

We Create Community



New Colorado Lagoon Playground Opens



The new Colorado Lagoon Playground at 5059 E. Colorado Street opened to the public on March 29. The new playground includes an inclusive children's play area designed for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12. Kids can enjoy active recreation on slides, swings, bridges and climbing walls, as well as areas to foster the imagination like a general store, ship mast and telescope. Other enhancements include new picnic tables and seating, landscaping beautification, new and upgraded pathways and other ADA amenities to create a more accessible atmosphere for all.

For the last 13 years, the City has been investing in Colorado Lagoon to restore its ecosystem, improve water quality, and restore and enhance recreational facilities with amenities like the new playground.

The Colorado Lagoon Park Playground project was made possible utilizing Tidelands Funds with supplemental funding from Measure A.

Director's Corner



I grew up when the seasonal advent of springtime saw April showers bringing on May flowers. In Long Beach, we are fortunate to have so many beautiful blooming trees, shrubs, and native plants within our park landscapes. With both Earth Day and Arbor Day ushering in environmental celebrations across the community with tree plantings, April will witness a return of beautification projects and park clean-up efforts thanks to neighborhood volunteers.

A great cause to celebrate recently was the dedication of our 10th Measure A funded new playground that was located alongside the Colorado Lagoon. The colorful play equipment was covered by scores of kids having fun while making new friendships. New picnic tables and enhanced landscaping were also welcomed improvements to the playground surroundings. The project represented another great collaboration between the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department and Public Works.

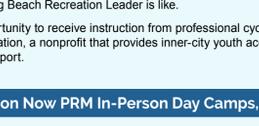
The 47th Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach attracted thousands of race-going enthusiasts to downtown streets this month. I was very proud of the excellent work of our Marine Bureau team who coordinated the floral displays at the Winners Circle and other high-profile race route areas that were televised for the national coverage.

The City Council supported by resolution at their April 5 meeting the proposed Lower LA River Recreation and Parks District. Led by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the park district will have 14 member cities along the Lower Los Angeles River and Rio Hondo along with three members of the public appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The RMC is coordinating the effort to form the District through the Local Agency Formation Commission process within the next few months. Significant benefits to Long Beach would be seeing coordinated park development, programming and funding across city boundaries and the strengthening of regional partnerships. Funding opportunities for operations, maintenance, land acquisition and park development.

Great enthusiasm for the growing interest in pickleball was apparent at a recent City Council meeting with a Council request for an update on the progress in identifying short-term and long range efforts to meet one of Long Beach's greatest unmet recreational needs. A similar level of energetic support was for a proposed vision plan for Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Both initiatives will be moving forward in the coming months with extensive community engagement.

April also is known as the beginning of "kitten season", so if you are interested in providing a loving home for new feline friend, please consider adopting one of our cats through Long Beach Animal Care Services. Enjoy the beauty of April on our beaches, within our parks and open spaces. Spring break camps proved to be popular and appreciated as things are finally seeming to return to the FUN that April's are known for in Long Beach.

Naturalist Notes: Blooming Beauty at El Dorado Nature Center



Spring has definitely sprung at El Dorado Nature Center. Staff and volunteers ask that the public just look at the colorful flowers but refrain from picking them. Flowers that are picked take away a valuable food source for the Center's wildlife and there won't be any seeds for next year.

Open House and Job Fair Highlights Opportunities for Summer



Hundreds of interested residents attended a Department Parks, Recreation and Marine Open House and Job Fair on March 12 at the Doris Topsy-Elvord Community Center at Houghton Park. The event provided information on current Parks, Recreation and Marine programs and services, a preview of this year's summer programming, and a job fair for those seeking summer employment.

Job Fair participants will be taken through preliminary interviews and had the opportunity to meet hiring supervisors and learn what a day in the life of a Long Beach Recreation Leader is like.

