

# We Create Community

LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE AND  
ANIMAL CARE SERVICES

MARCH 2023 | VOLUME 12  
ISSUE 3

## DEFOREST PARK OPENS REFURBISHED SOCCER MINI PITCHES



CUTTING THE RIBBON L-R: KAREN GOODHEART: VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING & PARTNERSHIP ACTIVATION (LA GALAXY), DANIEL AGUIRRE OF LA GALAXY, JALEN NEAL LITTLE SISTER, JALEN NEAL OF LA GALAXY, CHRIS KLEIN, PRESIDENT, LA GALAXY; JENNIFER GURAN, DIRECTOR, SPORTS MARKETING & ALLIANCES (HERBALIFE); MAYOR REX RICHARDSON, 9TH DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER DR. JONI RICKS-ODDIE, DANIELLE VALENTE, SAFE PLACES TO PLAY ASSOCIATE (U.S. SOCCER FOUNDATION); GABRIEL OSOLLO, SENIOR MANAGER, COMMUNITY RELATIONS & LA GALAXY FOUNDATION

**Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) in partnership with the Los Angeles Galaxy Foundation, U.S. Soccer Foundation and Herbalife Nutrition,** hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the refurbished soccer mini pitches at DeForest Park on February 17. Mayor Rex Richardson, 9th District Councilmember Dr. Joni Ricks-Oddie, the office of 8th District Councilmember Al Austin, Los Angeles Galaxy President Chris Klein, and LA Galaxy player Jaden Neal participated in the festivities.

The event featured music from the The Jordan High School marching band and a soccer clinic for the Jordan High School boys' and girls' soccer teams following the ceremony.

Two of the park's three futsal courts received asphalt repair, acrylic resurfacing, new striping and soccer goals, funded by a contribution from the Los Angeles Galaxy, and the U.S. Soccer Foundation, and their partner, Herbalife. These improvements are consistent with the DeForest Park Vision Plan and PRM's Strategic Plan goals of building innovative and lasting partnerships that leverage supplemental funding and programs for development.

The courts are available for drop-in, first-come, first-serve use between dawn and dusk. Evening play during the week and morning play on weekends will be prioritized to existing organizations that had permitted access prior to refurbishment of the courts. Permit requests may be made through the Athletic Fields and Beach Permitting Office.

# Director's Corner

**BRENT DENNIS, DIRECTOR, LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE AND ACS**



## Acknowledging that our Parks, Recreation, Marine, and Animal Care Services team is comprised of a slight but important majority

of female staff, as we celebrate Women's History Month during the coming weeks of March, we have an even greater reason to recognize their immense contributions and service ethic to the community across Long Beach. Similarly, a majority of our leadership on the Youth and Families Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission are women. The same holds true at the Long Beach City Council level. Happy Women's History Month!

Our Department's Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services team has responded collaboratively with citywide efforts to address homelessness in Long Beach since the emergency proclamation was established by City Council last month. A proposal to utilize one of our gymnasiums as an emergency shelter for the unhoused during the cold weather season was met with considerable community opposition. Alternative plans for warming centers to help address the urgent need are being developed to not impact recreation and after-school programs. Much like the Department's response to the pandemic, we have team members actively supporting many essential planning and support duties.

The month of March will see the long-awaited groundbreaking for the new playground at Admiral Kidd Park. Many thanks to Partners of Parks for its fundraising campaign that attracted enough financial support to purchase all the new play equipment. This new signature playground should be completed by autumn, just in time to see the construction of a new playground at Silverado Park to begin. Other parks in the pipeline for new signature playgrounds include Ramona, Houghton, and El Dorado Park West. Long Beach has a growing reputation for amazing, creative signature play spaces.

On the final day of February, our Department's Management Team came together again to continue the collaborative conversation around our strategic plan. Positive progress continues to be realized as all the department bureaus have elevated the importance of the strategic plan in the development of our prioritized goals, action plans, staffing needs and budgets. Maintaining an updated strategic plan helps keep our department team focused and motivated to achieve goals that ultimately benefit the community.

Winter weather events have certainly had an impact on our parks, beachfronts, marinas, and facilities. Fallen trees, water damage from pooling rainfall, debris upon our beaches, and the ongoing need to shore up the protective beach sand berms have kept our beach and park maintenance teams on their toes. Kudos for jobs well done! Parks Make Long Beach...Parks Make Life Better!

