

We Create Community



Partners of Parks Grant to Fund Fishing Programs and Conservation Efforts



Accepting Award Funds are L-R: Partners of Parks Executive Director Trinkka Rowsell, Santa Claus, Berkley Fishing Representative and Partners of Parks Assistant Director Randy Zarr.

With time on his hands after Christmas, Santa Claus made a visit to El Dorado East Regional Park on December 27 with his friends at the Berkley Fishing Company present a check to the Partners of Parks organization for \$22,000 to fund conservation efforts at the park.

Long Beach received the most votes out of five cities nationwide in a contest sponsored by Berkley fishing to win a fishing visit from Santa and funds will help restore habitat along the Regional Park lake edges, provide animal proof trash can lids and fishing line bins, and provide educational signage about the wildlife that share the park with visitors.

Hundreds of kids and their families came to fish, say hi to Santa, learn about conservation and fishing programs, and participate in exciting prize drawings.

"We were so excited to have Santa visit Long Beach and fish at El Dorado East Regional Park. It was an amazing opportunity to educate our community about urban fishing opportunities in Long Beach. We look forward to educating park-goers about responsible fishing habits and conservation efforts" shared Partners of Parks Executive Director Trinkka Rowsell.

Partners of Parks is the Long Beach non-profit that helps subsidize park programming and activities, and supports neighborhood groups who fund and host events in Long Beach parks. The organization supports the Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Department by working with donors to fund new tree plantings, new amenities, and new programming benefiting teens, seniors and families-in-need. Since 2014, the Partners of Parks Youth Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$50,000 to enable qualified LBUSD students to attend fee-based recreation classes and camps at no charge. Since May of 2020, Partners of Parks has awarded more than \$25,000 in grocery gift cards to seniors-in-need who may have otherwise gone without food at the end of the month. For more information, visit partnersofparks.org.

Director's Corner



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

Happy New Year Everyone...I hope you had a safe and enjoyable holiday season. January has started off with some challenges stemming from the COVID surge. Our Parks, Recreation, Marine and Animal Control Services team members have not been sheltered from the impacts, but fortunately most of our team have proven to be resilient and responsive to the greater City needs. We have seen many of our parks and community facilities utilized for essential testing and vaccination sites to help keep Long Beach healthy and protected. Our department will be resuming virtual meetings in response to the current concerns over the contagious nature of the latest COVID variant.

The final plan for redistricting that created new Council District boundaries has shuffled many of our parks and recreation facilities into a different alignment with our elected councilmembers. The monthly briefings with each Council District are focused this month on the transition of many of these changes. The good news is that regardless of the new district boundaries, citywide we enjoy broad support of our parks, programs, and events by Long Beach residents.

January 2022 will bring into clearer focus, the future direction of parks and recreation with a newly updated Strategic Plan. A special thanks to our Parks and Recreation Commission for their involvement and support of the plan's development with extensive community input and engagement over the past several years. Our Park Planning and Partnership Bureau team did an excellent job in leading and managing the process and creation of the final document before City Council.

This month represents the beginning of a year that will bring some amazing projects forward to fruition. Notably, downtown will welcome back a world-class Lincoln Park. We will see some much-needed pickleball courts sprout up throughout the city, increased sports field action for the growing interest in rugby, and introduce a new skills-based sport of football. In the spirit of community partnerships, we will see the DeForest Environmental Education Center construction advancing thanks to the Conservation Corps of Long Beach.

With many Long Beach residents making New Year's resolutions for improving their health and fitness, or wanting to acquire a new hobby or leisure activity interest, the return of the Recreation Connection publication at the end of January for 2022 will be welcomed.

Let's keep an optimistic outlook into the new year and make 2022 a tremendous year to build community, celebrate life, and embrace new opportunities. Have a happy and healthy New Year!

Naturalist Notes: Coyote Bush



Many visitors have been asking about the fluffy plant along our trails. It's called Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) Here is some information about it.

Names include Coyote Brush (or Bush), Chaparral Broom, and Bush Baccharis. It is a common shrub that grows in California, Oregon, and Baja California. The flowers are fluffy white or yellow, rayless flowers that bloom in early winter. They are found in a variety of habitats, from coastal bluffs to oak woodlands.

