

# We Create Community



## Long Beach City Council Approves Animal Care Services Strategic Plan



The vision of Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) is “A responsible, compassionate and informed community working together for the health and welfare of its animals.” LBACS’s mission

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

After two years of workshops, surveys and outreach involving community stakeholders, the Long Beach City Council approved a Strategic Plan for LBACS in March that will guide their work over the next three years to save more animal lives and implement operational changes to support their vision and mission.

In 2017, the Long Beach City Auditor recommended the development of a strategic plan to guide LBACS operations. JVR Shelter Strategies, specialists in large open-intake municipal animal shelters and the Adisa Group, specialists in organizational strategy assisted with a review of LBACS shelter operations, staffing, and resources. Nearly 200 recommendations were made based on these reviews.

In 2018, Mayor Robert Garcia convened the Mayor’s Animal Care Visioning Task Force with representatives from animal rescue organizations, shelter volunteers, and animal advocates. They focused on how to implement audit recommendations, volunteer and adoption programs, the relationship with spcaLA and, a “no kill” focus.

The Compassion Saves Model adopted in 2019 is a framework for the Strategic Plan. The operational directive calls for

reducing euthanasia, increasing adoptions, and adding audit recommendations in the Plan. The Model outlines a commitment to foster care, and programs for behavior and training, spay and neuter, adoption, and pet retention; and forming a non-profit organization to raise funds for LBACS, maintaining LBACS as open shelter; and strengthening ties with rescue partners and volunteers.

The Task Force and LBACS staff developed goals, each with action plans to support the plan including adding full time Veterinarian and Adoption Coordinator positions, and continuing positive trends such as reduced shelter admission of cats and dogs and reduced euthanasia rates.

1. Promote LBACS as “healthy for animals” with a focus on daily care and enrichment for animals based in best practices and industry standards and decreasing the length of stay for all animals.
2. Share that LBACS engages the community; and works to increase pet retention and reunion, awareness of LBACS services, compliance with City ordinances and is proactive in launching a Humane Education program.
3. Ensure LBACS is fiscally sustainable by enforcing spcaLA agreements and developing a budget reflective of the Compassion Saves model by increasing fundraising and grants.
4. Establish criteria for group participation, develop a volunteer team, and create a foster program to ensure that healthy and treatable animals are saved.
5. Communicate that LBACS promotes wellness and self-care, supports staff’s understanding of their role in the Compassion Saves model and creating a program to support lifelong learning.

The Task Force and LBACS staff will emphasize public engagement for the life of the plan. The document will continue to evolve and progress updates will be shared with the public. To view the LBACS Draft Strategic Plan, and provide feedback, visit [www.longbeach.gov/acs/about-us/strategicplan](http://www.longbeach.gov/acs/about-us/strategicplan).



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

Happy Springtime! This month's message is being brought to you by the color ORANGE and the number 4 (FORE). With the community's focus upon adhering to the health protocols, Long Beach has finally arrived at the Orange Tier for reopening. For our Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services array of programs and facilities, this is a huge step forward into what am calling our "new normal". The Community Recreation Services team is recalling some of our aquatics team members back from their reassignment to essential duties in other departments so we can reopen our two indoor pools. Silverado Pool will be the first to reopen for scheduled lap swimming and followed shortly thereafter by King Pool for similar recreational swimming. Until we advance into the Yellow Tier, this will be our only indoor facilities that are able to welcome the public back.

As for my liberal use of the number 4, "FORE!" has been heard often across our City golf courses over the past year. Fortunately for the lovers of golf, the health orders throughout the pandemic have allowed our courses to remain open with certain, reasonable restrictions. In my most recent virtual meeting with American Golf, our course management partner, I learned of a significant number of their planned improvements for the coming year. I thought it would be good to share and highlight some of those projects in my Spring message. Across

the five golf courses: improvements to the parking lots with repairs, new slurry seals and striping, bunker and tee box renovations, various clubhouse, pro shop and cart barn improvements, landscape upgrades, driving range netting replacement and food service enhancements. In terms of tournament play, the following update was provided:

### **2021 Golf Tournament update**

- Currently American Golf can host events if the number of golfers does not exceed the normal number of golfers at the course on a regular day.
- American Golf is starting slow and only allowing the Men's and Women's Club to book in advance to make sure the tournaments are safe and the events go smoothly.
- If you postponed a tournament from 2020, American Golf is taking reservations for 2021.
- If you do NOT have an event for 2021, American Golf is not taking reservations until later in the year.