## NEW WETLANDS WARRIORS PROGRAM SITE

Due to the ongoing construction at Colorado Lagoon for the Colorado Lagoon Open Channel Project, El Dorado Nature Center will be temporarily shifting its Wetland Warrior Cleanup site to Jack Dunster Marine Biological Reserve. Program volunteers will now meet outside the Pete Archer Rowing Center at Marine Stadium and will join staff in restoring native plant habitat along the walking trails at the Reserve, and in picking up trash on the parkways alongside Marine Stadium. During this time, staff also hope to educate volunteers on local plant and animal life, as well as the history of Jack Dunster Reserve. The program will take place every 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information call (562) 570-1745.





# PRM AND CAL POLY POMONA URBAN PLANNING PROGRAM FOR TEENS

CAL POLY POMONA AND LONG BEACH COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER



## PRM continued its collaboration with the Cal Poly Pomona College

of Environmental Design and the Long Beach Community Design Center to present the Young Community Planners of Long Beach program for a second year. On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8 teens got hands-on experience in the urban planning process, including how city spaces and amenities are designed to best suit the needs of the population. The workshops were held at Admiral Kidd, Houghton and McBride Parks.

Instructed by Cal Poly Pomona and Long Beach Community Design Center staff, the program guided participants in hands-on experiences to gain insights on how to build a better city and about sustainability, mobility and the City's history.

The Young Community Planners of Long Beach program supports goals outlined in PRM's new 10-year Strategic Plan under "connecting with schools, libraries, nonprof-

its, businesses, and arts organizations to expand PRM programming," and "increasing community-based and industry-aligned career development opportunities and work-based learning classes to youth." View the plan at <https://bit.ly/3kJKnAb>.

**LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE**  
**TEEN ACADEMY**  
September 2022 to June 2023

**FREE!**

Apply Today!  
QR Code  
limited availability

**Requirements:**

- Teen, ages 13-18
- Volunteer a minimum of 10 hours a month
- Attend at least 6 of the leadership workshops

• Job Training • College Readiness • Peer Engagement  
• Leadership Experience • Team Building • Monthly Workshops



# PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE (PRM) 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2023



From recreation programs for all ages to planning park improvements, keeping our parks, places and open spaces well maintained and expanding access to parks and programming, the PRM Strategic Plan identifies the goals and actions staff will take to adapt park services to meet the community's needs for the next ten years.

Adopted by the Long Beach City Council on January 18, 2022, the plan explains PRM's existing conditions, and provides context with a history of Long Beach parks, city demographics, park acreage and assets, park services and amenities, other related strategic plans.

The Plan was created with robust community engagement and includes the goals and outcomes that will help ensure that accessible and equitable programs and services are in place to meet the diverse needs of the Long Beach community, including the following:

- Provide safe, accessible public spaces.
- Offer meaningful recreation programming and events.
- Prioritize health equity across the city.
- Build innovative and lasting partnerships.
- Connect internally and with the community clearly and transparently.
- Establish an environmentally sustainable park ecosystem.
- Ensure a dynamic and diverse workforce.
- Create a financially secure and resilient operation

PRM staff is now busy prioritizing outcomes and strategies for short, medium and long-term implementation. View the plan and watch for updates and progress reports at <https://bit.ly/3kJKnAb>.

## LONG BEACH ANIMAL CARE SERVICES LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

Information about Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) programs and services is now easier to find thanks to their updated web site.

Links to pet adoption information, fostering, pet licensing and how to reconnect with lost pets are prominently featured on the home page. Residents can also learn how they can volunteer and make donations to support shelter animals.

Visit the new site at [www.longbeach.gov/acs](http://www.longbeach.gov/acs) to get the latest information on LBACS, see featured pets for adoption and much more.



LBACS ensures "Compassion Saves" by supporting the people and animals of our community through outreach, education, guidance, and support services. We protect shelter animals by creating an environment of care through enrichment and innovative programs.

# PRM CLASS INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT JAMES CHRISTIAN

TEACHING BASKETBALL TO YOUTH FOR OVER A DECADE



JAMES CHRISTIAN'S D-UP BALLERS CLASSES FOCUS ON MASTERING THE BASICS OF BASKETBALL IN AN EXCITING AND CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT. PRIZES ARE GIVEN OUT TO STUDENTS AND THE CLASS FEATURES PLAYERS OF THE WEEK MAKING LEARNING A NEW SPORT FUN AND REWARDING.

Long Beach PRM's contract class instructors enrich the lives of residents with recreational opportunities and also supports local businesses who provide the programs. James Christian has been the director of Hawk Hoops Basketball for the last 10 years. He has worked with over 10,000 children throughout his basketball career in camp settings and private trainings. Not only has Coach James instilled basketball skills in children but he also teaches life skills. He recently answered some questions:

*How did you get into Basketball?* I started playing when I was 5 years old, to help deal with grieving over my father's passing.

