

We Create Community



Willow Springs Park Wetlands Restoration Opens



Cutting the ribbon for the Willow Springs Park Wetlands Restoration are L-R: Director of Projects for the Conservation Corps of Long Beach Kedrin Hopkins, Parks, Recreation and Marine Director Marie Knight, Parks and Recreation Commissioners Ron Sievers and Stella Ursua, Office of Sustainability Coordinator Larry Rich and his daughter Zeni, Councilmember Roberto Uranga, Parks and Recreation Commissioner David Zanatta, City Manager Pat West and PRM Development Officer Meredith Reynolds.

A grand opening ceremony for the Willow Springs Park wetlands restoration at 2755 Orange Avenue was held on Saturday, October 21.

The Wetlands Restoration is a 12-acre project within the 48-acre Willow Springs Park that features a walking loop through water-capturing bioswales that flow to 43,000 square feet of restored seasonal wetlands, 12 acres of open space with native plants and trees, a constructed spring that mimics the artesian spring that provided water to early Long Beach, a water retention basin that cleans and diverts water from the Los Angeles River to be reused on site, and an outdoor classroom for environmental education.

The project included the removal of non-native trees and damaged piping, the planting of approximately 200 native and riparian tree species and 6,440 native drought-tolerant plants, installation of 209,000 square feet of irrigation, construction of 43,000 square feet of ponding areas and 1,700 square feet of bioswales, and conversion of a dirt access road to a 2,400-foot pedestrian trail with public access via entry points at Orange and California Avenues.

Funding for the project included the Urban Greening for Sustainable Communities Grant Program, funded by the State of California Natural Resources Agency through Proposition 84, which awarded Long Beach \$924,000 in June 2014.



Bixby Dog Park Opens to the Public

An opening ceremony for the new Dog Park at Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Avenue was held on November 4.

The dog park was developed in response to a large community outreach effort by both Councilmember Jeannine Pearce and Councilwoman Suzie Price. They helped determine that the park should be located at the corner of Broadway and Cherry with separate play areas for large and small breeds.

"This dog park is the latest element of the Bixby Park Master plan to be completed and enhance park amenities for residents," said Councilmember Jeannine Pearce. The first phase of plan, a new playground and fitness loop, opened in September 2015.

"Dog owners in both the 2nd and 3rd Council Districts will benefit from this new dog park" said Councilmember Suzie Price. "The area further activates the park, helping to reduce crime, and builds a sense of community that brings people together."

The cost for the development of the dog park was approximately \$100,000, with funding coming from the Second and Third Council District one-time infrastructure funds.



Cutting the ribbon for the new Bixby Dog Park are L-R: Parks, Recreation & Marine Director Marie Knight, Councilmember Jeannine Pearce, Mayor Robert Garcia, Claudia Schou, Friends of Bixby Park; Councilwoman Suzie Price, Parks, Recreation and Marine Commissioner David Zanatta and Public Works Director Craig Beck



Long Beach Animal Care Services offered spay / neuter vouchers and licensing information at the Grand Opening Ceremony

New Houghton Park Community Center Plans



Residents got a preview of the new Houghton Park Community Center when plans were revealed by Vice Mayor Rex Richardson on October 18 at Houghton Park.

The new facility will be an addition to the existing community center that was built as a series of connected buildings from the 1930's and 1980's.

The new 6,450 square-foot building will have two large multipurpose rooms, a central area for restrooms and reception, and two park-facing restrooms to provide park goers with restroom access without entering the building.

The Center was designed with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind, earning the building a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver rating. Drought tolerant landscaping will reduce water usage, and polycarbonate panels will bring natural daylight into multipurpose rooms and reduce energy costs. The project includes Electric Vehicle (EV) parking, school bus loading and unloading zones, and additional bicycle parking to accommodate various transportation methods.

The project is made possible with a \$4 million fund from Measure A and \$3 million from FY 14 one-time funds.

Registration Begins For Winter Recreation Classes



Learn a new skill, create a work of art, get fit and have fun! Browse classes available to the whole family in the Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine Winter 2018 Recreation Connection. There are many new offerings this winter:

Children, **ages 3-5** can express their creativity and build their imaginations in Storybook Dance on page 5.