Former Councilmember Val Lerch Added to North Long Beach Veterans Mural



In December the "Veterans Mural" along East Harding Street south of Houghton Park was modified to include a portrait of former 9th District councilman Val Lerch among other noted local veterans. Mr. Lerch was a longtime veterans advocate and community supporter of North Long Beach who passed away in November. He served for 12 years with the U.S. Coast Guard and a total of 30 years in the Coast Guard reserves. He founded the Long Beach Veterans Day Parade more than 20 years ago. He served as 9th District Councilmember from 2002 to 2010.

Mr Lerch was named Grand Marshal of the 2021 Veterans Day Festival at Houghton Park in November in recognition of his work with veterans and his service to North Long Beach.

Free Youth Indoor Soccer Leagues

Season Begins April 9, 2022
Online Registration February 1-28, 2022 - Uniform Fee: \$10, scholarships available

INDOOR SOCCER SEASON DATES: SATURDAYS, APRIL 9-MAY 21, 2022
PRACTICES BEGIN THE WEEK OF MARCH 31. PRACTICES HELD OUTDOORS, GAMES HELD INDOORS.
June 4th Youth Sports Invitational for teams that qualify

Coed Soccer Ages 5-8 (Born 2014-2017)	Boys Soccer Ages 9-14 (Born 2008-2013)	Girls Soccer Ages 9-14 (Born 2008-2013)
Admiral Kidd 570-1600	Houghton 570-1640	Scherer 570-1674
Bixby 570-1601	King 570-4405	Seaside 570-1625
Chavez 570-8890	Mac Arthur 570-1655	Silverado 570-1675
Chery 570-1615	Mac Bride 570-1605	Somerset 570-8915
College Estates 570-1710	Orizaba 570-1427	Stearns Champions 570-2867
Coolidge 570-1618	Pan American 570-3287	Veterans 570-1695
Drake 570-1625	Ramona 570-1665	Wardlaw 570-1705
El Dorado West 570-3225		Whaley 570-1710

Visit 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 (K-8th grade)
King Elementary
Lafayette Elementary

CITY OF LONG BEACH

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) Winter Break Youth Programs



Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine offered recreation programs to safely engage youth ages 5 to 12 during the Long Beach Unified School District winter break. The Winter Break Camps were held at 21 parks throughout the city weekdays, December 20-30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Campers enjoyed fun games such as capture the flag and kickball, crafts, games and seasonal celebrations.

El Dorado Nature Center also held weeklong Winter Break Workshops for ages 5-8 years old with themes of "Wild Journeys" and "Superpower Senters."

El Dorado Regional Park Parking Passes

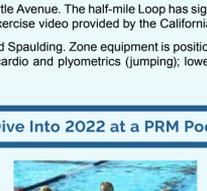


An annual parking pass to El Dorado Regional Park is a great bargain for fishers, dog lovers, archers, model boat or plane enthusiasts, and nature lovers. The passes are sold for \$65 or \$40 for Seniors age 50+ and those with disabilities at El Dorado Nature Center, 7550 E. Spring Street, Tuesday-Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cash, credit cards, and checks are accepted. The day ticket fee is removed from annual pass price, redeemable on same day. Please bring a valid driver's license to verify age, and proof of a DMV issued handicapped placard if purchasing a discounted pass.

Call 562.570.1745 for more information.

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine With LinkLB



Keep up to date with Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine. With LinkLB system, you can have information sent directly to you as the Department publishes it. Emails linking to Department news releases, "We Create Community" Department newsletter, Marine boat auctions, "Marina Reader" newsletter and newsletter, and information about Animal Care Services are regularly sent.

It's easy to get started. Visit www.longbeach.gov/linklb, enter your name and email address and select which updates you would like to receive.

Know Your Long Beach Parks: Outdoor Fitness Zones



Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Fitness Zones are free, easy-to-use outdoor gyms, as well as walking paths and exercise instruction stations that are helping to improve the health of residents. The Zones offer an alternative to expensive health club dues, and have activated parks by bringing people together to get a great workout in a secure atmosphere of camaraderie and fun.

Admiral Kidd Life Trail - 2125 Santa Fe Avenue. The Trail supports the idea that "play has no age." It is a circuit around the park with several stops where exercisers can do free posted fitness activities or use stationary exercise equipment.

Bixby Fitness Loop - 130 Cherry Avenue. The fitness loop is located near Junipero Avenue and Ocean Boulevard. The area includes a walking path with distance markers that connect six stations with fitness equipment.

Chavez Fitness Loop - 401 Golden Avenue. The Loop is located near the park to the north of 5th Street and features self-use exercise equipment, including three ADA accessible pieces, designed for users to engage in free healthy physical activity.

