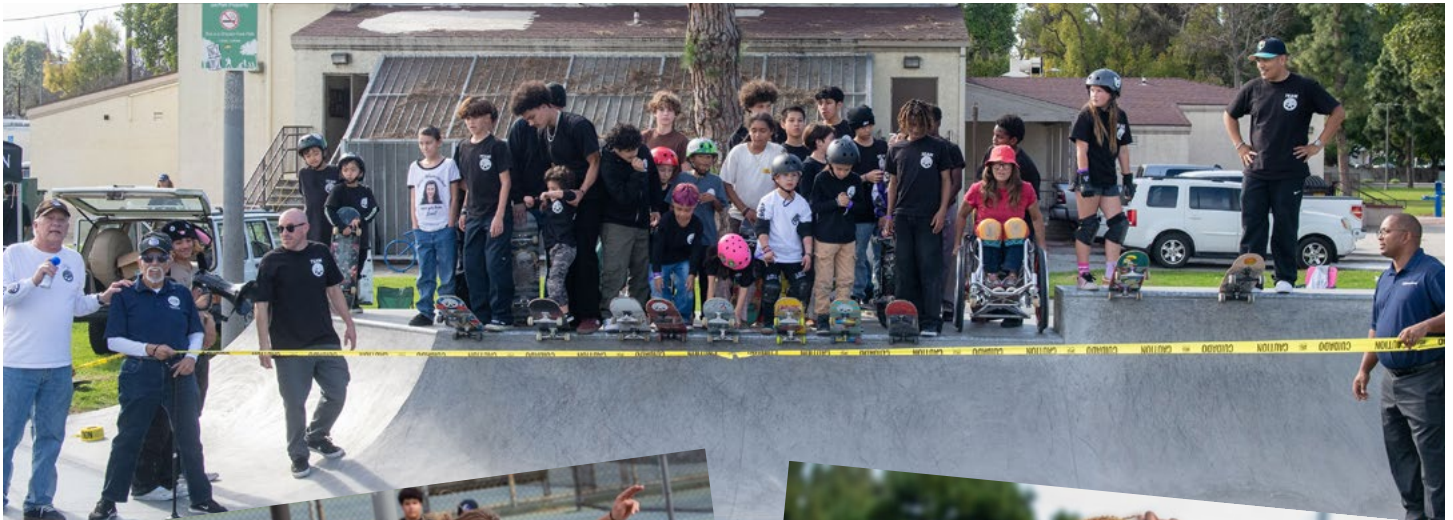


# We Create Community

CITY OF LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION  
& MARINE

MARCH 24 | VOLUME 13  
ISSUE 3

## SILVERADO PARK SKATE PARK GRAND REOPENING



**A ribbon cutting event was held to officially open the newly renovated Silverado Park Skate Park on February 24.**

The park was upgraded with longer-lasting concrete elements, alongside a new grind rail and artwork created by local artist Van Eggers.

The project was spearheaded by ASK (Action Sports Kids), a Long Beach-based nonprofit Foundation who over-

saw the design and raised \$160,000 in private funds for construction. The ASK Foundation held three rounds of meetings at the skate park with the kids who use it to get their input.

The enhanced skating facility is a welcome amenity for west Long Beach residents who are looking for a safe convenient place to skate.

# Director's Corner

**BRENT DENNIS, DIRECTOR, LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE**



## Growing up in a sports family in northwest Ohio near the Hoosier State of Indiana, my father's love of basketball sparked

a shared enthusiasm for me. We had a basketball court in our backyard and everyone in our small rural town remembered my dad's high school career during which he set the game high scoring record of 54 points, prior to the introduction of the 3-point line. With March Madness upon us and the national craze all about the collegiate basketball tournament, all our Long Beach parks basketball courts and gymnasiums are seeing an uptick in action. Hoops After Dark also just concluded their Winter Season last month so the roundball sport is certainly in the spotlight. Our Long Beach Youth Sports basketball season for youth ages 5-14, concluded on March 2 with over 860 players in the program that focused on fun, sportsmanship, teamwork, health and wellness, and the fundamentals of the sport. I hope you enjoy cheering on your favorite team throughout the month.