Youth attendees also had the opportunity to receive instruction from professional cycling coaches at a free bike workshop offered by the Bahati Group Foundation, a nonprofit that provides inner-city youth access to non-competitive and competitive cycling with resources and support.

Registration Going on Now PRM In-Person Day Camps, June 20 – August 26



Parks, Recreation and Marine will offer in-person Summer Day Camps June 20 - August 26. Youth ages 5-12 will enjoy games, crafts, physical fitness, enrichment activities and more that will follow COVID-19 safety guidelines.

The camps will keep kids active, engaged and healthy during the school break, and also serve the child care needs of families throughout the City.

Summer camps will operate Monday - Friday from June 20 - August 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for those enrolled in extended care. Visit LB Parks.org beginning April 13 for fee information.

The summer camps will take place at the following sites:

- Bayshore Park, 5415 E. Ocean Blvd.
- Belmont Plaza Pool, 4320 E. Olympic Plaza
- Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave.
- El Dorado Park West, 2800 N. Studebaker Rd.
- Houghton Park, 6301 Myrtle Ave.
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 1950 Lemon Ave.
- Pan American Park, 5157 Centralia St.
- Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St.
- Stearns Champions Park, 4520 E 23rd St.
- Veterans Park, 101 E. 28th St.
- Wardlow Park, 3457 Stanbridge Ave.
- Whaley Park, 5620 E. Atherton St.

For information about financial assistance available on a first come, first served basis, and more information about these programs and other activities for youth, visit LB Parks.org or call 562.570.3150.

Dodger Dreamteam Summer Season



Parks, Recreation and Marine staff is excited to be able to offer T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues for ages 5-8 and Baseball and Fastpitch Softball leagues for ages 9-17 this summer. Sponsored by the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (LADF) Dream Team Program, the program focuses on providing an inclusive, sports-based youth development program that addresses basic needs, education, and health. The program's goals include increasing participation of underrepresented groups and creating an environment that fosters social and emotional learning opportunities.

Parks, Recreation and Marine has been awarded LADF grants since 2017. The funding has assisted Parks, Recreation and Marine in providing baseball and softball programs to over 2,500 Long Beach youth. The program continued in 2021 after being cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and supported 828 youth softball and baseball players at 23 locations in the City of Long Beach.

LADF awarded Parks, Recreation and Marine a total of \$53,790 for a 2022, along with in-kind contributions, to support 924 youth softball and baseball players at 23 Long Beach locations with a program, coordinator, field maintenance, umpire fees, uniforms and equipment.

The Dreamteam Program is aligned with the City's Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults goals by providing health, mentorship, physical and mental health benefits to its participants and the Parks, Recreation and Marine Strategic Plan by providing meaningful recreational programming and events aimed to increase youth participation.

Registration will be held May 1-31 at www.teamsinline.com/longbeach. Practices will begin the week of June 13 and games will be scheduled starting the week of July 4.

For more information, call 562.570.1707.

Free Urban Planning Program for Teens



During March in collaboration with the Cal Poly Pomona College of Environmental Design and the Long Beach Community Design Center of Long Beach, Parks, Recreation and Marine offered Young Community Planners of Long Beach, a new urban planning program for ages 13 to 18 with an interest in city planning and development.

Participating youth met at Houghton and McBride Parks to learn about the urban planning process, which involves how city spaces and amenities are designed to best suit the needs of the population. Cal Poly's Urban and Regional Planning students and members of the Long Beach Community Design Center instructed the teens about building a better city while learning about sustainability, mobility, the history of Long Beach, and more. Teams gained an appreciation for their ability to help shape the place they live.

The City's Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults, adopted by the Long Beach City Council on Feb. 9, 2021, is a blueprint for supporting youth and emerging adults between the ages of 8 and 24 to become healthy and empowered individuals with the necessary resources to develop into their true authentic selves. The Young Community Planners of Long Beach program meets a goal of the Plan to promote inclusive spaces and equity by engaging youth in urban planning, including park planning efforts. View the plan at <https://bit.ly/3DLGboA>.