Tot Sign Language, Parent & Me Pre-K Readiness and Readwrite Kinder Prep on page 5 can help toddlers improve their communication skills and prepare to succeed in Kindergarten. Babies Love Christmas Music, Toddlers Love Christmas Music, and Kids Love Christmas Music on page 6 combines Christmas music and winter songs with snowmen, jingle bells, singing and dancing!



New **youth** classes include B-Ballers Hoop School for Girls on page 11 that focuses on basketball fundamentals. Horse Fun on page 12 teaches basic horsemanship, safety, riding, grooming and leading.

Teens can learn to play guitar (page 16), and participate in gymnastics on pages 16 and 17 in beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. For other active fun, teens can take Horse Fun to learn basic horsemanship; and Ice Hockey and Indoor Volleyball on page 17. New martial arts classes for teens including Mixed Martial Arts-White Belt, Mixed Martial Arts-Upper Belt, Shotokan Karate and Traditional Karate on page 17.



Adults can figure out how to use their sewing machines in Sewing Machine Boot Camp on page 19. It's never too late to take up an instrument. Pop Band 101 for Guitar & Bass on page 27 will cover basic

chords and melodies.

El Dorado Nature Center Howl-oween Festival A Scary Time for All

More than 2,000 visitors in the mood for Halloween fun came to the El Dorado Nature Center Howl-oween Festival on October 28.

The event featured an Animal Education Village, the Ooh-possum Patch Midway with slides, bouncers, craft booths, and face painting; food trucks, storytelling, and a "Trick-o-Trail" where thanks to 25 staff members, 45 volunteers and a couple of skeletons, more than 12,000 pieces of candy were given out!



4th Annual Youth Sports Pink Out Supports Breast Cancer Awareness

On October 28, PRM youth sports coaches, players and parents participated in the 4th Annual "Play for a Cure" Pink Out to support of Breast Cancer Awareness. All the participants wore pink socks, wrist bands and ribbons.

A collection netted \$650, which is being donated to the Long Beach Memorial Care Todd Cancer Institute and Breast Cancer Angels.



Animal Care Services Update

Living With Urban Coyotes Seminar



On October 12, Long Beach Animal Care Services hosted a seminar, "Living with Urban Coyotes" to provide information for residents about local coyotes. The presenters were Dr. Eric Strauss, Exec-

utive Director of the Loyola Marymount University's Center for Urban Resilience (CUREs), California Fish and Game Senior Officer Kent Smirl, and Ted Stevens, Manager of Long Beach Animal Care Services. More than 130 residents learned about coyote ecology and safety, the Long Beach Coyote Management Plan and the CUREs Coyote Assessment Project in Long Beach, being led by Dr. Strauss, to study the local coyote population. Both presenters stressed key facts about coyotes that were supported by the CUREs study:

- ◆ Coyotes congregate near human food sources and are primarily active nocturnally.
- ◆ Unsecured garbage and outside pet feeding bowls should be removed to deter coyotes.
- ◆ Removing or killing coyotes increases the number of coyotes in an area
- ◆ When encountering a coyote, never ignore or run from the coyote, but respond aggressively. Use hazing techniques including yelling and waving arms, banging pots and pans, using squirt guns, throwing tennis balls or rocks, and using whistles or air horns.
- ◆ Coyote hazing changes coyote behavior and this learned behavior is passed on to family members.

The Long Beach Coyote Management Plan describes how to balance respect for, and protection of wildlife and their habitats, while prioritizing public safety. Read the plan at www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/acs/media-library/documents/wildlife/living-with-urban-coyote/long-beach-coyote-management_final-11-3-15



L-R: ACS Manager Ted Stevens, Volunteer Coordinator for the CA Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife, Lt. Kent Smirl, and Dr. Eric Strauss, Professor of Biology at Loyola Marymount College (Overseeing the CUREs study in Long Beach)

Subaru Share the Love Event Benefits Long Beach Animal Care Services



The Long Beach Animal Care Services rehoming team successfully placed 13 shelter pets in new, loving homes over the weekend of October 14 and 15 at the annual Subaru Loves Pets Adoption Event! Long Beach ACS partnered with Timmons Subaru of Long Beach three years ago and the dealership has hosted numerous events to assist the shelter with finding

placement and positive outcomes for many of the adoptable shelter pets.

