

We Create Community

CITY OF LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION
& MARINE

JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 12
ISSUE 6

PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE FREE CONCERT MARKS THE OFFICIAL UNOFFICIAL START OF SUMMER



The Friday before Memorial Day is when residents begin to look forward to summer.

It is a long standing tradition for Parks, Recreation & Marine and Animal Care Services to offer a free concert in the park as a kick off to the season.

On May 26, the ultimate 80's party dance band, FlashPants, entertained an enthusiastic crowd at El Dorado Park West with the sounds of Flock of Seagulls, Devo, Bon Jovi, Eurythmics, Beastie Boys and other 80's legends as the audience sang and danced along.

The evening began at 5 p.m. with a Kid Zone, free kid's activities followed by the concert from 6 to 8 p.m.



Director's Corner

BRENT DENNIS, DIRECTOR, LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE AND ANIMAL CARE SERVICES



Our Parks, Recreation, Marine, and Animal Care Services team is bracing itself for the onset of summer. Everything citywide picks up

the pace of activity as school is out and our parks and beaches become 'heavily loved' by residents and visitors alike. Our website showcases the schedules of movies and concerts in the parks that most assuredly will attract lots of people to these quality events. June provides many other great community events across Long Beach as we celebrate Pride Month, Father's Day, Juneteenth, the ribbon cutting of our new Jr. Lifeguard Station and summer camp fun galore!

This month our Department launched the Park Ambassador program to enhance the cleanliness of park facilities and improve the visitor experience at City parks. A supervised team of ten Ambassadors will support over 35 parks that have a total of 55 free standing restrooms, as well as several mini parks that have gates that need to be locked at the 10 p.m. park closing time. The added staffing will allow

restroom cleaning frequencies of up to six times a day and ensure that they are being used for their intended purpose. Additionally, staff will support the Community Center floor care program, power washing, and miscellaneous maintenance needs. From addressing vandalism to providing a reassuring presence in the parks, this new staffing model will greatly enhance the park visitor experience.

**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

The Long Beach City Council approved a resolution to support the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's proposed Lower San Gabriel River Recreation and Park District. Similar to the City's supportive resolution to join in the formation of the Lower Los Angeles River Recreation and Park District last year, the recent action by City Council will position Long Beach in an important leadership role and collaborative partnership with upriver cities to better plan, design, develop and maintain these critical river corridors as valuable regional assets with tremendous recreational potential.

Hoops After Dark concluded a very successful Spring League Season this month that culminated with the popular All Star & Championship games. A special thanks to Leonard Adams and his Hoops After Dark coaching and mentorship team for a fantastic six-week run of great games and beneficial workshops for over 50 area young adults.

Big news at Long Beach Animal Care Services this month. Congratulations to our current Long Beach Animal Care Services Bureau Manager, Staycee Dains, on her recent appointment by the City of Los Angeles as their new Animal Services General Manager. It is always with mixed emotions that I share news of this significance, as Staycee has had a tremendous impact upon LBACS since February of 2019 when she took on the important LBACS Bureau Manager leadership position. So many great advancements and improvements are to Staycee's credit during her years of service to the Long Beach community. Staycee led the development of the Long Beach Animal Care Services "Compassion Saves" operating model along with the LBAC's first ever Strategic Plan. She also revitalized community engagement through off site adoption events and other educational programs. In 2022, LBACS reached its highest adoption rate ever, placing nearly 2,000 pets into homes while raising the live release rate to 89% from the previous 70% levels in 2018. Staycee's last day with the City of Long Beach will be June 30, 2023. I want to also share with you that Melanie Wagner, PhD, Superintendent of Animal Care Services, who has over 20 years of experience caring for the welfare of animals, will serve as Interim Bureau Manager, while the City looks to permanently fill the position. I want to wish Staycee and Melanie great professional and personal success and enjoyment in their exciting futures.

We hope to see the month of June bring increased activation and beautification of our parks and beaches! Parks Make Long Beach...Parks Make Life Better!

NATURALIST NOTES

VOLUNTEERING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Make a difference in the lives of plants, animals and people, by participating in volunteer opportunities at El Dorado Nature Center. Please call 562.570.1745 to pre-register.

