentary record of the development, projects to be designed, along Atlantic Blvd.

As a Redevelopment Agency North Project Area Committee member, and Vice-Chair for seven years, he collaborated on public improvements and the revitalization of residential, industrial, and commercial areas in the Long Beach's Uptown area including the DeForest Park Wetlands Restoration.



While a Cultural Heritage Commissioner, Dan established five landmarks in North Long Beach and helped Sunnyside Cemetery to gain its local landmark status.

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Volunteers Make Beach Their “Happy Place” at California Coastal Cleanup Day



The 2021 California Coastal Cleanup Day theme “Protect Your Happy Place,” encouraged over 560 members of the community to become stewards of our beaches and oceans. Volunteers met El Dorado Nature Center staff on September 18 at one of four locations in Long Beach: Alamitos Beach, Belmont Pier, the Peninsula, and Alamitos Bay Marina to clean more than 1,800 pounds of trash along the shoreline.

El Dorado Nature Center partnered with Alamitos Beach Cleanup, Surfrider, Aquarium of the Pacific, the Shoreline Yacht Club, and Seal Beach Yacht Club for this great community event. Bags and gloves were provided, and volunteers brought their own bucket and reusable gloves to limit waste.

Mobile Recess Program “Pops Up” Throughout Long Beach



The non-profit Safe Moves organization conducted free bike and pedestrian safety rodeos as part of the pop up events.

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine partnered with the Long Beach Health and Human Services Department’s Healthy Active Long Beach program to bring their Mobile Recess vans to neighborhoods on Saturdays and Sundays during September. The eight sites included Miracle on 4th Street Park, Chittick Field, Coolidge Park, Peace Park, M.L. King Jr. Park, Admiral Kidd Park, Houghton Park and Atlantic Plaza Park.

The Mobile Recess program brings an array of free activities to designated neighborhood streets throughout the city on weekdays for youth ages 5 to 14 (grades K-8). The activities include homework help, arts and crafts and fitness activities. Mobile Recess is free and supplies and equipment are provided at no cost. The program follows health safety protocols.

For more information, visit www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/free-and-low-cost-youth-programs/mobile-recess/.

El Dorado New Math and Reading Development Classes Offered this Winter



Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine is prepared to help children succeed in school with math and reading development classes offered by trained teachers in a fun, supportive environment. Visit www.longbeach.gov/parks to register for classes and get information about locations, days, times, fee and course requirements.

Math Development 2-6 reinforces skills for ages 6 years, 6 months to 11 years in primary facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division), fraction operations, prime numbers, factoring concepts, decimals, algebra, geometry skills and increased confidence. Classes held weekday afternoons in December, January and February at Mae Boyer Park in Lakewood and at Cherry Park.

Reading Development 2-6 will help improve comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, and fluency for ages 6 years, 6 months to 11 years. Classes will be held weekday afternoons in December, January and February at Mae Boyer Park in Lakewood and at Cherry Park.

Reading Development K-1 will help improve comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, and fluency for ages 4 years, 5 months to 7 years. Classes will be held weekday afternoons in December, January and February at Mae Boyer Park in Lakewood and at Cherry Park.

Inaugural Long Beach Youth Festival Inspires Young People



The inaugural Long Beach Youth Festival, the signature event of the Long Beach Commission on Youth and Families and the City of Long Beach's new Office of Youth Development took place on September 25 at Houghton Park. The free event brought young people ages 12-24 and their families together to experience local talent, engage in network opportunities and discover a wealth of resources to uplift and inspire young people.

The festival was an important component in the implementation of the Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and

Emerging Adults, that resulted from the community engagement efforts of the Invest In Youth campaign, a coalition of local organizations that advocate for resources for youth and giving youth a voice in the community.



Festival attendees took part in youth-centric seminars and panels on topics ranging from Economic and Educational Opportunities, Health and Wellness Public Safety and Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Leadership and Organizing.

There were also performances and showcases from local poets, writers, singers and dancers; interactive fun activities, and a family resource fair.

To view the Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults, please visit <https://bit.ly/3BKDKAB>.

Like us on Instagram: [instagram.com/longbeachparks_rec](https://www.instagram.com/longbeachparks_rec)

Know Your Long Beach Park: Lilly Park



Lilly Park is tucked away in east Long Beach at Lilly Avenue and El Dorado Drive. The .26-greenbelt was created as part of the El Dorado Park Estates housing development in 1961.

In 1988 local residents worked with the Partners of Parks organization to raise money for play equipment and benches for the park.

A playground was added in 1991. In 2005, the original play equipment was replaced with new equipment to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Today local residents and visitors enjoy scenic landscaping, benches, a walking path and play equipment.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Statue Restored



From top left: Dr. King Jr. statue with its patina removed; above: patina being applied to the statue; bottom left: Park Maintenance staff restores the plaque; right: completed restoration of the bronze statue, plaques and granite surfaces.



Park Maintenance staff have completed a restoration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statue "I Have a Dream" at Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

The bronze statue has stood as a symbol of hope in the community since its installation in 1985. Working with a professional restoration company, the statue's faded patina was removed and

a new patina was applied followed by a protective coating. The plaques around the base and the granite surfacing was also restored.