Coolidge Park Fitness Zone - 352 E. Neeve Street. A variety of equipment to exercise all body areas is located in proximity to the playground for child supervision.

Downtown Fitness Loop - Alamitos Ave., E. Shoreline Dr., Aquarium Rd., W. Shoreline Dr. and Ocean Blvd. The loop's distance markers connect fitness stations over a 4.8-mile route, allowing exercisers to use pull-up/dip bars, and the stations for distance stretch and squats will be positioned.

14th Street Park Fitness Zone - 14th Street between Locust and Palmer Court. Exercisers can access equipment to work arms and legs, lower body, abdominal area, upper body, back muscles and chest area. There is a paved path for circuit training and access for persons with disabilities.

Houghton Park Fitness Loop - 6301 Myrtle Avenue. The half-mile Loop has signs with exercise instructions in English and Spanish and a QR code that links to an exercise video provided by the California Department of Public Health.

Orizaba Park Fitness Zone - Orizaba and Spaulding. Zone equipment is positioned along a walking path. There are separate areas for abdomen, chest and back; cardio and plyometrics (jumping); lower body and ADA accessible pull ups; and upper body and balance.

Dive Into 2022 at a PRM Pool



Lap swim, recreational swim and water exercise are great ways to get and stay fit. Swimming builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness. You get an all-over body workout, as nearly all muscles are used during swimming. It is also a great activity to reduce stress, improve flexibility and is a low-impact therapy for some injuries and conditions. Visit a City pool and enjoy an invigorating swim soon.

Belmont Plaza Pool 4320 E. Olympic Plaza - 1.562.570.1806	Martin Luther King Jr. Park Pool 1950 Lemon Ave. - 1.562.570.1718	Silverado Park Pool* 1540 W. 32nd St. - 1.562.570.1721
Lap Swim M-F 5:30 - 9:30 a.m. Long Course M/W/F 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Short Course T/Th 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Short Course T/Th 7-9 p.m. Short Course Sat. 8 a.m. - Noon Short Course	Lap Swim T/Th/F 6-8 a.m. T/Th/F Noon - 2p.m. T/Th 9-11 a.m. Sat./Sun. 1-3:30 p.m. Recreational Swim T/Th/F 2:30 - 4 p.m. T/Th 6:30 - 8 p.m. Sat./Sun. 1-3:30 p.m.	Lap Swim M/W/F 6:30-10 a.m. M/W/F Noon - 2 p.m. Sat. Noon - 1 p.m. Sun. 8-10 a.m. Recreational Swim M/W 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 1-3:30 p.m.
Water Exercise - Shallow Water M/W/F 11 - 11:50 a.m. T/Th 7:10-8 p.m.	Water Exercise - Deep Water T/Th 6:30 - 7:20 a.m. Water Exercise - Shallow Water T/Th/F 8-8:50 a.m. M/F 6-6:50 p.m.	Water Exercise Deep Water M/W/F/Sun 10-10:50 a.m. Water Exercise - Shallow Water M/W/F/Sun 11-11:50 a.m.

*Temporarily closed for repairs. Visit: <https://bit.ly/33eLSxB> for updates.

Parks, Recreation and Marine Spring Class Registration Begins February 7



After two years of not being able to publish due to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) is once again producing its "Recreation Connection" magazine with descriptions and registration information for spring recreation classes.

Registration for new recreation classes begins on Monday, February 7. The registration options include:

On Line: Register anytime. Visit <http://active.net.active.com/lbparks> or follow the link at www.lbparks.org.

In Person: Bring completed form and payment to: City of Long Beach, 2760 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815

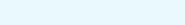
By Mail: Send completed form found on page 55 of the Recreation Connection and payment to the PRM Registration Office, 2760 Studebaker Road, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information call (562) 570-3111.

Classes in art, music, nature, fitness, special interest subjects, adult sports leagues and aquatics programs will be offered starting in March and running through the end of May. These programs provide opportunities for exercise and recreation, social interaction and learning, and growth and relaxation for everyone from preschool-aged children to adults.

Look for more information in the Spring "Recreation Connection" mailed and posted on LBParks.org on January 31. Copies will be available in park community centers and city libraries.

Congratulations November Employee of the Month: Anthony Vasquez



Congratulations to Maintenance Assistant III Anthony Vasquez on being named the Employee of the Month for November 2021. He was worked for the City of Long Beach for 14 years. He recently answered a few questions so we can get to know him better.