1ST SATURDAY STEWARDS

Help maintain the beauty of the Nature Center by cleaning the stream, pulling weeds, clearing trails or spreading mulch. Wear sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. Saturdays, June 3, July 1, August 5, 10 a.m. – noon.

3RD SATURDAY WETLAND WARRIOR CLEANUP

Join our Weekend Wetland Warrior team and protect the habitat at Jack Dunster Marine Biological Reserve. Two hours of time can save wildlife. Wear sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. Saturdays, June 17, July 15, August 19, 10 a.m. – noon. Meet outside at 5750 Boathouse Lane. Park in lot.

4TH SATURDAY EL DORADO REGIONAL PARK CLEANUP

Join fellow park-lovers to clear fishing line and debris from our park and lakes. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water and wear a hat and sunscreen. Children under 18 must bring an adult. Saturdays, June 24, July 22, August 26, 9-10 a.m. Meet in parking lot on the left past El Dorado Frontier in Area III.



GRANT FUNDED COMMUNITY PROJECT WRIGLEY GREENBELT OPENS TO THE PUBLIC



The new Wrigley Greenbelt located at De Forest Avenue between 26th Way and 34th Street was opened in a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, May 19. This grant-funded community project provides restoration and preservation of green space in Long Beach's Wrigley Neighborhood along the I-710 freeway.

The Wrigley Greenbelt includes new improvements such as a one-mile walking trail, new picnic tables, and a sustainable design with new landscaping of drought resistant native plants, a new irrigation system, and dry stream beds to improve stormwater runoff. These enhancements will elevate visitor experience and provide the community

a place for recreation, exercise and more. New native trees have been planted providing a green buffer to improve air quality, while benefiting wildlife and the local ecosystem.

The Wrigley Greenbelt project is a \$3.82 million project with funding support totaling \$1.62 million from Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District; \$1 million from Park Impact fees, and \$1.2 million from Construction & Demolition Recycling Program funds. Cal Fire grants were also secured by project partners the Conservation Corps of Long Beach. State Senator Lena Gonzalez has earmarked \$1.2 million to continue restoration efforts and maintenance for the greenbelt.

2023 LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL BAND SUMMER CONCERT SEASON



The Long Beach Municipal Band will celebrate their 114th season this year

with free outdoor summer concerts in Long Beach parks, from June 27 through August 4, 2023, with a different theme every week.

Residents can enjoy performances of the Long Beach Municipal Band on the dates listed below. All concerts are free and begin at 6:30 p.m.

WHALEY PARK NORTH on Tuesdays, June 27 and July 11

BIXBY ANNEX PARK on Tuesdays, July 18, 25; August 1

LOS CERRITOS PARK on Wednesdays, June 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2

RECREATION PARK (behind Blair Field) on Thursdays, June 29; July 6, 13, 20, 27; August 3

EL DORADO PARK WEST on Fridays, June 30; July 7, 14, 21, 28; August 4.



MUNICIPAL BAND CONDUCTOR KURT CURTIS

WEEK 1 (June 27 – 30), “Lights, Camera, Action” – Movie music will come to life through scores from westerns, exciting adventures and what is sure to become a Disney classic. Accomplished vocalist, Nicole Kubis, along with the Studio Band, kick off the season in style.

WEEK 2 (July 5-7), “Star Spangled Salute” Patriotic music’s origins are many, its tempos varied, but the message is always clear. Join the band in its 114th season of affirming love of freedom and independence in our country. The evening will conclude with the talented, Crystal Lewis.

WEEK 3 (July 11-14), “World Traveler” – Pack your bags and travel on a musical journey around the world. The return of soulful vocalist, Derek Bordeaux, joins forces with the Studio Band for this fun-filled week.

WEEK 4 (July 18-21), “It’s Showtime!” This week’s concert will feature our gifted musicians. See, hear and appreciate their wonderful artistic talents before the final curtain. The evening wraps up with fan favorite, Mark Kopitzke, and the Studio Band.



WEEK 5 (July 25-28), “Take Flight” Buckle up as we launch above the horizon, and beyond, with melodies that will send your spirits soaring. Meloney Collins brings her powerful vocal talent to the stage to close the evening.

