DECEMBER 2017 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 12

We Create Community

LONG BEACH
PARKS•RECREATION•MARINE

Seaside Park Artificial Turf Sports Field Opens

Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez joins staff and community soccer leagues to cut the ribbon on the new Seaside Park artificial turf field.

The first artificial turf soccer field in the City of Long Beach opened on November 18 at Seaside Park.

Approximately .4 acres of an existing unsafe dirt sports field was converted to synthetic turf, composed of a natural, renewable blend of cork and sand infill that is resilient with good heat dissipating properties. The field does not require hydration except for cleaning, and has a life expectancy between eight and 13 years.

The field will help to meet the constant demand for playing locations and improved playing conditions. This conversion will reduce water use to help meet the state water reduction mandate, provide a more durable, consistent and safe playing surface; increase playable hours by eliminating field closure for sod replacement or rain events; and reduce field maintenance costs because there would be no need to reseed, re-sod or aerate.

The total project cost was approximately $1.7 million. The project was made possible using First Council District FY 14 one-time infrastructure funds, Community Development Block Grant funds, and a $600,000 grant awarded by the California Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Grant Program, offered by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Grants and Local Services.

Teams from the Deportivo Miguel Hidalgo and Cesar Chavez Youth Soccer Leagues played an exhibition game following the ribbon cutting and ceremonial soccer ball kick.

Artificial turf fields will also open in the near future at Drake/Chavez and Admiral Kidd Parks.

Parks, Recreation & Marine 2017 - A Great Year In Review

2017 was a year of achievement for Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine in creating and improving open space, completing projects that protect our environment, and for innovation and creativity in providing recreation programs that keep residents healthy, safe and connected.

Awards

LBPRM's Be S.A.F.E. (Summer Activities in a Friendly Environment) programs activated 11 parks during later weekday hours from June 19 to August 25. The Be SAFE program was awarded the 2017 "Award of Excellence" winner in the category of Neighborhood Building by the California Park & Recreation Society.

The Junior Beach Runners received the 2017 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence from the League of California Cities for "innovative programming that encourages healthy lifestyles."

Health & Safety

The PRM Administrative building was damaged in a rainstorm in January. More than 50 staff were relocated during the three-month renovation. Park, Facility, Beach and Maintenance Divisions handled damage at community centers, removed downed trees, built up sand berms to protect homes and pumped out flooded facilities and trails.

The non-profit organization "Women in Action Reaching Out" is providing meals for seniors that meet USDA standards at Chavez and Silverado Parks, Monday through Friday. Due to funding cuts at the Federal level, the previous provider stopped service at the two parks.

The Downtown Fitness Loop, the eighth in the City, opened on June 3. The 4.8-mile walking/running path is bordered by Alamitos Avenue, East Shoreline Drive, Aquarium Road, West Shoreline Drive and Ocean Blvd. The loop has five active stations such as pull-up/dip bars, and six passive stations such as balance stretch, and squats stations.

Parks and Open Space

On January 28, ground was broken for the 3.3-acre Molina Park at 4951 Oregon Avenue. The park will have a turf soccer field, playground, restroom, walking path, parking and landscaping.

The Marina Vista Sports Court opened on March 18. The 1,200 square-foot court includes a ten-foot basketball pole with a backboard and hoop, and a foursquare overlay on the court surface.

Robert Gumbiner Park opened on April 23. The 36,590 square-foot park includes a small performance area, playgrounds, a skate plaza, shade structures, a picnic area and public art pieces. The park has sustainability design features such as recycled pavement, bioswales, and large canopied trees.

The Willow Springs Park Wetlands Restoration project opened on October 21. The 12-acre site features a walking loop, native plants and trees, a constructed spring that mimics the original artesian spring that provided water to early Long Beach, a water retention basin that cleans and diverts water to be reused on site, and an outdoor classroom.

The new .43 acre Dog Park at Bixby Park opened on November 4. This new park is the 11th off-leash dog recreation area to open in the City of Long Beach.

Parks, Recreation & Marine 2017 - A Great Year In Review

Sustainability

New restoration improvements at Colorado Lagoon were revealed to the public on May 20, that included new sub-tidal and eelgrass habitats, a decomposed granite walking trail, pedestrian bridge improvements, a reclaimed water irrigation system, native plants and a vegetated bio-swale to remove pollution from surface runoff water.