With the month of April celebrating Earth Day and Arbor Day (my favorite holiday, by the way), throughout the month our Parks Maintenance Operations Bureau team has been working with community partners to plant hundreds of trees in our parks and public spaces. Greening up the city with beautiful trees that also help clean our air are great reasons to keep planting the best trees in the best locations.

Animal Care Services will be scheduling their popular Adoption Waggin' out into the community with excellent opportunities on the second Saturday each month for individuals and families to welcome into their homes an adorable dog or cat. ACS is open for adoptions by appointment to help you grow your furry family.

As things are opening more in Long Beach, our Park Planning and Partnerships Bureau team has been advancing great community partnerships for park improvements, community gardens, park concessions and neighborhood collaborations. The team's pursuit of grant funding for capital improvement projects are key to realizing the significant number of park vision plans!

The PRM Business Operations Bureau team has been diligently working on the department's FY/22 budget. They also have been preparing for presentations to City Council on a wide range of fees that have been evaluated for updating. As Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Care Services plan for reopening, the Business Ops team also is super important to bring on new hires for summer, assisting in managing our teleworking schedules and monitoring the current furlough program that tentatively will end this month.

Enjoy the beauty of Spring!

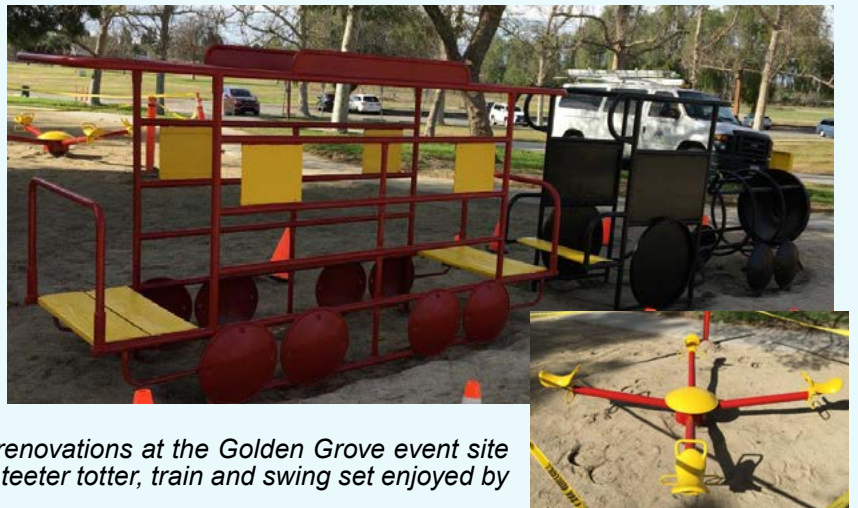
## El Dorado Nature Center's Nature Detectives After School Camp Coming in May



New sessions of the popular Nature Detectives after school camp program at El Dorado Nature Center will take place in May. Registration for the four-week program, available for children ages 5 to 10 including Kindergarten-First Grade and Second-Third Grade groups begins April 20 at 8 a.m. Designed to ignite an interest in nature through hands-on activities, Nature Detectives follows a curriculum that corresponds to grade-level content standards for elementary-aged students. All sessions will follow COVID-19 safety protocols.

Registration begins Tuesday, April 20 at 8 a.m. online at [LBParks.org](http://LBParks.org) and in person at El Dorado Nature Center, located at 7550 E. Spring Street. Camp sessions are \$80 per participant. Registration will continue until full or May 4, whichever comes first. Enrollment must correspond with the participant's current grade level and their birthday must be before Sept. 2, 2015. All camp sessions will take place from 2:30 to 4 p.m., with check-in and medical screenings beginning at 2:15 p.m. each day.

