

# Director's Highlights

## Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services

### September 2022 Highlights

**Prepared by Director Brent Dennis**

1. A top priority of departmental planning leading into the month was the September 6-20, 2022, voluntary outdoor watering restrictions as outlined by the Metropolitan Water District. Collaborative meetings were conducted with our colleagues at the Water Department to develop strategies and public messaging in advance of the curtailment to minimize the impact upon park turf athletic fields, golf courses, lakes, and ponds.
2. An important and strategic advancement for Parks in Perpetuity occurred recently with the addition of Tanaka Park. The park's 1.4 acres located at 1400 Wardlow Road near Caspian lies within Council District 7 and represents a key addition in an area of the city that has been historically under-parked.
3. Hoops After Dark will be concluding its summer season at the Salvation Army facility on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, to include playoff games against LBPD and an awards banquet. The teams have enjoyed a six-week season with competitive play and great sportsmanship. The next seasons for HAD will be Winter and Spring of 2023. The program was funded by the Long Beach Recovery Act, the Port of Long Beach, and Partners of Parks.
4. The Fiscal Year 2023 Proposed Budget is \$3.2 billion that maintains current services and continues support for pandemic recovery. The proposed budget prioritizes investments in addressing homelessness, community safety, equity, inclusion health and quality of life support, business attraction, arts, culture and tourism, infrastructure, climate change, and unfunded operational needs. The proposed PRM budget is \$74.0 million, supporting 447.66 FTE's, offsetting revenues of \$42.1 million, and \$3.24 million of capital improvement projects.
5. The 5-year Capital Improvements Plan includes approximately \$100.0 million of facility improvement projects. Investment highlights include the Chavez Park Latino Cultural Center & Mercado, the Killing Fields Memorial Garden and Cambodian Veteran Memorial, and important fire detection and suppression system improvements to historic structures at Rancho Los Alamitos and Rancho Los Cerritos.
6. Other very welcomed PRM budget enhancements include funding for a new Parks Safety Ambassador Program that will allow us to lock restrooms at 39 park sites as well as gated mini-parks on a nightly basis; structural budget increases to support a 7-year tree trimming cycle for park trees, water for park

irrigation needs, and enhanced landscape services. One-time funding of \$1.8 million for the removal of dead trees and significant staff funding support for Animal Care Services are other key additions.

7. Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau is busy with several park vision plans that include Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Ramona Park, Scherer Park, Houghton Park, and 14<sup>th</sup> Street Park. Community engagement opportunities are coordinated with Council District Offices and publicized on the City of Long Beach website.
8. The Citywide Pickleball Master Plan was released to City Council last month. Several pickleball capital improvement projects are included in the City's 5-year plan for courts at Veterans Park, DeForest Park, and at the Billie Jean King Tennis Center.
9. A major community initiative for programming at Lincoln Park was kicked off over the Labor Day holiday weekend. Collaborative partners joining PRM and the Billie Jean King Main Library are the Long Beach Community Foundation, LDBA, Studio 111, and City Fabrick. KCRW presented a concert in the park on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, complete with a great temporary sculpture exhibition!