Skatepark hysteria took over the heart of Silverado Park in late February. Mayor Rex Richardson and District 7 Councilman Roberto Uranga joined ASK Foundation Executive Director Mike Donelon in celebrating the grand reopening of the park's skatepark! Over 100 skateboarders helped fill the newly refreshed, popular westside skatepark with amazing skillful jumps and moves. A special thanks to Tony Hawk's foundation, the Skatepark Project, for significant funding to the ASK Foundation to help realize all the awesome improvements.

The Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission will be welcoming the newly appointed Commissioner, Cory Allen. Mr. Allen will fill the seventh seat on the Commission that had been vacant for the past year. As a reminder, the Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Dr. Thomas J. Clark Community Center in El Dorado Park West. Mr. Allen joins Commission Chair, Bob Livingston, Vice-Chair Susan Redfield, and Commissioners Kasey Schoen, Sharleen Higa, Christopher Chavez, and Silissa Uriarte Smith, with his first meeting likely to be in April.

Our Parks, Recreation, Marine, and Animal Care Services team celebrated our 2024 January Employee of the Month recently in recognizing Long Beach Animal Care Services team member Erin Kelleher. Erin has served the community as a dedicated Animal Control Officer for over 15 years with a love for all animals domestic and wild. Congratulations to Erin on this well-deserved honor!

Welcome to the Marine Bureau team, our new Marina Operations Superintendent, Bryan Plante. Bryan is filling the position that was vacated upon the appointment of Todd Leland as Marine Bureau Manager following the retirement of Elvira Hallinan. Bryan is bringing a solid career in the private sector to our team with many innovative, business-savvy approaches to the management and operations of marinas.

As March helps us bid farewell to winter and usher in the spectacular seasonal beauty of SoCal springtime, I hope you will be able to enjoy our parks, beaches, and engaging programs and special events. Parks Make Long Beach... Parks Make Life Better!

**Parks  
Make  
Life  
Better!**

# GET READY FOR SUMMER AT PRM SUMMER AQUATICS AND PARK DAY CAMPS



- Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31<sup>st</sup> St.
- Stearns Champions Park, 4520 E 23<sup>rd</sup> St.
- Veterans Park, 101 E. 28<sup>th</sup> St.
- Wardlow Park, 3457 Stanbridge Ave.
- Whaley Park, 5620 E. Atherton St.

## SUMMER DAY CAMP FEES

Park Camp weekly base rate (9 a.m. – 4 p.m. only): \$100/child  
 Park Camp weekly rate with extended care hours (7 a.m. – 6 p.m.): \$125/child

Aquatics Camp weekly fees: \$165/child

Aquatics Camp Extended Care fees: \$28 for a.m. or p.m. or \$56 for both a.m. and p.m.

Field trips and other camp activity costs are additional costs and vary.

## REGISTRATION

In-person and online registration will be a self-serve enrollment process. Staff members will be available on-site to assist with registration account questions, but the customer will be responsible for enrolling their child(ren). Staff will not be enrolling participants into camps on this day. Registration sites will have internet capable devices for customers to use for enrollments. The self-serve locations will open at 8 a.m. and registration for all customers, both online and self-serve enrollment will begin at 9 a.m.

Self-serve enrollment locations:

- Bixby Park- 130 Cherry Ave.
- Houghton Park- 6301 Myrtle Ave.
- Pan American Park- 5157 Centralia St.
- Silverado Park- 1545 W. 31<sup>st</sup> St.
- Veterans Park- 101 E. 28<sup>th</sup> St.
- 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 [LBParks.org](http://LBParks.org) or call 562.570.3150.

## Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) will offer Summer Aquatics and Park Day Camps from

June 17 - August 23. Youth ages 5-12 will enjoy games, crafts, physical fitness, enrichment activities and more. Registration begins Saturday, April 13.