WEEK 6 (August 1-4), “Band-tastic” – The Long Beach Municipal Band will present music from the most defining bands of our time. From Glen Miller to the Beach Boys and Stan Kenton to Chicago. The finale features entertaining jazz artist, Tony Galla, along with the Studio Band.



The Long Beach Municipal Band concert series is made possible with sponsorship from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, Department of Energy Resources, Long Beach Environmental Services Bureau, the Port of Long Beach, Partners of Parks and the Friends of the Long Beach Municipal Band.

BE S.A.F.E. SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN A FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT



“Be S.A.F.E.” (Summer Activities in a Friendly Environment) is a program that supports neighborhoods by

extending free supervision hours at designated parks during the evening and employing neighborhood youth. Be S.A.F.E. offers arts and crafts, outdoor games, sports,

science activities, computer labs and more. By keeping selected parks activated in the evening hours, residents have many options for recreation and spending time together. The program will be offered Monday through Friday, from June 20 through August 25 from 5 - 8 p.m. at the following sites:

- ADMIRAL KIDD PARK, 2125 Santa Fe Ave.
- BIXBY PARK, 130 Cherry Ave.
- DRAKE PARK, 951 Maine Ave.
- HOUGHTON PARK, 6301 Myrtle Ave.
- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK, 1950 Lemon Ave.
- ORIZABA PARK, 1435 Orizaba Ave.
- PAN AMERICAN PARK, 5157 E. Centralia St.
- RAMONA PARK, 3301 E. 65th St.
- SCHERER PARK, 4600 Long Beach Blvd.
- SEASIDE PARK, 14th St. at Chestnut Ave.
- SILVERADO PARK, 1545 W. 31st St.

BE S.A.F.E. MOVIES AT DUSK

Be S.A.F.E. Movies are sponsored by the Port of Long Beach – Movies begin at dusk.

- June 22: Sonic the Hedgehog 2 at Drake Park
- June 29: Jurassic World Dominion at Admiral Kidd Park
- July 6: Puss in Boots: The Last Wish at Scherer Park
- July 13: Antman & The Wasp Quantumania at Seaside Park
- July 20: Thor: Love & Thunder at Ramona Park

- July 27: Strange World at Orizaba Park
- August 3: Dungeons & Dragons Honor Among Thieves at Houghton Park
- August 10: Shazam! Fury of the Gods at M.L. King Jr. Park
- August 17: Rock Dog 3: Battle the Beat at Pan American Park
- August 22: To be Announced at Bixby Park
- August 24: Black Panther: Wakanda Forever at Silverado Park

OLDER AMERICANS CELEBRATION A BIG SUCCESS

The Community Recreation Services staff organized a month long schedule

of recreation activities to celebrate Older American’s Month in May and showcase the many opportunities available for older adults though Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine to connect with people and enjoy enriching experiences.

Hundreds of adults ages 50+ enjoyed an Adult Day Camp at El Dorado Regional Park, a Nature Walk at El Dorado Nature Center, a Health Expo, a Beach Day, a Pool Day, Senior Olympics, an Art Workshop, Senior Prom and much more.



SUMMERTIME IN LONG BEACH MEANS MOVIES IN THE PARK

**The movie and popcorn are free.
Time spent as a family – priceless!**

Sponsored by Signal Hill Petroleum and Partners of Parks.

Bring a lawn chair, blanket, picnic style dinner and family and friends. Movies begin at dusk. Movies subject to change. For more information, visit LBParks.org or call 562.570.3226.