Along with ACS staff, shelter volunteers showed up in full force, playing matchmaker for many of the lucky adoptees. Some adoption highlights include: mother cat "Jessa" (who had been at the shelter with her kittens since August!), playful pit bull "Zeus" – who was surrendered by his owner because their house was foreclosed on, and last, but not least, sweet "Ping Ping" the shih tzu, who was found as a stray on the mean streets of the LBC.



Be on the look out for our next big adoption event with our pals at Subaru, 'Subaru Share The Love' on December 2.

By the Numbers:

Community Recreation Services: September 2017

| | |
|--|--------|
| Permits to Gather..... | 229 |
| Reserved Picnic Sites..... | 39 |
| Number of Contract Classes..... | 242 |
| Facility Use Permits Issued..... | 58 |
| Field Use Permits Issued..... | 63 |
| El Dorado Regional Park Annual Passes..... | 557 |
| El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries..... | 11,493 |
| Adult Sports League Participants..... | 4,188 |
| Visits to City Pools..... | 17,483 |
| Youth and Teen Participants..... | 42,852 |
| Senior Citizen Participants..... | 32,822 |
| Visits to El Dorado Nature Center..... | 28,197 |

Maintenance Operations Update

The multi-faceted PRM Grounds Maintenance team recently received a call from a resident about a bee hive forming on a tree limb.

Instead of exterminating the bees, staff worked with a local group that rescues and relocates bees.

Wearing a bee protective suit they found the queen in hive and smoked the hive to calm the bees and relocate them to a safe area.

PRM Maintenance Staff Rescue Bees



By the Numbers

Maintenance Operations Bureau - October 2017

Community Service Workers (CSW) program

Number of persons enrolled in the program for October.....45

Total number of CSW Hours for August.....1,794

Total number of hours worked at Queensway Bay.....36
(Water cleanup, debris removal, litter pickup)

Total number of hours worked at Beach Maintenance.....123
(Litter pickup on beachess, parking lots, Belmont Pool, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula)

Total number of hours worked at Marine Maintenance.....426
(Litter pickup at Belmont Pier, maintenance building, and custodial work)

Total number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas.....650
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)

Total number of hours worked at Tree Farm.....83
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility)

Total number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands.....264
(Litter and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon)

Total number of hours worked at special clean-ups.....212
(Neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti paint-outs and community events)

Work orders completed.....550

Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis172

Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily.....28

Park acres maintained

Park turf.....814

Park landscape.....2,310

Street (medians) turf.....53

Street landscape.....143

Water Use:

MOB GP105 Water cost & Consumption for September, 2017

Parks and Street Island Potable.....37,499.....\$136,656

Parks and Street Island Reclaimed.....68,545.....\$121,983

Maintenance Operations Bureau Fiscal Year End Statistics - WOW!

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year ending on September 30, PRM Maintenance Operations completed some impressive accomplishments that included:

71 athletic fields aerated and fertilized about once per every 6 weeks, on average, (an improvement over two years ago when, on average, each field was aerated and fertilized once per year).

127 trees were stabilized or removed during June-September

156 Homeless camps were cleaned

175 Persons experiencing homelessness assisted by staff

235 irrigation breaks resolved including mainlines, electrical problems and new construction interface with old mainlines

1900 weekly park inspections

Know Your Long Beach Parks: Honoring Our Veterans in Long Beach Parks

Long Beach veterans have served their country and community with courage, some even losing their lives so the rest of us can be free. In Long Beach there is a connection between veterans and the names of Long Beach parks including Houghton, Admiral Isaac Kidd, Mac Arthur, Veterans, Heartwell and Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier



Admiral Kidd Park was named after Long Beach resident, Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor and was commander of the battleship USS Arizona. The highest ranking casualty at Pearl Harbor, he became the first U.S. Navy flag officer killed in action in World War II. He was awarded a Medal of Honor posthumously.

Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier has benches and medallions placed along the length of the pier deck commemorating individual veterans and significant battles.



Heartwell Park was named after Colonel Charles Heartwell who was president of the Water Department in 1939. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the California National Guard and a member of the California Defense Council during World War I. Heartwell advocated for the City to buy the land for

Heartwell Park with water bonds.