Long Beach (PRM) to Offer Spring Adaptive Youth and Adult Recreation Programs



Parks, Recreation and Marine will offer in-person adaptive recreation programs for middle and high school youth and adults, providing fun and enriching experiences such as art, games and fitness activities designed for people with disabilities from April 30 through June 11.

The Adaptive Recreation Programs will take place at Stearns Champions Park, located at 4520 E. 23rd St. The adult program will take place Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m., and the middle and high school programs, for youth grades six through 12, will take place Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per week and \$15 per week, respectively.

Registration is available in person at Stearns Champions Park by appointment only. To make an appointment or for more information, people may call 562.440.2867.

Both programs will maintain appropriate staff-to-participant ratios and other enhanced safety protocols for the health and safety of both participants and staff.

Summer Fun Days



Parks, Recreation and Marine will offer "Summer Fun Days," a free drop-in recreation program for ages 5-12 during the 10-week school break. The program's activities engage youth in supervised fun, including sports, games, arts and crafts and special events. This is a free drop-in program with no custodial child care. The program will run Monday through Friday, from June 20 to August 26, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

The program will be offered at the following parks: Admiral Kidd, Bixby, Chavez, Coolidge, Drake, El Dorado, Houghton, M.L. King Jr., MacArthur, McBride, Orizaba, Pan American, Ramona, Scherer, Seaside, Silverado, Somerset, Stearns Champions, Veterans, Wardlow, and Whaley.

For more information, call 562.570.3150 or visit LB Parks.org.

March By the Numbers

Maintenance Operations Bureau

Community Service Workers Program

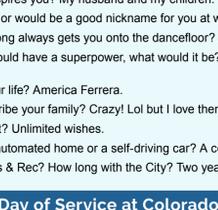
Attendance figures for the month of March 2021	
Number of persons enrolled in the program for March	37
Total number of hours worked at Beach Maintenance	130
(Litter pickup along beach areas, parking lots, Belmont Pool area, Ocean Blvd., Peninsula area and maintenance yard)	
Number of hours worked at El Dorado Park areas	333
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)	
Number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands	180
(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other various Wetlands)	
Number of hours worked at special clean-ups	72
Total number CSW hours for March:	752

Work orders completed	600
Restrooms cleaned on a daily basis bureau wide	172
Facilities and Gymsnasiums cleaned and stocked daily	28
Park areas maintained	
Park turf	810
Park landscape	143
Street (medians) turf	5
Street Landscape	143

MOB General Fund Water report for March

Parks Potable	22,221 ccf	\$108,927
Parks Reclaimed	36,825 ccf	\$89,077

Marine Maintenance Makes Life Colorful



Every year the Marine Maintenance team undertakes to beautify the track area of the Acura Grand Prix at Queensway Bay, where thousands of attendees and television viewers watch Indy cars race through Queensway Bay. This year Albert Estrella and Jeff King worked with the Parks, Recreation and Marine landscape contractor to add checkerboard plantings around the iconic Dolphin Fountain. Many of the flowers went into bloom and added a colorful welcome for race goers.



Gardener Albert Estrella from Marine Maintenance recently added colorful Snap Dragon plants around the Alamitos Bay Harbor Master Office Station 31.

Silverado Tennis Courts Lighting Upgrade



Tennis players at Silverado Park are appreciative of improved tennis court lighting upgrades. Parks, Recreation and Marine Electricians Omar Barboza and Daniel Mazzoni recently modified and upgraded the existing court lights to L.E.D. to provide optimal lighting conditions on the courts.

Congratulations February Employee of the Month: Stephanie Perez



Congratulations to Community Recreation Services Bureau Secretary Stephanie Perez on being named the February Employee of the Month. She recently answered a few questions about herself so we can get to know her better.

What's the last TV show you binge-watched? The Lost Kingdom.

What's the best thing you've learned in your current position? Think twice before you press "Reply all" lol.

