

# We Create Community



## A Look Back at 2018: A Year of Accomplishments

The year 2018 was marked with milestones, awards and recognitions for Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM). PRM broadened the equitable provision of programs, improved Animal Care Services results, and improved parks and beaches.

### Awards, Recognitions, Milestones

PRM rose to number 21 among the 100 largest U.S. city park systems in the Trust for Public Land’s (TPL) 2018 ParkScore® Index survey, a rise from 2017’s 24<sup>th</sup> rank. TPL commended PRM for walkable park access, investment in parks and recreation per resident, the number of off-leash dog recreation areas, and senior centers serving residents throughout the City.



The Long Beach Shoreline Bicycle and Pedestrian Path turned 30 in 2018. The three-mile path spans the beach from Alamitos Avenue to 54<sup>th</sup> Place. An 11-foot wide Pedestrian Path opened next to it in May, 2015.

The American Planning Association recognized Robert Gumbiner Park for Excellence in Urban Design.

The Southern California Association of Governments also honored the Willow Springs Restoration, along with the City’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans for Outstanding Achievement in Sustainability.

Alamitos Bay, Shoreline and Rainbow Harbor Marinas received five-year recertification from the Clean Marine industry alliance that promotes environmentally clean marinas and boat yards.



The California Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) awarded the Public Outreach Award of Merit for the Uptown Open Space Vision Plan, which involved residents in identifying open spaces for North Long Beach. CCAPA also recognized the Willow Springs Wetlands Restoration Project that restored 11 acres of a 48-acre degraded site into wetlands and preserved the history and topography of the site.

In October, the Chavez Park Jenny Oropeza Community Center social hall was renamed the “Ruth Ricker Social Hall” in honor of former community leader and Senior Advisory Commissioner Ruth Ricker.



### Recreation Equity

The “Be S.A.F.E.” (Summer Activities in a Friendly Environment) program extended supervision hours at 11 parks this past summer. By keeping selected parks activated in the evening hours, residents had many options for recreation and spending time together. The program was offered Monday through Friday, from June 18 through August 24, from 5 - 8 p.m.

# 2018: A Year in Review

Three new all-inclusive swings were installed at Los Altos Park funded by the Fourth District City Council Office.

Six pools operated by PRM offered 1,064 youths swim scholarships in the Long Beach area funded by the 2018 LA84 Foundation's Summer Splash program. A total of 216 competitive scholarships were given out allowing participants to compete on teams for Water Polo, Swim, Dive, and Artistic Swim.

For the 9<sup>th</sup> year, PRM and the Long Beach Convention and Visitor's Bureau promoted opportunities to "stay and play" in Long Beach during the summer through the website, [www.100daysofsummer.org](http://www.100daysofsummer.org), where residents can see free and low cost ideas for fun activities without having to travel far or spend a lot of money.

## Animal Care Services

Animal Care Services Bureau (ACS) works to reduce shelter population and euthanasia rates, and improve outcomes for the animals visiting the City's shelter.

ACS statistics for the first eight months of 2018 showed them on track for another year-over-year decrease in impounds and euthanasia annually for cats and dogs combined. In 2017 the combined live release rates for dogs and cats was 81%, higher than Los Angeles and Orange County rates, and an improvement over 2016 statistics. The City continues to show improvements in total live impounds, total euthanasia, and live release rates year-over-year, over the last several years.

A City Auditor review identified best practice recommendations to assist ACS in achieving improved operational efficiency, effectiveness, and service to the community, including a long-term strategic plan to identify priorities and align resources and a mayoral-appointed Animal Care Visioning Task Force to provide input into the plan.



The new 500-square foot Reed's Corner Dog Play Yard opened in March. Staff says that 20-30 minutes of play offers physical and mental benefits for dogs equivalent to an hour of walking outside on a leash.

## Parks and Beaches Development



The new Drake Chavez Greenbelt opened in January and created a 57-acre greenbelt along the lower Los Angeles River with links to the Los Angeles River Bike Path and connections to Drake and Loma Vista Parks.

The 3.6-acre Red Car Greenbelt opened in March, and is enhancing Long Beach's walkability and bikeability with a newly-paved path that adds routes for walkers and links to the bike path at Sixth Street.

A 6,500 square foot addition to the Houghton Park Community Center is under construction that will surround the 1930's section of the building and is designed to earn a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Rating.



Artificial turf sport fields reduce water use, increase playable hours per field and lower maintenance costs. New artificial turf fields were installed at Admiral Kidd Park, Molina Park and at Drake Park.