Houghton Park is named after Colonel Sherman Otis Houghton who was a captain and a lieutenant colonel during the Civil War. He was the first representative from



Southern California in the U.S. Congress from 1871 to 1875. Houghton Park is the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the annual Veterans' Day celebration. Colonel Houghton owned a ranch on the land where Houghton Park stands and his family donated the land to the City for the park.



Mac Arthur Park was named after General Douglas Mac Arthur. In 1942 he was made the Supreme Commander of Allied forces in the southwest Pacific and by 1945 had liberated the Philippines on the way to a planned invasion of Japan. MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender in 1945, then led the occupation forces in the reconstruction of Japan.



Veterans Memorial Park In 1952, the park at 101 E. 28th Street was named in recognition of all veterans who have served their country.

Victory Park is located South of Ocean Blvd. between Alamitos South and Hart Place. The park was named Victory Park in 1919 in honor of the victory in World War I.



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- ◆ Adult Sports Leagues
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- ◆ El Dorado Nature Center
- ◆ Recreation Classes

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Tennis Update



Two of Long Beach's USTA tennis tournaments were held during September and October 2017 at El Dorado Park Tennis Center. The 88th Annual Long Beach Open Tennis Tournament was held on September 30 through October 1. Players from Simi Valley to Victorville came to Long Beach to compete. One of El Dorado Park's tennis teaching professionals and staff member Leland Dexter had a great tournament by making it into the semi-finals.

On October 20-21, El Dorado Park also hosted the 29th Annual Long Beach Senior Tournament. Players from the age of 30 up to 90 are eligible to register and compete. The senior players who enter this tournament continue to inspire staff year after year. This year five gentlemen in their 80's competed.

USTA Beach Cities Junior Team Tennis is well under way at Billie Jean King Tennis Center (BJK) and El Dorado

Park Tennis Centers. At BJK, True GRIT Tennis Head Coach Richard Nguyen has two teams in both the 10 & under and 12 & under divisions. At El Dorado Park, Southern California Tennis Academy's Coach Cooper Bridge has 24 kids competing on 10's, 12's and 14's age divisions. These kids play their home matches at BJK or El Dorado Park on Saturday afternoons and also travel to other cities to play against other teams. This is a very fun and competitive league for all these young players and provides them a chance to be a part of a team.

In an effort to promote a new competitive tennis tournament format, the Southern California Tennis Association (SCTA) is joining with BJK and El Dorado Park to launch the Wilson FAST4 – Beach Cities Grand Prix Series. They were one of the first tennis facilities asked to participate. Fast4 is an exciting new one-day Round Robin format vs. the traditional Single Elimination format. Matches in the FAST 4 have a shortened format offering a "fast" alternative to traditional tennis. Matches consist of four points games, four game sets and four rules. Games use no-advantage scoring, tie-breaker at 3- all and the first to four games wins the set. Receiver picks side at 3-all. This will provide fun and competition in a one-day round robin format.

The month concluded by hosting the Moore League High School Girls Tennis Championships at the El Dorado Park Tennis Center. The finals are always held on the stadium courts at the Billie Jean King Tennis Center.

Congratulations to the Employee of the Month - Dave Hackett



Dave Hackett previously worked with the City of Long Beach Public Works and is now serving with the PRM Facility Maintenance Division. He has been the PRM resident painter for the past two years and has overseen all painting requests throughout the Department.

Dave is an innovative thinker and an amazing member of the team with a strong work ethic

and sense of commitment to projects that has saved the Department time and money.

Recently Dave was tasked with handling the deteriorating conditions of the playground equipment at Cherry and

Peace Parks. Meeting with a local supplier, he came up with a fast efficient process to handle the jobs that saved weeks of time and \$2,000 to \$3,000.

He enjoys challenging projects and takes them on with a passion, and his rehabilitation of the playgrounds showed his ability to go above and beyond expectations.

It is because of his team spirit and innovative and creative thinking that makes him an asset to the PRM team, and why he is a great choice for "Employee of the Month."