Summer camps will operate Monday - Friday from June 17 - August 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. for those enrolled in extended care. Extended care is available for an additional fee at both park and aquatic camps. Park Day camps offer extended day service from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Aquatics Camps provide morning (7-9 a.m.) and/or afternoon (4-6 p.m.) options. The summer camps will take place at the following sites:

- Bayshore Park, 5415 E. Ocean Blvd. (Aquatics)
- Belmont Plaza Pool, 4320 E. Olympic Plaza (Aquatics)
- 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.

## PRM COMMUNITY SERVICE FEBRUARY BY THE NUMBERS COMMUNITY SERVICE WORKERS PROGRAM



**NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING: 7**

**23 HOURS WORKED AT EL DORADO PARK AREAS**

**61 HOURS WORKED BEACH MAINTENANCE**

**4 HOURS WORKED AT SPECIAL CLEANUPS**

**88 CSW HOURS WORKED FOR FEBRUARY**

# INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT: TRACEY WILTSE



## Tracey Wiltse teaches Aerobics Lite at Recreation Park

with Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Wiltse has over 10 years experience leading a class of students dedicated to keeping fit and active. Tracey's students describe her class as good for over-

all flexibility, balance and strength with less stress on the joints with a great group of people.

Wiltse's class is designed for those who are getting back into fitness, those who haven't exercised for a while or maybe have never joined a group fitness class, which can be extremely intimidating. "A lot of people don't go to the gym for that very reason. So try out the class, come and see the energy, the positivity and get moving and see if it's right for you. If it's not, that's totally OK. If it is right, you're joining a fantastic group that is doing something for themselves that gives them a sense of accomplishment."

Wiltse herself is no stranger to the classes offered by Parks, Recreation and Marine. Through the years she has taken Recreation classes in tap dancing, couples dancing, yoga, Pilates, fusion, aerobics, and high intensity training classes. When she found the Aerobics Lite class with Evelyn, she knew it was the right fit for her.

Wiltse's introduction to teaching began when she was taking Aerobics Lite from an instructor (Evelyn Grauten) who had come to class with a knee injury. The instructor, knowing Tracey was familiar with the exercise moves asked her to come up on stage and lead the class while she cued her on the moves. Wiltse enjoyed it so much, she decided to get more training and went on to learn choreography, enrolled in AFA (Aerobics Fitness Association) training courses, and received her certification as an aerobics instructor. Wiltse recalls that when she was in her 20's she said to herself, "I'd love to teach aerobics sometime." Fast forward to 2024 where she has been teaching for over a decade and still loving it.

Wiltse's favorite thing about teaching is the energy of her students. "It's not a normal twenty year olds aerobics class. It's not a high energy interval training class. It's a class designed for folks 42-95. Working out to golden oldies, Motown, 70's -80s music. Sometimes we dress up for class on special occasions. There is a lot of synergy, we're very supportive of one another. We have a lot of fun and a lot of laughs." Wiltse's students include Gerry age 92,

who has been taking Wiltse's class for three years and Lisa, who has been taking Aerobics Lite for 20 years - the last ten with Wiltse as her instructor. Wiltse is described by her students as: knowledgeable, awesome, encouraging, positive and so much fun her students want to work out. The comraderie brings them to class and her ability to keep her students motivated to exercise. Yvette described her dependability as an instructor, "she's our rock and is always telling us to come back, so that's what we do!"

Wiltse stresses the importance of moving every day and practicing balance as we age. Movement, balance, and strength training are the key focus in this class. "We can be just as active as we get older. We engage in functional fitness in this class, so students can enjoy activity in their lives and keeping up with spouses, family, pets, and grandchildren." Her aim is keeping students engaged in physical activity so they are active participants, not on the sidelines watching. "My students keep me motivated and ready to teach. They're ready to go, they're happy, social, they laugh, they engage in the class and with one another. That engagement in the class and their energy motivates me to give back to them, it's synergy."

Some of her favorite moments from teaching are those when her students get through an exercise even though they don't want to. "They're grunting and groaning and they get through all the reps. Another favorite moment is when we first start a new little routine-which I introduce gradually-at first they're very frustrated and I have fun with it and we learn each step of the way. Then I see them doing it, they do it so well that sometimes when I mess up, they continue finishing the move! And of course when we sing happy birthday to people who celebrate their birthdays."