What do you like to do in your free time? I go to the gym and I love walking. I like to hike and just did Half Dome - 17 mile trek and an elevation of 8,842 feet. I like to watch action movies like "Sanctum," "Umineko" and anime like "Naruto," "Dragon Ball Super Moro." I like to try the food of different cultures.

What is your biggest achievement so far. For two months recently I was an acting supervisor at my job and I had the opportunity to be a leader.

What's your own advice that you always follow? I follow my favorite quote from Henry Ford, "If you think you can, you can. If you think you can't you are right."

What is one small thing that makes your day? To wake up early to see the sunrise and to read a positive quote every day.

Who inspires you? My mom sacrificed a lot to give me a better life and inspire me to grow up to be responsible.

What are you famous for at work? For always having a positive attitude, and always being a team player on the custodial and maintenance teams.

What song is always in your head when you are working? "Feed the Wolf," by Breaking Benjamin.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? To breath under water and explore our oceans.

Who would play you in a movie of your life? Jason Momoa

Using one word, how would you describe your family? Dependable, always there when needed.

Would you rather be the best player on a horrible team or the worst player on a great team? I would be the worst player on a great team and strive to be a better athlete.

What is the name of your imaginary boat in the marina? Polo 06

November By the Numbers

Maintenance Operations Bureau

Community Service Workers Program

Attendance figures for the month of December 2021	
Number of persons enrolled in the program for December	9
Total number of hours worked at Beach Maintenance	127
(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	133
(Litter pickup, custodial and facility sites including Tree Farm and Night Crew)	
Number of hours worked at Los Cerritos Wetlands	223
(Litter pickup and vegetation removal of Sims Pond, Golden Shore, Colorado Lagoon and other various Wetlands)	
Number of hours worked at special clean-ups	96
Total number CSW hours for December:	579
Work orders completed	N/A
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 November	
Parks Potable	27,041 ccf
Parks Reclaimed	\$123,778
	\$59,861

Calendar

January

Sat. 22	9 a.m.	4th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup, 7550 E. Spring St.	
Mon. 24-Fri 28	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5-12)	LB Parks.org for parks and hours
	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Free Community Learning Hubs (LBUSD Students)	LB Parks.org for sites and to register
Mon. 31		Spring Recreation Connection Published	
February			
Tue. 1-Fri. 4	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5-12)	LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Mon. 24-Fri 28	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Free Community Learning Hubs (LBUSD Students), M-F	LB Parks.org for sites and to register
Sat. 5	10 a.m.	1st Saturday Stewards Volunteer (Must pre-register)	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 7	Hours Vary	Spring Class Registration Begins	LB Parks.org
Tue. 8-Fri.11	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5-12)	LB Parks.org for parks and hours
	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Free Community Learning Hubs (LBUSD Students), M-F	LB Parks.org for sites and to register
Sat. 12		Virtual Grand Opening Celebration for Lincoln Park	
Mon. 14-Fri.18	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5-12), M-F	LB Parks.org for parks and hours
	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Free Community Learning Hubs (LBUSD Students), M-F	LB Parks.org for sites and to register
Sat. 19	10 a.m.	3rd Saturday Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Golden Shore Marine Biological Reserve
Mon. 21		President's Day Holiday	
Tue. 22-Fri. 25	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5-12)	LB Parks.org for parks and hours
Mon. 24-Fri 28	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Free Community Learning Hubs (LBUSD Students), M-F	LB Parks.org for sites and to register
Sat. 26	9 a.m.	4th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	7550 E. Spring St.
Mon. 28	Hours Vary	Free After-School Programs (ages 5-12), M-F	LB Parks.org for parks and hours
	7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Free Community Learning Hubs (LBUSD Students), M-F	LB Parks.org for sites and to register

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT LINES HAVE CHANGED

Check out the new City Council District map today!

To view the new map visit: www.longbeach.gov/redistricting.

Ha cambiado el diseño electoral del consejo municipal

¡Ve el nuevo mapa de distrito del Consejo municipal hoy! Para ver el nuevo mapa visita, www.longbeach.gov/redistricting.

Tignan ang mapa ng Distrito ng Konseho ng Lungsood ngayon! Para makita ang bagong mapa, bumisita sa, www.longbeach.gov/redistricting.

Mga Linya ng Distrito ng Konseho ng Lungsood ay Binago

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Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine

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