## El Dorado East Regional Park Golden Grove Event Area Upgraded With New Playground and Enhanced Amenities



*PRM Facility Maintenance staff contributed to the renovations at the Golden Grove event site by refurbishing adjacent playground elements. The teeter totter, train and swing set enjoyed by children for decades were sanded and re-painted.*

A new playground and improved amenities have been added at the Golden Grove event area in El Dorado East Regional Park.

The new playground, designed for children from ages two to 12 years has a nature theme with colors that blend into the park surroundings. The space encourages children to be more active during play with fun climbers, slides, swings, spinners, a spinning swing, balancing elements, musical chimes and more. Large integrated shade structures help keep the space cooler and more comfortable for the entire family. Benches, new surfacing and sand were added.

Accessibility was a focus in the overall Golden Grove area with new asphalt and concrete improvements to comply with the Americans With Disabilities ACT (ADA). New benches, bike racks, barbecue areas and added LED lighting will enhance the park goers experience.

The cost of the new playground is approximately \$500,000, allocated from Measure A.

Residents are encouraged to visit the new and improved Golden Grove event space and playground.

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## Grounds Maintenance Partnership With CCLB Tree Planting

Communities in north and west Long Beach will soon breathe easier and enjoy greener surroundings thanks to a partnership between Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) and the Conservation Corp of Long Beach (CCLB) to plant hundreds of trees in these neighborhoods. The trees will help to reduce greenhouse gas, reduce rates of asthma, and beautiful public open spaces.



Oak, Crape Myrtle, Pine, and Tristania. These plantings are an important part of the City of Long Beach's work toward revitalizing our valuable urban forest.



This project is made possible by the State of California Proposition 84 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. Prop 84 distributes funds to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for activities that reduce greenhouse emissions, sequester carbon, protect water supplies and/or quality, or conserve other natural resources. These activities include tree planting, drought-resistant vegetation installations, and irrigation system installation to conserve water or establish plants, watershed protection and storm water capture and infiltration.

PRM and CCLB staff worked together to identify appropriate tree specifics for 15 parks and began work in mid-March with the planting of a variety of trees including Jacaranda,

The partnership benefits PRM by providing and planting the trees, while the Grounds Maintenance Department oversees the establishment of the trees. The young adult CCLB Corps members gain from being trained in basic arboriculture and proper landscaping alongside the knowledgeable Grounds Maintenance gardening staff.

The Conservation Corp of Long Beach is a local nonprofit organization that seeks to develop and empower at-risk youth through service, conservation and education. Visit <http://www.cclb-corps.org/about-us/> to learn more about CCLB.

## Wetland Warriors Cleanup Program to Resume



Only five percent of California's once vast coastal wetlands remain today. Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine's El Dorado Nature Center is resuming their Wetland Warriors Volunteer

program to provide an opportunity for the community to help protect the critical habitat at Golden Shore Marine Biological Reserve, next to 101 Golden Shore Ave. Two hours of time can save wildlife.

Wetland Warriors will resume on Saturday, April 17 from 10 a.m.- noon. Spaces are limited and volunteers must call to register in advance. No walk ups will be allowed.

A Covid-19 volunteer waiver must be signed on site before participating. All Safer at Home Protocols must be maintained, including the use of face masks, social distancing and sani-

tation while volunteering per <https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-campgrounds-outdoor-recreation--en.pdf>



*Wetland Warriors Cleanups help local wildlife and their habitat.*

To register call (562) 570-1749 at least 48 hours before the event. Gloves and bags will be provided. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes. Rain cancels this event.

# Virtual and Outdoor Recreation Classes Offered This Spring

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine is offering several recreation classes in virtual and outdoor formats that will adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols. Residents can register online at [LBParks.org](http://LBParks.org) or by calling 562.570.3111.

## Virtual Classes

Participate from the comfort of home!