Wiltse's Aerobics Lite class is offered monthly through Parks, Recreation & Marine. Register at: [LBParks.org](http://LBParks.org).



# AT PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE TENNIS CENTERS, BRIDGE FAMILY TENNIS PROGRAMS THRIVE

## Operating the Billie Jean King Tennis Center, El Dorado Park Tennis Center, and Long Beach Parks, Recreation and

Marine tennis classes as Bridge the Gap Tennis Management, the Bridge Family excel in their tennis endeavors, and work to give back to the community through their nonprofit organization, Bridge the Gap Tennis. They recently hosted Free Play Days at the two Centers sponsored by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> City Council District offices that introduce kids to tennis and offered free food, balloon artists, face painters tennis instruction.

The Bridge family opened the Southern California Tennis Academy (SCTA) in 2011 at El Dorado Park Tennis Center to offer junior tennis development programs to kids of all ages. SCTA has helped dozens of junior tennis players achieve college scholarships and professional rankings.

The impact of their work extends beyond the local community. In February the Bridge Family was selected by the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to host a junior national tennis tournament, for players from across the United States. El Dorado Park Tennis Center has been selected to host two more junior national tournaments in April and May.

El Dorado Park Tennis Center has hosted UTR PTT (Universal Tennis Rating Pro Tennis Tour) tennis tournaments so far in 2024. These events are live streamed on Amazon Prime and further showcase Long Beach as a tennis hub in the United States. The Bridge's will host a fifth UTR PTT event at El Dorado Park Tennis Center in July.



## THE BRIDGE FAMILY, RECOGNIZED BY THE USTA AS FAMILY OF THE YEAR FOR THEIR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THROUGH THE SPORT OF TENNIS

As a testament to their long-standing reputation and ever-growing involvement in the tennis community, the Bridge Family was recently honored with the prestigious 2023 Southern California "Family of the Year" award in Manhattan Beach by the United States Tennis Association. This award recognizes their passion for the sport of tennis and commitment to making a positive impact in their community.

Together, with the Long Beach facilities, they will continue serving up fun, caring for their local community, and delivering excellence in tennis and pickleball.

## TIPS FROM ANIMAL CARE SERVICES LIVING WITH URBAN COYOTES



### Recent coyote activity around Long Beach and surrounding areas gives

reason for reminding residents of important safeguards to

protect pet lives and property against these wild animals. It is important to learn techniques to compassionately co-exist with coyotes and protect yourself and your pets.

- Never feed coyotes or any other wildlife.
- Keep pets and pet food inside. If feeding outside, feed pets during the day (no more than one hour) and remove the food bowl when finished.

- Staying close to your pet when taking them outdoors and always keeping them on a leash, especially from dusk through early morning hours.

- Using "hazing" techniques to shoo away coyotes, such as standing tall, yelling and waving arms while approaching the coyote; using a whistle, air horn, bell or other device; banging pots or pans together; stomping your feet; using a water hose, pepper spray, or throwing tennis balls or rocks at the coyote.

For more detailed information, visit [www.long-beach.gov/acs/programs-services/wildlife-program/living-with-coyotes/](http://www.long-beach.gov/acs/programs-services/wildlife-program/living-with-coyotes/).

All animal-related emergencies should be reported immediately by calling 562.570. PETS (7387). If there is an immediate threat to a human, call 911.

# 24/7 MARINE BUREAU KEEPS OUR WATERS CLEAN WITH NEW TRASH SKIMMERS

**The Marine Bureau Marina Trash Skimmers (MTS) have been in use since the early 2000's and were originally installed** in Rainbow Harbor. They have been an asset in keeping the waterway free of floating debris. Due to pump failures and outdated parts, it was time to replace the existing MTS units with newly engineered models with compatible pumps and motors.