Movie Theme Dress Up
Top Gun Maverick (PG 13)
June 21 – Signal Hill Park
June 23 – Cherry Park

Sing-a-long Week
Frozen
June 26 – Coolidge
June 28 – Lincoln Park
June 30 – MacArthur Park

Trivia Week
Light Year
July 3 – Orizaba
July 5 – El Dorado West
July 7 – Ramona

Movie Theme Dress Up
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (PG 13)
July 10 – Veterans Park
July 12 – Recreation Park
July 14 – McBride Park

Dance Party Week
Turning Red
July 17 – Pan American Park
July 19 – Drake Park
July 21 – Signal Hill Park

Trivia Week
Toy Story
July 24 – Grace Park
July 26 – M.L. King Jr. Park
July 28 – Whaley Park

Movie Theme Dress Up
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG 13)
July 31 – Somerset
August 2 – Bixby
August 4 – Chavez

Sing-a-long Week
Beauty and the Beast
August 7 – Atlantic Plaza Park
August 9 – DeForest Park
August 11 – Admiral Kidd Park

Dance Party Week
High School Musical
August 14 – Stearns Champions Park
August 16 – Scherer Park
August 18 – Houghton Park
August 19 – Signal Hill Park

Movie Theme Dress Up
The Super Mario Bros. Movie
August 21 – College Estates Park
August 23 – Silverado Park
August 25 – Wardlow Park

EL DORADO NATURE CENTER SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Enjoy evenings of great music in a beautiful lakeside setting. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Concert from 7-8 p.m. Friends of El Dorado Nature Center members can enter as early as 6 p.m. Bring an eco-friendly dinner and lawn chairs.

June 15 – JP McDermott
June 29 – Big City Hillbillies
July 13 – Steel Parade
July 27 – Salty Suites
August 10 – Corday
August 24 – Sligo Rags



JP MCDERMOTT



SALTY SUITES



CORDAY



BIG CITY HILLBILLIES



SLIGO RAGS

CONGRATULATIONS APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH RONNESE THORNTON



Congratulations to Recreation Leader Ronnese Thornton on being named the Employee of the Month for April.

Ronnese has been the lead staff for afterschool programs and filled in as a lead staff for the daily operations of MacArthur Park over the past year. She has put in many hours working with community members hosting events, with park clean ups, and inter-

acting daily with people experiencing homelessness to keep the park welcoming for patrons. She helped bring back cultural classes to Homeland after COVID, and has provided guidance to instructors and staff about Homeland policies and programs. Ronnese has been a huge reason why we are able to program at MacArthur and she is a true team player who comes to work with a positive attitude and willingness to face daily challenges. Ronnese answered a few questions about herself so we can get to know her better.

What do you like to do in your free time? Spending my time with my five grandchildren.

What's your biggest work achievement? Starting an afterschool program at MacArthur Park.

What's your own advice that you always follow? To never give up.

What's one small thing that makes your day better? A smile from one of our kids.

Who inspires you? My mom.

What are you famous for at work? Always being there.

What song is always in your head when you're working? The ABC song.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? To heal people.

Who would play you in a movie of your life? Mary J. Blige

How would you describe your family in one word? Close

Would you rather be the best player on a horrible team or the worst player on a great team? I would rather be the worst player on a great team, so I could improve.

What is the name of your imaginary boat in the marina? The Kaliyah

How long have you worked with Parks & Rec and with the City? I have worked my entire career – 22 years for Parks and Rec. I am a Recreation Specialist X at Mac Arthur Park, Homeland Cultural Center.

PRM COMMUNITY SERVICE • MAINTENANCE • WATER USE MAY BY THE NUMBERS COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS PROGRAM



NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING: 32

100 HOURS WORKED AT EL DORADO PARK AREAS

28 HOURS WORKED AT LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS

566 HOURS WORKED BEACH MAINTENANCE

32 HOURS WORKED SPECIAL CLEAN-UPS

726 CSW HOURS WORKED FOR MAY

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

580 WORK ORDERS COMPLETED (APRIL)

172 RESTROOMS CLEANED DAILY BUREAU WIDE



72 GRAFFITI OCCURENCES

28 FACILITIES & GYMNASIUMS CLEANED AND STOCKED DAILY

PARK ACRES MAINTAINED

PARK TURF: 814

PARK LANDSCAPE: 2310

WATER USE

MOB GENERAL FUND WATER REPORT FOR MARCH

PARKS POTABLE 8,895 CCF \$54,124

PARKS RECLAIMED 2,861 CCF \$16,507



JUNE 2023 CALENDAR

Th.	15	6:30 p.m.	Free Concert JP McDermott		El Dorado Nature Center
Sat.	17	10 a.m.	3rd Saturday Stewart Wetlands Cleanup		Jack Dunster Marine Reserve
Mon.	19		Juneteenth Holiday		
Tue.	20	Noon	Free Summer Fun Days Recreation Program for Ages 512		Visit LBParks.org for locations
Wed.	21	Dusk	Free Movie in the Park "Top Gun Maverick"		Signal Hill Park
Th.	22	Dusk	Free Be S.A.F.E. program movie Sonic the Hedgehog 2		Drake Park
Fri.	23	Dusk	Free Movie in the Park "Top Gun Maverick"		Cherry Park
Sat.	24	9 a.m.	4th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Volunteer Cleanup		El Dorado Regional Park Area III
Tue.	27	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Whaley Park North
Wed.	28	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Los Cerritos Park
Th.	29	6:30 p.m.	Free Concert Big City Hillbillies		El Dorado Nature Center
		6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Recreation Park
		Dusk	Free Be S.A.F.E. program movie Jurassic World Dominion		Admiral Kidd Park
Fri.	30	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		El Dorado Park West

JULY 2023 CALENDAR

Mon.	3	Dusk	Free Movie in the Park and Trivia Week "Light Year"		Orizaba Park
Tue.	4		Independence Day Holiday		
Wed.	5	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Los Cerritos Park
		Dusk	Free Movie in the Park and Trivia Week "Light Year"		El Dorado Park West
Th.	6	6:30	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Recreation Park
Fri.	7	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		El Dorado Park West
		Dusk	Free Movie in the Park and Trivia Week "Light Year"		Ramona Park
Sat.	8	10 am.-4 p.m.	Long Beach Pet Fair https://www.longbeachpetfair.com/		Marina Green Park
Mon.	10	Dusk	Free Movie & Dress Up Week "Doctor Strange & Multiverse of Madness (PG-13)"		Veterans Park
Tue.	11	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Whaley Park North
Wed.	12	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Los Cerritos Park
		Dusk	Free Movie & Dress Up Week "Doctor Strange & Multiverse of Madness (PG-13)"		Recreation Park
Th.	13	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Recreation Park
Fri.	14	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		El Dorado Park West
		Dusk	Free Movie & Dress Up Week "Doctor Strange & Multiverse of Madness (PG-13)"		McBride Park
Sat.	15	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Pet Adoption Event		Zoom Zoom Room 100 E.Willow
Mon.	17	Dusk	Free Movie & Dance Party Week "Turning Red"		Pan American Park
Tue.	18	6:30	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Bixby Annex Park
Wed.	19	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Los Cerritos Park
		Dusk	Free Movie & Dance Party Week "Turning Red"		Drake Park
Th.	20	6:30	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Recreation Park
Fri.	21	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		El Dorado Park West
		Dusk	Free Movie & Dance Party Week "Turning Red"		Signal Hill Park
Sat.	22	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Pet Supplies Plus Adoption Event		20986 N. Bellflower Blvd.
Mon.	24	Dusk	Free Movie and Trivia Week "Toy Story"		Grace Park
Tue.	25	6:30	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Bixby Annex Park
Wed.	26	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Los Cerritos Park
		Dusk	Free Movie and Trivia Week "Toy Story"		M.L. King Jr. Park
Th.	27	6:30	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		Recreation Park
Fri.	28	6:30 p.m.	Free Long Beach Municipal Band Concert		El Dorado Park West
		Dusk	Free Movie and Trivia Week "Toy Story"		Whaley Park
Mon.	31	Dusk	Free Movie and Dress Up Week "Black Panther Wakanda Forever (PG 13)"		Somerset Park

Free Mobile Recess Programs June 20-August 25

Register on Site

Monday and Wednesday	10 a.m.-noon 1:30-3:30
Tuesday and Thursday	10 a.m.-noon 10 a.m.-noon 10 a.m.-noon 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Grace Park , 361 E. Plymouth Street
DeForest Park , 6255 DeForest Ave
Rose Park , corner of Orizaba Avenue and 8 th Street
Daryle W. Black Memorial Park , 2023 Pasadena Avenue
Hill Street , Hill Street and Gale Avenue
Jackson Park , 1432 Jackson Street

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