### Youth Enrichment



**Homework Help (Grades 1-2) and (2-3):** Programs assist students in getting ahead with school work.

**Math Development (Grades 2-6):** Kids can get the extra help they need to reach full their potential in mathematics!

**Reading Development (Grades 1-2):** Audio lessons, skills cards and short stories help students to master reading.

**Reading Development (Grades 3-6):** Program assists struggling students and challenges advanced students.

### Adult Fitness

**Dynamic Yoga: Physical Health & Mental Balance 16 Yrs. +:** Learn to refine breath, focus and postures.

**Fitness Fusion 16 Yrs+:** Fusion of strength, kick boxing, cardio and flexibility. Weights and resistance band needed.

**Holistic Yoga: Using a Chair as a Prop 16 Yrs+:** Chair used for poses, proper alignment, breathing and movement.

**Punch, Kick & Sweat 16 Yrs+:** Kick boxing increases cardiovascular endurance

### Adults 50+

**FUNctional Movement, Balance & Brains – 50 Yrs. +:** Improve balance, stability, agility, strength, and mental acuity.

## Outdoor Classes

Participants and staff will adhere to health screenings, participation limits, physical distancing and face masks.

### Pre School Sports

**TinyTykes Youth Soccer – Ages 2-3 and 4-5:** Develop soccer basics balance, concentration, and teamwork.

### Youth Sports

**Karate 5-12 Yrs:** Karate philosophy and rules help children develop a better form of discipline and respect.

**Shotokan Karate 5-17 Yrs:** Students develop self defense skills, discipline, concentration, coordination and focus.

### Adult Fitness

**CSI – Cardio Sculpt Low-Impact Aerobics – 12 Yrs +:** Increase cardio endurance, build core strength plus balance with mat pilates, weights and bands.

**Fitness Fusion – 16 Yrs+:** Class is a total body workout and a fusion of strength, kick boxing, cardio and flexibility.

**Yoga with Lacey – 16 Yrs+:** Alignment-based class includes movement focused upon strength, stretch and balance.

### Adult Sports

**Karate – OUTDOORS – 12 Yrs+:** Karate philosophy and rules develop a better form of discipline and respect.

**Shotokan Karate – 18 Yrs+:** Japanese karate developed from martial arts “empty hand” fighting. The Shotokan style one begins with humility.

### Adult 50+ Fitness

**Chair Based Yoga – 50 Yrs+:** Chair used for poses and movements. Meditation, breathing and relaxation techniques included.

**Gentle Yoga, All Levels – 50 Yrs+:** Improves flexibility, strength, balance well-being. Bring yoga mat and towel.

## El Dorado Nature Center's Tent Under the Stars



The El Dorado Nature Center Visitor Center stood out against a backdrop of green in a yellow and gray striped fumigation tent on March 9 and 10. The building was being treated for termite infestation and to protect it from future damage.

Due to the proximity of the fumigation to the trail entry point, trails were also closed during the project. Staff accommodated customers by handling annual parking pass transactions at the Rangers Station offices located across the street.

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## All Paws on Deck!



*PRM staff make it possible for man's best friend and their owners to take a water break together.*

PRM Maintenance staff recently completed improvements at Gayle Carter Dog Park (previously Scherer Park Uptown Dog Park). Tom Metzger and Michael Mazzoni designed a percolation pit and installed a drainpipe to eliminate drainage issues.

Dave Hackett helped to plan and coordinate the painting project. Pedro Sosa and Antonio Guerrero sprayed the perimeter of the dog park fencing to clean the surface. Dead trees were

cut into sections to provide play obstacles for the dogs and their humans a place to sit. Stumps were ground down to smooth surfaces and remove trip hazards. All soil surfaces were raked and groomed for a final finish.

Many thanks also to Juan Rodriguez and Clemente Cerrillos for their efforts.