Apart from the City's active maintenance and removal of trash with personnel and vessels, the MTSs work 24 hours a day to remove trash, oil and floating debris from the surface of the water and store it out of sight. The MTS works with natural currents of the installation sites, tides, and prevailing winds to collect trash and oil sheen into one easy-to-access location, for quick removal and disposal.

This working system of trash collection is a key part of keeping the marina clean and presentable to the many visitors to Rainbow Harbor.

Thank you to the Marine Bureau for keeping our waters beautiful for all to admire and enjoy!



## SHORELINE VILLAGE DRIVE OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN PILOT PROJECT



**Marine Bureau staff recently led an exciting project in the Shoreline** Marina area at Dock 10 & Parker's Lighthouse to begin establishing an Ocean Friendly Garden (OFG). The Surfrider Foundation promotes OFG's as "simple and beautiful solutions to protect clean water and support resilient coasts and communities." The project helps to restore healthy watersheds using contoured landscapes that direct water back into the ground instead of into storm drains. The root system of the selected native shrubs and groundcover naturally filters pollutants and soaks up extra water.

The project was done in partnership with Long Beach Utilities Water Resources, the Surf Rider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens program, and California Eco Design landscape design company. The project was largely funded by Long Beach Utilities.

On February 24 and March 3 an educational event was held for project volunteers who began planting California



Native Plants found in the Channel Islands. A bright colored plant berm was added around the existing palm trees to contain upland island species that attract pollinators.

The project will also add gutters to the roof of a nearby storage building to direct water to a planter which drains into a rain garden, where inundation tolerant plants will grow.

The project is a great way to help sustain biodiversity in an urban landscape.

# JANUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH ERIN KELLEHER



## **Congratulations to Animal Control Officer Erin Kelleher on being named the Employee of the Month for January.**

During her almost 16 years of service with Parks, Recreation and Marine she has demonstrated a deep commitment and passion for all animals, especially wildlife.

Her coworkers say Erin never hesitates to take calls or share her animal experience advice.

She provides an invaluable service, every day, to hurt, orphaned, neglected and misunderstood animals. And she does it with skill, compassion and always a bit of humility - not many people would go after an injured skunk. Twice.

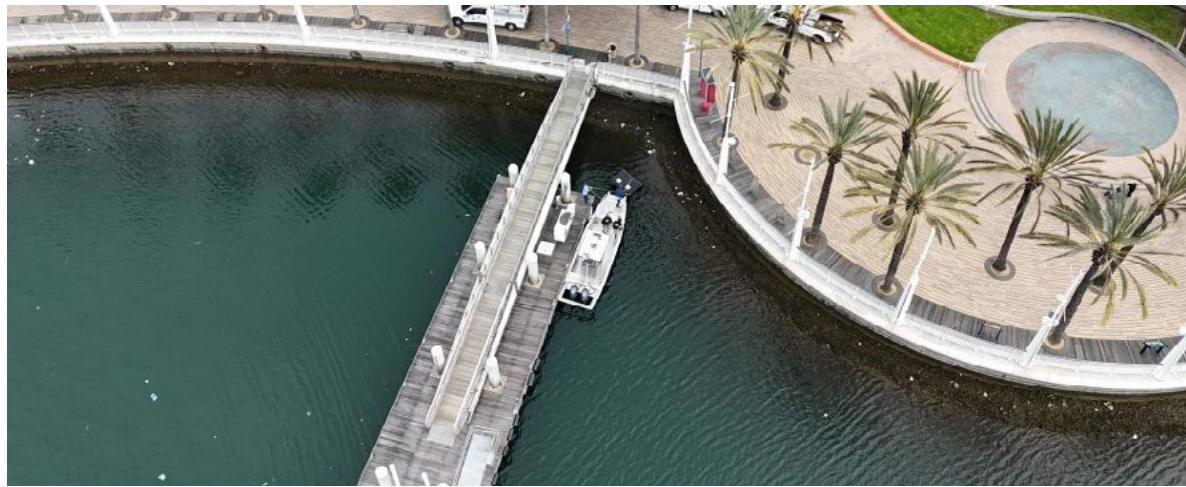
Whether capturing a Red-tailed Hawk with a broken wing or talking about orphaned baby opossums she picked up during her common graveyard shifts, Erin makes clear that she is dedicated to her job. And that's just the wild-life! Not to mention the countless dogs and cats that have been under her unwavering care.