Also on May 20, the new El Dorado Nature Center entryway and plaza was dedicated. Visitors are greeted by a new monument sign and gateway with separate tour group entrances, a new 80-seat amphitheater, a new ADA-compliant pedestrian bridge that connects to the Nature Center building and trails, and improved drainage and lighting.

Construction is underway for the Red Car Greenway at Fourth Street and Park Avenue. The 3.66-acre project will consist of a ten-foot wide concrete walking trail and drought-tolerant native landscaping on the former Pacific Electric Right-of-Way between Park Avenue and Ximeno Avenue.

The new walking path at Ed "Pops" Davenport Park opened to the public on September 30. The 2,200-decomposed granite path will eventually connect to the existing walking path at the park to form a .66-mile loop. The new park space will include lighted soccer fields, meandering walkways, and additional parking.

Efficiency

The "Partnerships to Enhance Parks, Programs and Services" (PEPPS) program is engaging individuals, businesses and organizations in sponsorships, donation opportunities and volunteer projects to improve facilities, programs and services. PEPPS will help to bridge the gap between resources and the need for improved parks, and more programs and services.

The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) seeks to increase youth participation in baseball and softball. LADF granted $2,975 along with in kind contributions to LBPRM to assist in providing T-ball programs to approximately 500 local youth this summer.

The Movies in the Park program is supported by a multi-year sponsorship for $38,000 a year from Signal Hill Petroleum. In 2017 the Port of Long Beach began sponsoring movies nights at Be SAFE program sites.

Long Beach Animal Care Services accepted the donation of a new mobile van to showcase adoptable animals. The van is fitted with kennels that can be opened to view animals, a retractable shade awning, air conditioning, and a meet-and-greet room for cats.

Animal Care Services held a successful "Kitty Hall" cat adoption event at City Hall on August 11, that led to 20 cats and kittens finding homes.

ACS saw a reduction of 35% in the number of cats and dogs euthanized at the shelter resulting in all time high live release rates of 94% for dogs and 72% for cats compared to 85% and 62% respectively in 2016.

Parks, Recreation & Marine 2017 - A Great Year In Review

Programs

LBPRM wound down the 8th year of the "100 Days of Summer" in Long Beach with a free concert by Trinity on August 25 at Marine Stadium. Families enjoyed a free Kids' Zone, food trucks and dancing to the sounds of Journey, Foreigner and Styx.

Marking its 108th year, the Long Beach Municipal Band expanded to a six-week concert season, and added Veterans Park on it's list of performance locations.

This past summer Long Beach Unified School District once again provided free swim for youth at City-operated pools, including Belmont Plaza, King, and Silverado Park Pools, as well as Millikan, Jordan, and Cabrillo High School Pools.

Homeland Cultural Center showcased their diverse performing ensembles at its annual Dance Fest in July. The free event featured West African drum and dance, Aztec dance, Cambodian dance and martial arts, Micronesian music and dance, pop-locking, hip-hop, and Hmong traditional arts performances.

The Los Angeles Kings hockey team conducted a free street hockey clinic for Winter Fun Days participants, and supported the All City Beach Day event, bringing close to 2,400 youth to the beach for a day of adventures in the sand.

By the Numbers: Community Recreation Services: October 2017

Permits to Gather	137
Reserved Picnic Sites	20
Number of Contract Classes	204
Facility Use Permits Issued	69
Field Use Permits Issued	54
El Dorado Regional Park Annual Passes	476
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries	8,727
Adult Sports League Participants	8,086
Visits to City Pools	16,708
Youth and Teen Participants	47,957
Senior Citizen Participants	30,179
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center	22,930

Youth Ball Hockey League Begins

Rodrigo Lopez from Chavez Park is suited up courtesy of the LA Kings to play the first official Ball Hockey League game at LBPRM.

The Los Angeles Kings have sponsored the league for ages 5-14 with donations of 200 hockey sticks and balls, and goalie equipment and goals.

The Kings also conducted free clinics for the youth to introduce them to the fundamentals of the game. Ten Long Beach park teams and two from the City of Signal Hill are learning to pass, shoot and score while having fun.

Youth Fishing Derby Was Fun For All

Every November, young anglers look forward to the free children's fishing derby at El Dorado Regional Park.