## By the Numbers March

### Maintenance Operations Bureau

#### Community Service Workers Program

Attendance figures for the month of March 2021

Number of persons enrolled in the program for March: .41

Number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas:.....307

*(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)*

Number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands:.....442

*(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other various Wetlands)*

Number of hours worked at special clean-ups:.....256

**Total number CSW hours for March:.....1,005**

Work orders completed: .....733

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 February

Parks Potable.....7,891 ccf ..... \$46,381

Parks Reclaimed.....7,271 ccf ..... \$23,972

## New Signage at McBride Park



William Richburg, Pedro Sosa, and Antonio Guerrero from the Facility Maintenance Division designed, fabricated and installed a new sign for the California Recreation Center sign at McBride Park.

## March Employee of the Month: Sofia Hodjat



Congratulations to Sofia Hodjat, Employee of the Month for February 2021. Sofia has supported our older adults by overseeing the Information, Referral and Assistance Office at the at the Long Beach Senior Center for the past seven years. She recently answered a few questions so we could get to know a little more about her.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to soak up the sun and float in the water at the bay.

### What's your biggest work achievement so far?

Most recently, I created and distributed 600 care kits for older adults across the city to help alleviate the financial burden they may face because of the pandemic and to help combat social isolation. It has been an incredible project and the impact it had on the community was so rewarding to see.

### What's your own advice that you always follow?

My mom has always said, "The only time you get to talk about somebody without them being present, is if you're planning a surprise party for them," I try to live by that.

### What's one small thing that makes your day better?

When I'm driving to/from work and about to get out of my car, but a song comes on that's so good that you HAVE to stay and listen to it all the way through!

### Who inspires you?

My parents! The life they have created for my siblings and I as two immigrants from completely different worlds (Denmark & Iran) is so inspiring! They have taught me so much about hard work, embracing cultural differences, and finding the things that keep us smiling.

### What are you famous for at work?

After I finish up my Masters in Gerontology, I hope to become the "resident expert" on older adult issues, the Senior Guru! Currently though, I'm pretty famous for helping people with their computer issues.

### What song is always in your head when you're working?

"Stuck in the Middle with You" It's the theme song from Grace & Frankie, which I have been watching a lot of lately.

### If you could have a superpower, what would it be?

The ability to not get stung by mosquitos! Wouldn't make for a great superhero movie, but it would make camping and traveling much more enjoyable for me!

### Who would play you in a movie of your life?

Jennifer Lawrence! I think she is hilarious, and she is just as clumsy as I am.

### Using one word, how would you describe your family?

Connected.

### Would you rather be the best player on a horrible team or the worst player on a great team?

I'd rather be the worst player on a great team, because I would hopefully improve if surrounded by so many great players! However, a few years ago, I started playing ice hockey in an adult rec league with a couple of friends. Seems like I consistently end up one of the worst players on a pretty terrible team, we have a lot of fun though.

### What is the name of your imaginary boat in the marina?

Well, I have actually been fixing up an old fishing boat from the 70's for about 5 years now with my boyfriend, Brandon. After all this time, it still doesn't have a name yet, but we are taking suggestions!

## Pride Lifeguard Tower to Be Rebuilt After Fire



After the Pride Lifeguard Tower at 12th Place was destroyed in a fire in March, staff moved quickly to plan an even better replacement that will be installed in mid-May.

The Marine Safety Division had painted the structure in rainbow colors in honor of Pride Month last year. Marine Safety and all City staff are committed to the inclusion of LGBTQ staff and community members.

Within a few days Marine Maintenance did an awesome job fabricating a framework with three rainbow banners to position on the site to let everyone know the new tower is coming soon.

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## Back Together!!! With PRM's Help A Baby Owl is Reunited With Its Parent



El Dorado Nature Center staff were notified on March 18 that a Great Horned Owlet had fallen out of its nest at the Regional Park.

With the help of Christina and Mary Jane from South Bay Wildlife Rehab, Don Hard from Grounds Maintenance, the baby was placed in a temporary nest box and reunited with its parent 20 feet up in a pine tree.

Great job team!!!



### Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine

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[www.LBParks.org](http://www.LBParks.org)



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