Four Measure A tax funded playgrounds for ages 2-5 and 5-12 were opened. Jackson Park's playground features a new play structure with shade and swings. Los Cerritos Park Playground's tree house-themed structures and zip line are very popular. Veterans Park offers the first playground in the state to integrate challenge course and traditional play structures. The Whaley Park Playground arts and science theme, enhances the park's arts and sciences programming and camps.



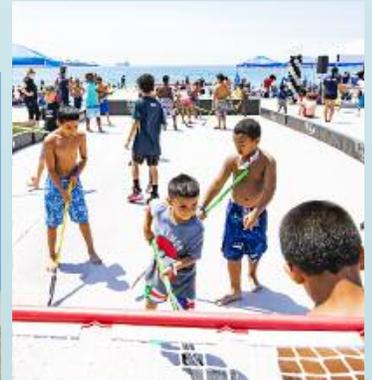
A ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of the multi-year rebuild of the Alamitos Bay Marina was held in April. The \$105 million dollar project included the complete upgrade of more than 1,600 boat slips throughout the marina along with additional infrastructure improvements.



C. David Molina Park opened in August. The 3.3-acre park was built as part of a development agreement associated with homes in the Riverdale residential tract. It includes a synthetic turf sports field, playground, fitness stations, restroom facility, walking path, parking, and landscaping.

The progress toward enhancing recreation facilities throughout the city continued with a groundbreaking for the expansion of 14th Street Park. The project entails creating an eastern gateway with hardscape and landscape and a gateway sign. The community will be involved in the design process to fine tune park future elements.

## Partnerships



On August 16, almost 2,000 youth from PRM programs came to Claremont Beach for the Annual All-City Beach Day. Youth were able to play in the surf and sand and create life-long memories. For the third year in a row, the Los Angeles Kings hockey team sponsored the event and provided a pizza lunch, distributed backpacks and school supplies, and organized street hockey games for the kids to enjoy.

The LA Kings also paid to re-surface sports courts at Heartwell and Cherry Parks, the game sites for the Kings-sponsored ball hockey season. Other professional sports team sponsorships include the Los Angeles Clippers Basketball Team support of free youth basketball leagues and the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation sponsoring youth T-ball and baseball programs.



The restored DeForest Wetlands Restoration Project opened 34 acres of land for public use, by converting areas of overgrown vegetation land devoid of habitat, into a river parkway with freshwater wetlands, wildlife habitat, recreational trails, native plants, and interpretive signage, while retaining flood control properties. Public use includes bird watching, walking, horseback riding, and educational tours and programs.



In June, improvements made to the Bayshore Area included a rebuild of the Leeway Pier, enhancements to the concessions stand, new free public lockers for beach-goers, the rebuilt of the swim dock and pier, new recreational water features, and the installation of an aquatic playground near the swim dock

# Community Recreation Services

## Winter Break Fun Days



Local youth stayed active over winter break with Double Dutch and Just Dance Battles, dodgeball and soccer; made gingerbread houses, snow globes, holiday cards and New Year's hats; and dozens had fun at ugly sweater parties and ornament exchanges.

Parks, Recreation and Marine made sure local youth and teens had plenty of opportunities for fun at free recreation programs during the recent two-week school winter break. The programs were held at parks throughout the city so that all families had easy access. The programs ran from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on December 24, 26, 27, 28 and 31, and January 2 through 4.

Youth ages five to 12 enjoyed free games, crafts, sports tournaments, field trips, and holiday celebrations at Admiral Kidd, Bixby, Chavez, Coolidge, Drake, M.L. King Jr., McBride, Orizaba, Pan American, Ramona, Scherer, Seaside, Silverado, Somerset, Stearns Champions, Veterans, Wardlow, and Whaley Parks.

Teens also enjoyed free activities at Chavez, Coolidge, McBride, and Silverado Parks and the Freeman Center.



### By the Numbers: Community Recreation Services: November 2018

Permits to Gather.....	71
Reserved Picnic Sites.....	7
Facility Use Permits.....	56
Field Use Permits Issued.....	48
El Dorado Regional Park Paid Entries.....	8,488
El Dorado Regional Park Passes.....	711
Visits to City / City Operated LBUSD Pools.....	20,007
Youth and Teen Participants.....	8,764
Senior Citizen Participants.....	24,794
Visits to El Dorado Nature Center.....	26,995
Number of Contract Classes (Spring).....	585
Number of Contract Classes (Summer).....	617
Adult Sports League Participants (Spring).....	34,758
Adult Sports League Participants (Summer).....	37,350

# By the Numbers: Maintenance Operations Bureau December 2018 Statistics

During December Community Service Workers (CSW) helped the Department to meet its objectives.