What's your own advice that you always follow? Everything happens for a reason!

What's one small thing that makes you day better? My children's faces in the morning! ❤️

Who inspires you? My husband and my children.

What is or would be a good nickname for you at work? Steph.

What song always gets you onto the dance floor? Any song really... I like to dance =)

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? To get things done with a snap of a finger.

Who would play you in a movie of your life? America Ferrera.

Using one word, how would you describe your family? Crazy! Lol but I love them!

A genie gives you one wish. What is it? Unlimited wishes.

Would you rather have a completely automated home or a self-driving car? A completely automated home.

How long have you worked with Parks & Rec? How long with the City? Two years with PRM.

USC Day of Service at Colorado Lagoon

On March 12 USC Trojans from around the world came together to make a difference in their communities with their annual "Day of Service" event. One hard working group of 25 alumni came to Colorado Lagoon to make a difference in the landscaping and improvements to protect wildlife habitat.

Led by Beach/Queensway Bay Maintenance Supervisor Jeff King and supported by the Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) and the Los Cerritos Wetland Stewards (LCWS), the team put up snow fencing to protect 80 one-gallon California Golden Bush drought tolerant plants. These plants were installed along the walkway that separates the turf from the beach sand and act as a trash trap to prevent waterborne debris. They also mulched a walking path on the east bank to deter weeds and unwanted growth. The work was completed just before opening of the new Colorado Lagoon Playground on March 29.

Calendar

April

Th. 21	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Spring Break Day Camps for Ages 5-13, \$30 for the week	Visit LB Parks.org for locations
Fri. 22	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Spring Break Day Camps for Ages 5-13, \$30 for the week	Visit LB Parks.org for locations
Sat. 23	9 a.m.	4th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	7550 E. Spring St.

Mon. 25	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit Parkshore for parks and hours
Tue. 26	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Wed. 27	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Th. 28	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Fri. 29	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Sat. 30			

May

Sun. 1	Continuous	Dodger Dreamteam T Ball & Coach Pitch Registration opens	Visit teamsinline.com/longbeach
Mon. 2	Continuous	Summer Class Registration Begins	Register online at LB Parks.org
Tue. 3	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Wed. 4	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Th. 5	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Fri. 6	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Sat. 7	9 a.m. - noon	Free Summer Kick-off Concert!	Marine Stadium
Sun. 8		Mother's Day	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 9	2:30 - 5 p.m.	Free Mobile Recess Program	Atlantic Plaza Park, 1000 Via Wanda Craftsman Village Park, 850 Orange Ave. Rose Park, Orizaba and 8th St.
Tue. 10	2:30 - 5 p.m.	Free Mobile Recess Program	17th Street - between Henderson & Chestnut Atlantic Plaza Park, 1000 Via Wanda Craftsman Village Park, 850 Orange Ave.
Th. 12	2:30 - 5 p.m.	Free Mobile Recess Program	Rose Park, Orizaba and 8th St.
Fri. 13	2:30 - 5 p.m.	Free Mobile Recess Program	17th Street - between Henderson & Chestnut 23rd St - between Cedar & Chestnut Aves. Grace Park, 361 E. Plymouth Street

Mon. 16	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Tue. 17	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Wed. 18	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Th. 19	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Fri. 20	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Sat. 21	10 a.m. - noon	3rd Saturday Wetland Warriors Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Reserve
Mon. 23	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Tue. 24	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Wed. 25	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Th. 26	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Fri. 27	6 p.m.	Free Summer Kick-off Concert!	Marine Stadium
Sat. 28	9 a.m.	4th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	7550 E. Spring St.
Mon. 30			
Tue. 31	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5 -12), M-F	Visit LB Parks.org for parks and hours

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine

2760 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815

Phone: 562.570.3100 Fax: 562.570.3109

www.LBParks.org



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Email: LB Parks@longbeach.gov

Visit our website at: www.LBParks.org