

We Create Community

CITY OF LONG BEACH PARKS, RECREATION
& MARINE

JAN 25 | VOLUME 14
ISSUE 1

FREE FUN DAYS WINTER BREAK YOUTH PROGRAM



Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) offered free extended supervised recreation programs for youth during

the winter school break from December 23-27 and December 30-January 3.

PRM staff led a variety of fun, enriching activities each day from noon to 5 p.m. at 22 parks throughout Long Beach including free games, crafts, sports tournaments, field trips and holiday celebrations.



YOUTH CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR AT WARDLOW PARK, AND ENJOY A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES AT MCBRIDE PARK DURING WINTER FUN DAYS.

Director's Corner

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



Happy New Year to all. With 2024, in the rear mirror, 2025 promises to be a great year ahead for our Parks, Recreation, Marine, and Animal Care Services team. Another year closer

to the FIFA World Cup 26 with 48 teams from 6 confederations from around the globe being hosted by 16 cities in three North American countries: Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Soccer enthusiasm in Long Beach will undoubtedly elevate as the coming months play out. And then three years from this summer, the LA28 Olympics will be another spike in excitement across the realm of most sports that are avidly enjoyed in our City.

More of Long Beach's Elevate 28 capital projects will unfold across the City this year with many of our parks scheduled to receive major enhancements. Notably the construction of 'signature' playgrounds in Houghton, Ramona, and Silverado parks will bring amazing new energy to creative play spaces. Martin Luther King Jr. Park's pool will be receiving significant upgrades this year in support of the growing interest in aquatic sports. Willow Springs Park will see an important trailhead

project move forward in the new year, also.

While 2025 is known in the Chinese zodiac as the "Year of the Snake", in support of our Long Beach Animal Care Services, let's continue to celebrate the next 12 months as the Year of the Cat & Dog. With scores of adorable furry friends available and looking for a forever home, maybe the new year might be the purrfect time to welcome a kitten into your family, or a good "dog-gone" time for a puppy in your life. The LBACS Adoption Waggin will continue to be out in the community on most weekends or special neighborhood events to showcase the animals available for fostering or adoption.

Here's to a great 2025! Parks Make Life Better and Parks Make Long Beach!

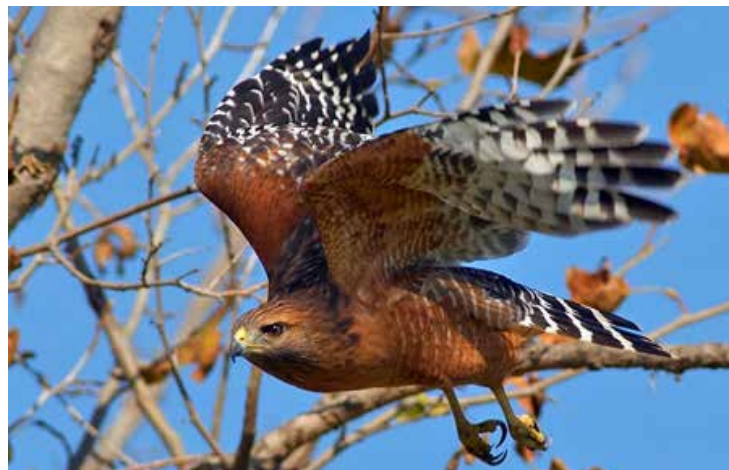
**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

NATURALIST NOTES THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Become a scientist for the day! Help count our local feathery friends and discover why they are so important.

The data collected helps scientists understand more about bird populations and migration. No experience necessary. All ages. Sunday, February 16, 9 a.m. – Noon. Free Program.

Visit birdcount.org to see how to participate.



NEIGHBOR-TO NEIGHBOR WHOVILLE WINTER VILLAGE EVENT



Parks, Recreation and Marine hosted a Whoville Winter Village on December 14 at Silverado Park, a free family-friendly

holiday event and designated Neighbor-to-Neighbor activation to support community connection during the holiday season.

Community members were invited to bring their family and friends to enjoy a day of carnival games, crafts, cookie decorating, face painting, balloon twisting, family recreation games, sledding, snow, and pictures with Santa Clause and The Grinch.

Long Beach's Neighbor-to-Neighbor program is a California Volunteers network and is led by the City's Office of Sustainability to support events that empower Cali-

fornians to take meaningful action in their community and help strengthen communities by bringing neighbors together to engage locally.

The City launched its Neighbor-to-Neighbor program in September 2024. The program is funded by a \$500,000 grant from the State of California through California Volunteers, Office of the Governor. The fund's focus is to expand California's volunteer infrastructure and bolster the statewide Neighbor-to-Neighbor network to recruit, train, equip and organize neighbors to address community needs. To learn more about how to participate in the Neighbor-To-Neighbor program, including a calendar of upcoming events, visit longbeach.gov/sustainability/about-us/about-climate-action/neighbor-to-neighbor/.