Not only is Erin a valuable employee for her outstanding relationships with coworkers and the people in the communities she serves, but also the many members of our community that have no voice; the four-legged, the flighted, the scaled, the innocent.

## MARINE MAINTENANCE NEW RAMP INSTALLED IN SHORELINE MARINA

### **The Marine Maintenance team installed a new**

**ramp** in the Downtown Shoreline Marina. Staff used a crane to lift the gangway about 6" to allow for a welder to prefabricate new brackets for the locking pins to lock into to reattach it to the head wall.



### **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**



**THE PRM GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TEAM RECENTLY ADDED NEW LANDSCAPING AND INSTALLED A DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM AT SOMERSET PARK.**

## MARCH 2024 CALENDAR

Th.	21	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri.	22	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat.	23	9-10 a.m.	El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	Past El Dorado Frontier in Area III
Mon.	25	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Tue.	26	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Wed.	27	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Th.	28	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Fri.	29	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites
Sat.	30	8 a.m.	Registration begins for Sat. swim lessons from 4/27-6/15	Belmont Plaza Pool

## APRIL 2024 CALENDAR

Mon.	1	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/
Tue.	2	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/
Wed.	3	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/
Th.	4	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/
Fri.	5	Noon – 5 p.m.	Free Spring Fun Days Extended Recreation Hours	longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/
Sat.	6	10 a.m. - noon	1st Saturday Stewards Volunteer Cleanup	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon.	8	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Tue.	9	8 a.m.	Registration begins for Tue./Th. swim lessons from 4/23-5/16	Belmont Plaza & King Park Pools
		Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Wed.	10	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Th.	11	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Fri.	12	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Sat.	13	8 a.m.	Registration begins for Sat. swim lessons from 4/27-6/15	King Park Pool
		9 a.m.	Summer Day Camp Registration Begins	Visit LBParks.org
Mon.	15	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Tue.	16	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Wed.	17	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Th.	18	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Fri.	19	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Sat.	20	10 – 10:45 a.m.	Spanish Language Storytime Rancho Los Cerritos. Register at rancholoscerritos.org/upcoming-events	
Mon.	22	8 a.m.	Registration begins for Mon./Wed. swim lessons from 4/22-5/15	King Park Pool
		Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Tue.	23	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Wed.	24	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Th.	25	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Fri.	26	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Sat.	27	8 a.m.	Registration begins for Sat. swim lessons from 4/27-6/15	Silverado Park Pool
		9-10 a.m.	El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	Past El Dorado Frontier in Area III
Mon.	29	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.
Tue.	30	Varies M-F	Free After School Recreation Program	Visit LBParks.org for hours and sites.

### Free Mobile Recess Programs March 11- June 14, 2024

### Register on Site

Monday	3-5:30 p.m.
Tuesday	2-4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3-5:30 p.m.
Thursday	2:30-5 p.m.
Friday	2-4:30 p.m.

**Hudson Park** 2335 Webster Ave.  
**Sparks at Midtown** 1900 Long Beach Blvd.  
**Hudson Park** 2335 Webster Ave.  
**Rose Park**, corner of Orizaba Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
**Jackson Park**, 1432 E. Jackson St.

Visit [www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/youth-programs/mobile-recess](http://www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/youth-programs/mobile-recess) for more information

### LBUSD Students Free Community Learning Hubs ages 5-14, through June 14, 2024 Register online

Monday-Friday 3-6 p.m.

**Houghton, McBride, Orizaba and Veterans Parks**

To enroll, visit your desired location. Academic support with high-speed internet, sports, fitness and more. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. Visit [www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/youth-programs/community-learning-hubs](http://www.longbeach.gov/park/recreation-programs/youth-programs/community-learning-hubs) for details.

## LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

[WWW.LBPARKS.ORG](http://WWW.LBPARKS.ORG)



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