Congratulations to the August Employee of the Month—April Monjaras



Congratulations to Administrative Aide II April Monjaras for being selected as the August Employee of the Month. April has been the Supervisor of the PRM Reservations / Registration office for almost two years. She recently answered a few questions about herself so that we can get to know her better.:

What is or would be a good nickname for you at work?
I can't think of one.

What's the last TV show you binge-watched? 227.

What song always gets you onto the dance floor? There are too many, I love to dance. Top 3 80s, and 90s, and hip hop.

Who would play you in a movie of your life? Zooey Deschanel.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? The power of healing people. The healing does not give you eternal life and it is the person's responsibility to maintain their health. This was a deep conversation that my husband, son, and I had. LOL. With great powers comes great responsibilities.

Using one word, how would you describe your family: Fun.

Who inspires you? My parents.

A genie gives you one wish. What is it? To have all super-hero powers but no one knows I have them.

Would you rather have a completely automated home or a self-driving car? Automated home.

What's one small thing that makes your day better? Seeing my child smile.

What's the best thing you've learned in your current position? That no matter what is happening, PRM is a strong and supportive department.

How long have you worked with Parks & Rec? 1 year and 10 months.

How long with the City? Almost 12 years.

What's your own advice that you always follow? Happiness comes from within, you need to be happy with yourself before you can make others happy.

September By the Numbers

Maintenance Operations Bureau

Community Service Workers Program

Attendance figures for the month of September 2021

Number of persons enrolled in the program for September:	42
Total number of hours worked at Beach Maintenance:	272
(Litter pickup along beach areas, parking lots, Belmont Pool area, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula area and maintenance yard)	
Number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas:	152
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)	
Number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands:	287
(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other various Wetlands)	
Number of hours worked at special clean-ups:	32
Total number CSW hours for September:	743
Work orders completed:	616
Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis bureau wide:	172
Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily:	28
Park acres maintained	
Park turf.....	814
Park landscape	2310

Water Use

MOB General Fund Water report for August		
Parks Potable	43,055 ccf	\$174,533
Parks Reclaimed	64,162 ccf	\$140,112

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Calendar

October

Mon. Oct. 18	2 p.m. Times Vary	Adult Adaptive Recreation Program \$15/wk. Register at LBParks.org. Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Stearns Champions Park Visit LBParks.org for sites
Tue. Oct. 19	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Wed. Oct. 20	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Th. Oct. 21	Times Vary 6 p.m.	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12 Docent Led Nightlife Walk, \$5 per person, Register at LBParks.org.	Visit LBParks.org for sites El Dorado Nature Center
Fri. Oct. 22	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Sat. Oct. 23	9 a.m. 8 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Volunteer Clean up Boat Auction – Viewing 8 a.m.; Bidding 9 a.m. Adaptive Recreation Program for Middle and High School \$4.	Area III El Dorado Regional Pk Alamitos Bay Marina Stearns Champions Park
Mon. Oct. 25	2 p.m. Times Vary	Adult Adaptive Recreation Program \$15/wk. Register at LBParks.org. Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Stearns Champions Park Visit LBParks.org for sites
Tue. Oct. 26	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Wed. Oct. 27	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Th. Oct. 28	Times Vary 6 p.m.	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12 Docent Led Nightlife Walk, \$5 per person, Register at LBParks.org.	Visit LBParks.org for sites El Dorado Nature Center
Fri. Oct. 29	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Sat. Oct. 30	9:30 a.m. 11 a.m.	Adaptive Recreation Program for Middle and High School \$4. Dedication Ceremony for Larry Curtis Concert Park	Stearns Champions Park Marine Stadium, 5255 Paoli Way

November

Mon. Nov. 1	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Tue. Nov. 2	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Wed. Nov. 3	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Th. Nov. 4	6 p.m.	Docent Led Nightlife Walk, \$5 per person, Register at LBParks.org	El Dorado Nature Center
Fri. Nov. 5	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Mon. Nov. 8	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Tue. Nov. 9	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Wed. Nov. 10	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Th. Nov. 11	Times Vary 6 p.m.	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12 Docent Led Nightlife Walk, \$5 per person, Register at LBParks.org.	Visit LBParks.org for sites El Dorado Nature Center
Fri. Nov. 12	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Mon. Nov. 15	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Tue. Nov. 16	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Wed. Nov. 17	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Th. Nov. 18	6 p.m.	Docent Led Nightlife Walk, \$5 per person, Register at LBParks.org	El Dorado Nature Center
Fri. Nov. 19	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Mon. Nov. 22	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Tue. Nov. 23	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Wed. Nov. 24	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Th. Nov. 25		Thanksgiving Holiday	
Fri. Nov. 26		Thanksgiving Holiday	
Mon. Nov. 29	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites
Tue. Nov. 30	Times Vary	Free Supervised After School Recreation Programs for Ages 5-12	Visit LBParks.org for sites

**Visit www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/free-and-low-cost-youth-programs/mobile-recess/ for locations.



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