This year's event was held on November 18 and was supported by the Daniel Hernandez Youth Foundation, an organization that uses fishing as an activity to build youth self-esteem and self-confidence and provides an introduction to Marine Sciences. The event gives youth an opportunity to experience sport fishing.

Approximately 500 youth and family members caught a lot of the 1,900 pounds of fish stocked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Fishing poles and tackle to catch fish were provided to children under age 15.

Let LBPRM Help You Finish Your Holiday Shopping

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (LBPRM) is a great place to shop for the holidays and offers a wide variety of unique items for sale.

LBPRM gift certificates, redeemable for classes, facility reservations and El Dorado Regional Park parking passes make gift giving easy. The certificates are available for sale at the Department Administration Office at 2760 Studebaker Road, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The El Dorado Nature Center Bookstore, at 7550 E. Spring Street is open Tuesday through Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and offers a wide array of merchandise including T-shirts with nature images for both children and adults, handmade jewelry, sarongs, wind chimes, nature-themed books, field guides and soaps.

The Rancho Los Cerritos Museum Shop, 4600 North Virginia Road, offers books on California history, note cards, jams made from the garden's bounty, handmade scented soaps and pressed flower candles, and old-time children's toys such as La Grace, Hoops, tin whistles and marbles. The shop is open Wednesday-Sunday between 1-5 p.m.

So, skip the mall and enjoy a visit to the park instead where you can relax, have fun and find great gifts for the holidays.

Know Your Long Beach Parks: Overlook Park

The beautiful .4-acre Overlook Park (also known as Naples Plaza) has a great view of the Naples Bay with the Vista Del Golfo walkway along side it.

This bay front park is an elongated 15 foot wide strip of land running from the west end of Corso di Napoli to the east end of Corso di Oro. The park provides street frontage to the properties on either side of Naples Plaza. In January 1965, the City Council approved a contract for construction of the park. Planting was completed in April of the same year. The park includes benches, turf and palm trees.

Employee of the Month: Heidi Mazas

Congratulations to Heidi Mazas, who was named Employee of the Month for November, 2017.

Heidi came to Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine from the City of Signal Hill where she worked for 15 years. For the past two years, she has served as Community Services Supervisor at Cesar Chavez Park where she demonstrated strong leadership skills. Heidi provides excellent customer service to both participants and parents in the programs she supervises. She has worked hard to develop good rapport and working relationships with staff of all levels. Heidi is friendly and helpful and sets an excellent example for her staff by making safety her highest priority.

Heidi also goes above and beyond by serving on the Teen Committee and the CPRS District 10 Board of Directors. Heidi was recently assigned to Houghton Park and will be working with the staff there to continue to do great things for the community. She is an employee of the highest caliber and is very deserving of this recognition.

Tennis Update

The Billie Jean King (BJK) and El Dorado Park Tennis (ED) Centers ended a busy summer and fall tennis season this November.

The Thanksgiving Junior Tennis Camps held at both BJK and ED offered training sessions for the beginner tennis player to the advanced college-level player and were well attended. The campers had fun and a great workout while learning the game of tennis.

This year, as a thank to our tennis patrons for their support and loyalty this year for our tennis centers, First Serve held a Customer Appreciation Day on November 25. Attendees played in a doubles round-robin, took part in a tennis clinic offered by our teaching professionals, won prizes and gift certificates during the raffle and were offered a tasty dinner afterwards. The round-robin had 56 players on court for each round. We appreciate our patrons and enjoyed showing our thanks and loyalty with this event.

Even with the slower and colder holiday season, both locations still have plenty of fun activities planned.

The USTA will host a new USTA tournament series at ED named the Wilson Beach Cities FAST4 Grand Prix. FAST4 is an exciting new one-day tournament that uses a Round Robin vs. traditional Single Elimination format that provides plenty of competition and fun for players. The shortened format is a “fast & fun” alternative to traditional tennis tournaments where you may only play one match.

The Southern California Tennis Association is coming to ED to talk to Long Beach high school Junior Varsity and Varsity teams about the “Tennis on Campus” program held at many colleges and how they can get involved.

We wish everyone a v ery Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year! - Cathy Jacobsen, First Serve Tennis

Trees in the Bay Light Up the Holiday Season

Every year in Long Beach, the holiday season comes to life with the installation of lighted tree structures that float on local waterways. Since 1949, when a local resident first built and cast a tree structure onto Alamitos Bay, the decorative trees have lit up the nights throughout the holidays.