*What was your inspiration for becoming a Basketball Instructor?* I felt that someone took the time to bless me with the knowledge of the game, so I felt that it was only right to bless others with my knowledge of the game.

*How do you feel your work improves or impacts the community?* I feel that basketball is more than a game. It is also

therapeutic. It gives children the outlet to release frustrations as well as help them learn to communicate, interact and bond with their peers and their parents.

*What do you like most about working with the Long Beach community?* The smiles that I'm able to put on children's faces after leaving one of my classes.

*How can readers and children benefit from attending your class?* Readers should attend my class so that they can get firsthand experience to what it feels like to use basketball as a tool to learn to interact with other members of the Long Beach community in a fun, safe and exciting learning environment. It's also a fun way to exercise while learning life lessons as well.

James will begin a new session of "D-Up Ballers" on April 16 from noon – 1 p.m. at Pan American Park. The class is geared to enhance basketball skills in dribbling, passing, shooting, defense, footwork and more for ages 7-16. \$70. Register for class number 57336 at [LBParks.org](http://LBParks.org).



# SENIOR CENTER DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING

**Staff members from PRM Senior Centers** participated in a “Trading Spaces” training in February to enhance awareness of the physical limitations of many older adults in their programs.

Staff modified their senses to assume a particular disability and “stepped into the shoes” of a person with that issue. After experiencing impaired sight, hearing and mobility issues, staff built empathy for older adults and now better understand the challenges that a person with a disability faces in participating in many everyday activities.



## KNOW YOUR LONG BEACH PARK JACK DUNSTER BIOLOGICAL MARINE RESERVE



Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine is a leader in local conservation efforts by managing over 172 acres of estuaries that provide open space, and habitat for fish and birds. The 3.17-acre Jack Dunster Biological Marine Reserve at Boathouse Lane and the northeast side of Los Cerritos Channel is an example.

This area was dedicated to the City as part of the 1968 Alamitos Bay Boundary Settlement Agreement as part of the land exchanges that established title to the lands around Alamitos Bay between the City, State and private property owners.

Dunster Reserve’s path to becoming an estuary took many turns. The original plan for the site in 1976 called for an additional basin for the Long Beach Marina, but the California Coastal Commission denied the permit because the dredging needed to reach adequate depths would have destroyed natural habitat.

Plans were also developed to turn the area into a traditional park with boat docks, picnic areas and soccer fields, when access through the adjacent private land was made

possible by its development. Issues with erosion from Los Cerritos Channel currents and the developed residential community made the restoration of the area into a natural habitat the best scenario with funding from the Tidelands Operating Fund.

The site is named for Jack Dunster (1925-1995), a resident of Long Beach for over 40 years. He was an advocate of City waterfront activities, served as a member of the Marine Advisory Commission for five years and supported establishing a biological marine reserve on Los Cerritos Channel. He proposed a compromise design of the park as a native habitat reserve with the eroded area as a lagoon. In the final plan the “lagoon” was changed to a more open water area protected from erosion by a floating breakwater. The Reserve was named in his honor. The site was dedicated on January 10, 2004, and now has 1.5 acres of land and 1.2 acres of shallow water. The Reserve contains a variety of habitats including Coastal Sage Shrub, Southern Beach, Coastal Marsh, Inter-tidal Mudflats, Rocky Inter-tidal and Sandy Bottom.

Residents can help preserve this area by joining El Dorado Nature Center’s Wetland Warriors cleanup at this site every third Saturday from 10 a.m. – noon.



# CONGRATULATIONS JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH CHRISTINE AMAYA

## **Congratulations to Christine Amaya,**

Secretary for the Animal Care Services Bureau on being selected the Employee of the Month for January 2023. This is a well deserved recognition for Christine whose work is vital in assisting staff in the smooth operation of the Bureau. She has been with the City of Long Beach for 13 years and with Animal Care Services for the last 10 years. She recently answered a few questions about herself so that we can get to know her better.

**What's the last TV show you binge-watched?** Wednesday

**What's the best thing you've learned in your current position?** You can have a plan for your day, but your day will not go as planned.

**What's your own advice that you always follow?** Be honest and do your best.

**What's one small thing that makes your day better?** Seeing my son's smiley face.

**Who inspires you?** My mom, my son, my boss, and Oprah.

**What is or would be a good nickname for you at work?** Chamaya

**What song always gets you onto the dancefloor?** I only dance in the car with my son and we sing and dance to everything.