ENJOY NATURE MORE WITH EL DORADO REGIONAL PARK ANNUAL 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 and are \$40 for Senior's age 50+, veterans and those with disabilities at El Dorado Nature Center, 7550 E. Spring Street, Tuesday - Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and at the Parks, Recreation and Marine Administration Office, 2760 N. Studebaker Road from Monday - Friday from 8 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. 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.



Free After School Programs for Youth

AGES 5 TO 12

CITY OF
LONG
BEACH



After school programs are non-custodial programs, registered participants may come at their discretion. Participants will receive homework assistance and enjoy enrichment activities and games. Pre-registration is required. To register, participants can visit the park of their choice at the following times:

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 2:30 - 5:30 P.M.

- College Estates Park, 808 Stevely Ave., 562.570.1617
- MacArthur Park, 1321 E. Anaheim St., 562.570.1655
- Pan American Park, 5157 E. Centralia St., 562.570.1662
- Whaley Park, 5620 E. Atherton St., 562.570.1710

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 3 - 6 P.M.

- Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Ave., 562.570.1601
- Cesar E. Chavez Park, 401 Golden Ave., 562.570.8890
- Coolidge Park, 352 E. Neece St., 562.570.1618
- Drake Park, 951 Maine Ave., 562.570.1625
- El Dorado Park West, 2800 N. Studebaker Rd., 562.570.3225

- Houghton Park, 6301 Myrtle Ave., 562.570.1640
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park, 1950 Lemon Ave., 562.570.4405
- McBride Park, 1550 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., 562.570.1605
- Orizaba Park, 1435 Orizaba Ave., 562.570.1427
- Ramona Park, 3301 E. 65th St., 562.570.1665
- Scherer Park, 4600 Long Beach Blvd., 562.570.1674
- Seaside Park, 14th Street at Chestnut Ave., 562.570.5162
- Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St., 562.570.1675
- Somerset Park, 1500 E. Carson St., 562.570.1690
- Stearns Champions Park, 4520 E. 23rd St., 562.570.1685
- Veterans Park, 101 E. 28th St., 562.570.1695
- Wardlow Park, 3457 Stanbridge Ave., 562.570.1705

For availability and registration information, call the location of your choice.

LONG BEACH ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEW LEASH ON LIFE ADOPTION SPECIAL

Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) is kicking off the new year on a paw-sitive note, with the New Leash

on Life adoption special! If you're ready to open your heart and home to a new dog, consider giving a shelter dog a new "leash" on life by giving them a place to call home! Through January 31, adopt any LBACS dog for just \$25. If you aren't ready to adopt, you can also participate through fostering or partnering with a local rescue who supports LBACS.



GIVE A DOG A NEW LEASE ON LIFE. ADOPTION FEE IS \$25 DURING JANUARY.

Visit us at the shelter at 7700 E. Spring St. from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (Thurs-Fri) or 10 a.m.- 3:30 p.m (Sat and Sun). Learn more about fostering: bit.ly/3QMraLi.



PRM ANIMAL CARE SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) has made progress in advancing several goals in the Parks, Recreation

and Marine Strategic Plan. The Plan is guiding the operational, staffing and budget decisions through 2032 and serves as a tool to adapt park services as the community's needs evolve. Visit <https://bit.ly/3x2L22R> to learn more.

To support the Plan goal of having a diverse workforce, LBACS encouraged 283 volunteers to participate in the Pet Literacy Program that promotes the socialization of animals to prepare them for adoption.

LBACS worked on the goal to strengthen partnerships by partnering with Community Animal Medicine Project to bring low-cost vaccine clinics to the public each Monday and 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Staff also partnered with the Long Beach Adult School to secure volunteer interns to work with a variety of LBACS programs.

Several events supported the goal of community transparency and engagement with park patrons including adoption events at Pet Supplies Plus every 3rd Saturday of the month, the Pit Bull Appreciation Event on October 12 at Marina Vista Park, participation in the Long Beach Pet Fair October 19 - 20 at Marina Green Park and participating in the Thankful Heart Dinner event at McBride Park with Council District 6 on November 21.

SEVERAL COMMUNITY EVENTS STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND BRING LBACS CLOSER TO STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS. LOW COST VACCINE CLINICS AND ADOPTION EVENTS SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PARK (MLK) SWIMMING POOL TO UNDERGO RENOVATIONS



When Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park was dedicated in 1964, It was 1.17 acres and known as the “19th Street Playground”. In 1968, the park was renamed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In the 1970s MLK Park expanded to 5.86 acres with a ball field, game courts, a community recreation center, and Central Facility Center that provided Heath and Human Services Department programs.