November - December 2017 Calendar of Events

November

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|--|--|
| Sun. 12: | 8 a.m. | Audubon Bird Walk | El Dorado Nature Center |
| Tue. 14: | 7 p.m. | *Family Nighthlife Walk | El Dorado Nature Center |
| Wed. 15: | 9 a.m. | Senior Citizen Advisory Commission Meeting | Long Beach Senior Center |
| | 6 p.m. | Commission on Youth and Children Meeting | Parks, Recreation & Marine Admin |
| Th. 16: | 9 a.m. | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting | El Dorado Senior Center |
| | 9:30 a.m. | *4 wk. Bubble, Fizz Boom! Preschool Program Begins | El Dorado Nature Center |
| | 4 p.m. | SNP Mobile Pet Vaccination Clinic | Uptown Dog Park at Scherer Park |
| Sat. 18: | 9 a.m. | *Kid's Fishing Derby | El Dorado East Regional Park |
| | 10 a.m. | Wetland Warriors Cleanup | Golden Shore Marine Reserve |
| | 10 a.m. | Hypertufa Planter Workshop | Rancho Los Cerritos |
| | 11 a.m. | Grand Opening of Seaside Park Artificial Turf Sports Field | Seaside Park |
| | 7:30 p.m. | *Tellabration Storytelling Event | El Dorado Nature Center |
| Mon. 20: | Varies | Fall Fun Days - Extended Youth Recreation Hours | Visit www.lbparks.org |
| Tue. 21: | Varies | Fall Fun Days - Extended Youth Recreation Hours | Visit www.lbparks.org |
| Wed. 22: | Varies | Fall Fun Days - Extended Youth Recreation Hours | Visit www.lbparks.org |
| | | Trees in the Bay Lighted | |
| Th. 23: | | Thanksgiving | |
| Fri. 24: | | City Holiday | |
| Mon. 27: | Varies | * Four – week M/W Swim Lessons begin | Silverado Park Pool |
| Tue. 28: | 10 a.m. | *8-wk. Tu./Th. Pre-School In Nature (Cozy Critters) Begins | El Dorado Nature Center |
| | Varies | * Four – week Tu/Th Swim Lessons begin | King Park Pool |
| Wed. 29: | 10 a.m. | *8-wk. Tu./Th. Pre-School In Nature (Cozy Critters) Begins | El Dorado Nature Center |

December

| | | | |
|----------|------------|--|--|
| Fri. 1: | Open Hours | Register for free youth basketball leagues starting in January | Visit www.lbparks.org |
| Sat. 2: | 10 a.m. | 1st Saturday Stewards Cleanup | El Dorado Nature Center |
| | 1 p.m. | "Creation Station" Youth Art Activities | Rancho Los Cerritos |
| | 2 p.m. | "Out of the Wilds" Native Plant Class - Free | El Dorado Nature Center |
| Tue. 5: | 11 a.m. | *Victorian Holiday Tea | Rancho Los Cerritos |
| Sun. 10: | 8 a.m. | Audubon Bird Walk | El Dorado Nature Center |
| | 1 p.m. | *Old Time Christmas Festival | Rancho Los Cerritos |
| Tue. 12: | 4 p.m. | *Cocoa With Santa | Rancho Los Cerritos |
| Th. 14: | 2:30 p.m. | Marine Advisory Commission Meeting | Long Beach Yacht Club |
| Sat. 16: | 10 a.m. | Wetland Warriors Cleanup | Golden Shore Marine Reserve |
| | 4 p.m. | *Cocoa With Santa | Rancho Los Cerritos |
| Wed. 20: | 9 a.m. | Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Meeting | Long Beach Senior Center |
| Th. 21: | 9 a.m. | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting | El Dorado Senior Center |
| Mon. 25: | | Christmas Day | |
| Tue. 26: | Varies | Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours | Visit www.lbparks.org |
| Wed. 27: | Varies | Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours | Visit www.lbparks.org |
| | 9 a.m. | *Winter Break Workshops (ages 5-8) Animal Buddies | El Dorado Nature Center |
| Th. 28: | Varies | Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours | Visit www.lbparks.org |
| | 9 a.m. | * Winter Break Workshops (ages 5-8) Opossum-Odd-yssey | El Dorado Nature Center |
| Fri. 29: | Varies | Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours | Visit www.lbparks.org |
| | 9 a.m. | * Winter Break Workshop (ages 5-8) Secret Life of Seeds | El Dorado Nature Center |
| Sun. 31: | | New Year's Eve | |

*Call for registration and fee information.



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