L-R: PRM DIRECTOR BRENT DENNIS, CHRISTINE AMAYA AND LBACS MANAGER STAYCEE DAINS

**If you could have a superpower, what would it be?** To be able to go back in time and spend time with loved ones that are no longer here.

**In one word, how would you describe your family?** Small.

**What is something you are really good at?** Making Tiktok recipes.

## PRM COMMUNITY SERVICE • MAINTENANCE • WATER USE FEBRUARY BY THE NUMBERS

### COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS PROGRAM

NUMBER OF PERSONS ENROLLED: 16



259 HOURS WORKED AT BEACH MAINTENANCE

154 HOURS WORKED AT EL DORADO PARK AREAS

24 HOURS WORKED AT LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS

24 HOURS WORKED SPECIAL CLEAN-UPS

775 CSW HOURS WORKED FOR DECEMBER

### GENERAL MAINTENANCE

505 WORK ORDERS COMPLETED

172 RESTROOMS CLEANED ON A DAILY BASIS BUREAU WIDE

28 FACILITIES & GYMNASIUMS CLEANED AND STOCKED ON A DAILY BASIS

### PARK ACRES MAINTAINED

PARK TURF: 814

PARK LANDSCAPE: 2310

### WATER USE

MOB GENERAL FUND WATER REPORT FOR JANUARY

PARKS POTABLE 7,726 CCF \$49,802

PARKS RECLAIMED 2,665 CCF \$16,080





## MARCH 2023 CALENDAR

Th. 16	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 17	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat. 18	10 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday Wetland Warriors Cleanup Storytelling Day with crafts and activities- free	Colorado Lagoon Rancho Los Cerritos
Sun. 19	9 a.m.	Great Backyard Bird Count	Visit <a href="http://www.birdcount.org/participate">www.birdcount.org/participate</a>
Mon. 20		President's Day Holiday	
Tue. 21	10:30 a.m.	Free Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
Wed. 22	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 23	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 24	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat. 25	9 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Volunteer Cleanup	El Dorado Regional Park Area III
Mon. 27	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 28	10:30 a.m.	Free Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
Fri. 31	Time TBA	Admiral Kidd Park Playground Groundbreaking	Admiral Kidd Park

## APRIL 2023 CALENDAR

Sat. 1	8 a.m. 10 a.m. 3 p.m.	Swim Lesson Registration for Sat. Sessions from 4/29-6/17 First Saturday Steward Volunteer Cleanup Easter Egg Hunt Pet Adoption Event	Belmont Plaza Pool El Dorado Nature Center Long Beach Animal Care Services
Mon. 3	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 4	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Wed. 5	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 6	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 7	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat. 8	8 a.m. 8 a.m.	Summer Day Camp Registration @ LBParks.org Swim Lesson Registration for Sat. Session from 4/29-6/17	King and Silverado Park Pools
Sun. 9		Easter Sunday	
Mon. 10	8 a.m. Varies M-F	Swim Lesson Registration for M-W Session from 4/24-5/17 Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	Silverado Park Pool Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 11	8 a.m. Varies M-F	Swim Lesson Registration for Tu./Th. Sessions from 4/25-5/18 Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	King Park Pool Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Wed. 12	Varies M-F	Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 13	8 a.m. Varies M-F	Free Rancho Los Cerritos Bird Watching Program Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	<a href="http://rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-events">rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-events</a> Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 14	Varies M-F	Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat. 15	10 a.m. 11 a.m.	Earth Day Coastal Cleanup Proper LBC Shoe Store Pet Adoption Event	Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier 5209 2nd Street
Sun. 16	8 a.m.	Morning Bird Walk. Free Program; Parking \$8.	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 17	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 18	10 a.m.	Free Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
Wed. 19	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 20	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 21	11 a.m.	Pet Supplies Plus Pet Adoption Event	2806 N. Bellflower Blvd.
Sat. 22	9 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Volunteer Cleanup	El Dorado Regional Park Area III
Mon. 24	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue. 25	10 a.m.	Free Storytime	Rancho Los Cerritos
Wed. 26	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th. 27	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri. 28	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites

### Free Mobile Recess Program - Visit a site to register:

Mondays and Wednesdays	2-4:30 p.m.	Grace Park, 361 E. Plymouth Street
Tuesdays and Thursdays	3-5:30 p.m.	Rose Park, corner of Orizaba Avenue and 8 <sup>th</sup> Street
Friday	2-4:30 p.m.	Hill Street, Hill Street and Gale Avenue

## LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

[WWW.LBPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.LBPARKS.ORG)



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