Total CSW enrollment for December.....40  
 Total CSW hours for the month of December.....1,645

CSW hours worked at Queensway Bay.....15  
*(Water cleanup, debris removal, litter pickup)*

CSW hours worked at Beach Maintenance.....220  
*(Litter pickup along beach areas, parking lots, Belmont Pool area, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula area and maintenance yard)*

CSW hours worked at Marine Maintenance.....395  
*(Litter pickup around various sites including Belmont Pier, maintenance building, and assist with custodial work)*

CSW hours worked at El Dorado Park areas.....149  
*(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)*

CSW hours worked at Tree Farm.....145  
*(Litter pickup, custodial and facility)*

CSW hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands.....303  
*(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other Various Wetlands)*

CSW hours worked at special clean-ups.....418  
*(Neighborhood clean-ups, graffiti paint-outs and community events)*

Work orders completed by Maintenance Bureau...285  
 Restrooms cleaned daily.....172  
 Facilities and Gymnasiums cleaned and stocked daily...28

Park turf acres maintained.....814  
 Park landscape acres maintained.....2310  
 Street (medians) turf acres maintained.....53  
 Street landscape acres maintained.....143



## Free Youth Indoor Soccer Leagues

Season begins April 13, 2019

Online Registration February 5-March 11, 2019 Uniform Fee:\$10 (scholarships available)

**INDOOR SOCCER SEASON DATES: SATURDAYS, APRIL 13 - MAY 18, 2019**

Practices begin the week of March 25

**Coed Soccer Ages 5-8**  
 (Born 2011-2014)

**Boys Soccer Ages 9-14**  
 (Born 2005-2010)

**Girls Soccer Ages 9-14**  
 (Born 2005-2010)

Please call your local park to sign up

Admiral Kidd	570-1600	El Dorado West	570-3325	Ramona	570-1665
Bixby	570-1601	Houghton	570-1640	Scherer	570-1674
Chavez	570-8890	King	570-4405	Seaside	572-5126
Cherry	570-1615	Mac Arthur	570-1655	Silverado	570-1675
College Estates	570-1710	Mc Bride	570-1605	Somerset	570-8915
Coolidge	570-1618	Miracle	619-1601	Stearns Champions	570-1685
Davenport	570-1665	Orizaba	570-1427	Veterans	570-1695
DeForest	577-1618	Pan American	570-1660	Wardlow	570-1705
Drake	570-1625			Whaley	570-1710

Visit [www.teamsideline.com/longbeach](http://www.teamsideline.com/longbeach) for registration information and links to your park site.

**WRAP SITES: 570-3530**  
 Burbank Elementary  
 Edison Elementary

**Garfield Elementary**  
 Grant Elementary  
 Herrera Elementary

**Hudson(Kinder-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**  
 King Elementary  
 Lafayette Elementary

Practices held outdoors, games held indoors.

## Davies Launch Ramp Planning Grant Received



The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine has received a \$300,000 Facility Planning Grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBAW) to design improvements for Davies Launch Ramp. The Davies Launch Ramp is located below the Davies Bridge at the cross street of Second Street and Marina Drive near Pacific Coast Highway and Second Street.

DBAW supports the operation and maintenance of publicly owned boat launching facilities. The grant will pay to complete designs, permits and establish an engineer's estimate of probable costs for future improvements that include replacing the existing seven-lane concrete v-grooved boat launch ramp with one that

meets current design standards. The concrete apron and slip protection would be replaced as needed, and the pile-guided dock and gangway used by trailer-able vessels would be replaced. The plan will also estimate costs for building a new restroom, overlaying and restriping the parking lot, replacing the boat wash station waste enclosures and lighting, installing a fish cleaning station and additional signage.

“Long Beach operates the largest municipally owned marina system in the United States,” said Mayor Robert Garcia. “The City is committed to providing the region with quality aquatics experiences. In April, we re-opened the Alamitos Bay Marina after a 105-million-dollar complete upgrade. We are excited about this opportunity to plan an upgrade to Davies Launch Ramp to continue to enhance our aquatic infrastructure.”

“Our marina system is one of the great aspects of living in Long Beach,” said Councilwoman Suzie Price. “DBAW’s planning grant for the Davies Launch Ramp renovation supports the City’s goal to provide affordable coastal access to residents and visitors.”

The completed plan will put the City in position to act when construction funding is identified for the project.

## Employee of the Month: Candace Montgomery



Congratulations to Candace Montgomery on being named Employee of the Month. Candace started with Parks, Recreation and Marine in 2005 working with youth sports and after school programs. She is currently a Recreation Leader Specialist at Orizaba Park where she is the Lead Coordinator. Candace answered a few questions that will let

readers know a little about her:

**What high school did you go to?** Poly High School.

**How many brothers and sisters do you have?** One Brother.

**Are you attending College/Major?** Cal State Long Beach, BA in Theater.

**What is your favorite food?** Any type of food, as long as it is tasty.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** A stable adult.