The LBPRM Marine Maintenance Division manages the program including repairing the wooden structures, stringing and testing lights, and anchoring the trees in place.

This year a total of 60 trees will be displayed at locations including Alamitos Bay, Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier, Rainbow Lagoon, Rainbow Harbor, Spinnaker Bay, and Colorado Lagoon. The lakes at El Dorado Park West and Heartwell Park will also have trees.

While the Colorado Lagoon will still look festive, it will have two fewer trees than in previous years due to a new eel grass habitat in the north section of the Lagoon. The trees were also converted to a helical or spiral anchor that is twisted into the ground instead of the concrete bases that could scrape the lagoon bottom and damage habitat.

Staff is proud to bring these colorful trees to life to celebrate the holiday season.

Rainbow Harbor

Spinnaker Bay

The Peninsula

Upper Alamitos Bay

By the Numbers: Maintenance Operations Bureau - November 2017

Community Service Workers (CSW) program

Number of persons enrolled in the program for November.....73

Total number of CSW Hours for November.....1,614

Total number of hours worked at Queensway Bay.....24
(Water cleanup, debris removal, litter pickup)

Total number of hours worked at Beach Maintenance.....144
(Litter pickup on beachess, parking lots, Belmont Pool, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula)

Total number of hours worked at Marine Maintenance.....230
(Litter pickup at Belmont Pier, maintenance building, and custodial work)

Total number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas.....263
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)

Total number of hours worked at Tree Farm.....40
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility)

Total number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands.....304
(Litter and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon)

Total number of hours worked at special clean-ups.....1,598
(Neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti paint-outs and community events)

Work orders completed.....442
Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis 172
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 October 2017
Parks and Street Island Potable.....32,914.....$126,918
Parks and Street Island Reclaimed.....56,916.....$102,953

December 2017 - January 2018 Calendar of Events

December

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	

January

Mon. 1		New Years Day	
Tue. 2	Varies	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	Visit www.lbparks.org
	9 a.m.	* Winter Break Workshops (ages 5-8) Art Adventures	El Dorado Nature Center
Wed. 3	Varies	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	Visit www.lbparks.org
	9 a.m.	* Winter Break Workshops (ages 5-8) Winter Shadows	El Dorado Nature Center
Th. 4	Varies	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	Visit www.lbparks.org
	9 a.m.	* Winter Break Workshops (ages 5-8) Which Way Did He Go?	El Dorado Nature Center
Fri. 5	Varies	Winter Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	Visit www.lbparks.org
	9 a.m.	* Winter Break Workshops (ages 5-8) Earthsavers	El Dorado Nature Center
Sat. 6	10 a.m.	1st Saturday Stewarts Cleanup	El Dorado Nature Center
	2 p.m.	"Out of the Wilds" Native Plant Class - Free	El Dorado Nature Center
	Hours Vary	*8-wk. Saturday Swim Lessons Begin	Belmont Plaza Pool
	Hours Vary	*8-wk. Saturday Swim Lessons Begin	King Park Pool
Sun. 7	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 8	Hours Vary	*4-wk. Mon./Wed.. Swim Lessons Begin	Silverado Park Pool
Th. 11	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Yacht ClubMon. 15
		Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration	
Wed. 17	9 a.m.	Senior Citizens Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
	3 p.m.	Volunteer Opportunities Open House	Rancho Los Cerritos
	6 p.m.	Commission on Youth and Children Meeting	Parks, Recreation & Marine Admin
Th. 18	9 a.m.	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Senior Center
Sat. 20	10 a.m.	Wetland Warriors Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Wed. 24	1:30 p.m.	House Docent Training Begins	Rancho Los Cerritos
Mon. 29		Spring "Recreation Connection" Program Registration Guide Published	

***Call for registration and fee information**.

NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER!

LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE SELECTED BEST IN THE NATION

Like

like us on facebook

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine
2760 Studebaker Road - Long Beach, Ca 90816-1697
Phone: 562.570.3100 Fax: 562.570.3109

long beach airport
where the going is easy®

email: LBParks@longbeach.gov website: www.LBParks.org website: www.lgb.org