**Biggest pet peeve?** When people smack.

**Favorite color?** Lime Green.

**Favorite Movie?** Purple Rain.

**How long have you worked for Parks and Rec?** 13 years.

**What was your first job?** City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine.

**What do you like to do when you aren't at work?** Relax.

**Any other interesting fact about yourself that you would like to share?** I am a bundle of joy and I love to make people laugh.

## Animal Care Services Youth Explorer Glass Graduates

In December a new group of local youth who are considering careers in animal welfare and public safety graduated from Long Beach Animal Care Services Bureau Explorers program. Since 2011 more than 100 youth enhanced their self-confidence and gained knowledge about career paths in animal welfare. The program is operated with support from the Boy Scouts of America “Learning for Life” program that helps youth to enhance their confidence and self-esteem, and with the Long Beach Unified School District’s Linked Learning program and their Career Technical Internships to help students succeed in careers.

The Explorer program prepares youth ages 15-19 to transition from school to work. The curriculum incorporates field trips and presentations by animal care experts to show how animals are cared for and managed, and special investigations teams who discuss how animal incidents are reported and managed. Explorers are positively influenced by adult role models who demonstrate the importance of caring for animals and the impact of advocating for spay/neuter and adoption programs that contribute to Long Beach becoming the safest large City for people and animals.



Congratulations to the Explorer Class of 2018: Natalie Hooker, Jenin Alcaraz, Kiana Claro, Mellissa Crane, Sofia Galicia Canto, Nick Kefalas, Caleb Lee, Madelyn Lopez, Sa'naiya Lyon, Adiranna Morrow, Lola Powell, Monse Rojas, Jay Seol, and Zayra Victoria.

## Know Your Long Beach Parks: Peace Garden at M.L. King Jr. Park



Since 2010 an oasis of “peace, respect and understanding” has existed at Martin Luther King Jr. Park according to the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Healthy Active Long Beach Program and the Downtown Long Beach Lions Club. The two groups established the Peace Garden Enrichment Project at the park to promote healthy and sustainable food with a grant from the Long Beach Neighborhood Partnership Program and donations from the Downtown Long Beach Lions Club and local businesses.

The community garden has a series of raised beds and a small outdoor classroom area with a trellis, a greenhouse with an automatic vent and mist system and a seed library. Occasional gardening educational workshops and activities are held at the garden. The Health Active Long Beach Program maintains plots to grow produce and hosts free giveaways at harvest time.

The garden has a multi-cultural and multi generational following. The Peace Garden plots are offered free to the community for growing fruits and vegetables. Gardeners are asked to maintain and harvest them. Interested gardeners can sign up for a plot at the Central Facilities Center at M.L. King Jr. Park. For more information, contact [LBPeaceGarden@longbeach.gov](mailto:LBPeaceGarden@longbeach.gov).



# January - February 2019 Calendar of Events

## January

Sun. 13	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Wed. 16	9 a.m.	Senior Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 17	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Microchipping Clinic	Scherer Park
Sat. 19	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Mon. 21		M.L. King Jr. Birthday Holiday	
Sat. 26	10 a.m.	Stories of the Tongva People Lecture*	Rancho Los Cerritos

## February

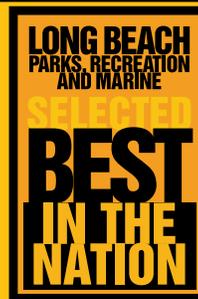
Sat. 2	10 a.m.	First Saturday Stewards Volunteer Cleanup	El Dorado Nature Center
	1 p.m.	Free Creation Station Youth Art Program	Rancho Los Cerritos
	2 p.m.	Out of the Wilds Into the Garden Native Plant Lecture	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 4	Varies	8-Week Monday/Wednesday Swim Lessons Begin	Silverado Park Pool
		Spring Class Registration Begins	Visit <a href="http://www.LBParks.org">www.LBParks.org</a>
Tue. 5	Varies	8-Week Tuesday/Thursday Swim Lessons Begin	King Park Pool
Th. 7	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination /Microchipping Clinic	Scherer Park
Sun. 10	8 a.m.	Audubon Bird Walk	El Dorado Nature Center
Th. 14	2:30 p.m.	Marine Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Yacht Club
Sat. 16	10 a.m.	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Wed. 20	9 a.m.	Senior Advisory Commission Meeting	Long Beach Senior Center
Th. 21	9 a.m.	Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting	El Dorado Park Senior Center
	4 p.m.	Low Cost Pet Vaccination and Microchipping Clinic	Scherer Park

\* Call for registration and fee information.

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## NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER!



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