The park was expanded by 3 acres to 9.03 acres in 1980 including an outdoor swimming pool. The pool was enclosed in 1996, with the restrooms and showers in the adjacent Boys and Girls Club. Pool locker rooms, restrooms,

staff offices, and a classroom were completed in 2007.

The MLK Pool will be closed from the end of January to early May 2025 to replace deteriorated plaster and add new tile finishes and coping. Pool mechanical systems including circulation pumps, filters, and chlorine acid feed pumps will be replaced with more efficient systems. The project also included an accessible lift, deck repair, diving stands and ladders refurbishment, new lighting fixtures, and tile depth marker replacement.

Upon completion, residents will once again be able to participate in lap swimming, recreational swimming, water exercise and swimming lessons.

COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES: BELMONT BEACH & AQUATICS CENTER PROJECT

The City of Long Beach’s Departments of Public Works and Parks, Recreation & Marine will host a community

meeting to provide an overview of the Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center Project. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Will Rogers Middle School Auditorium (365 Monrovia Ave.).

The meeting will include updates on the project, such as the unveiling of the facility’s design, an overview of the proposed financing strategy, project timelines and key milestones. Members of the project team will also be available to answer questions, including those related to project details or technical aspects.

The Belmont Beach and Aquatics Center Project is designed to engage, instruct and train public aquatics users while providing inclusive and accessible recreational water space for the Long Beach community. The project consists of two new pools for all ages, abilities and entry levels, and will include a zero-depth pool entrance and pool lifts to increase access for all residents. Other features include springboards, play elements and spray features for children, a recreational pool with instructional lanes to accommodate programming like swim lessons and therapy, and a main entry building with showers, locker rooms, family changing rooms, offices and a new



ticketing counter. Additionally, the project will include brand new, publicly accessible beach restrooms.

More information, including a detailed project timeline, is available at belmontpool.com.

Media inquiries may be directed to Jocelin Padilla-Razo, Community Information Officer, Department of Public Works, at 562.570.4668 or lbpwmedia@longbeach.gov.

CONGRATULATIONS NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH TUDY SANCHEZ



Congratulations to Tudy Sanchez on being named the Employee of the month

for November 2024. Tudy has served the City of Long Beach for over 24 years. She was nominated by PRM Analyst April Monjaras who says that Tudy goes above and beyond standard customer service practices by providing excellent support for patrons seeking permits for Marine Stadium.

She proactively asked for directions to use an electric gate arm when the instructions were unavailable and her attention to detail has helped prevent damage to the new gate arm. She always answers the telephone with a can-do attitude and provides outside of the box thinking when coming up with alternative solutions. We greatly appreciate her ongoing support in the Marine Bureau. Way to go Tudy!

NEW PRM MANAGER, MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS BUREAU ERIC WOODSON



Eric Woodson is the new Manager of the Maintenance Operations Bureau

for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine.

He is responsible for the maintenance of City parks including all park facilities and amenities, the City's park tree inventory, nesting surveys, all contractor activities, and the Department

stint as the Superintendent of Street Sweeping and Parking Control in the Department of Public Works. He brings a wealth of experience and a strong track record of excellence from his previous role as Superintendent of Marine Maintenance where he was responsible for maintaining the docks, freestanding restrooms and buildings in the City's three marinas, as well as the pier and other structures in the Tideland areas. Mr. Woodson, as a former Maintenance Planner, has extensive experience regarding the maintenance of the City's facilities and infrastructure.

Eric is a graduate of Los Angeles Harbor College. He is passionate about mentoring, coaching and team building.

Eric can be reached at eric.woodson@longbeach.gov and 562.570.4899.

ment Ambassador program, which enhances the user experience at parks and facilities.

Eric has worked for the City of Long Beach for 27 years. He comes back to Parks, Recreation and Marine after a



REGISTRATION FOR SPRING CLASSES STARTS FEBRUARY 3 AT 8 A.M. AT LB PARKS.ORG.

JANUARY 2025 CALENDAR

Fri. 10	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic. Call 562. 570.7387	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Sun. 12	8-9:30 a.m.	Free Bird Walk Register at rancholoscerritos.org/events	Rancho Los Cerritos
Mon. 13	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Tue. 14	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.
Wed. 15	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	VisitLBParks.org for locations
Th. 16	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Fri. 17	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Sat. 18	10 a.m. – noon	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Jack Dunster Marine Reserve
Sun. 19	8 a.m.	Free Docent Led Bird Walk Register at 562.570.1745	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 20		Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Holiday	
Tue. 21	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Wed. 22	6 – 7:30 p.m.	Community Overview of Belmont Beach & Aquatics Ctr	Will Rogers Middle School
Th. 23	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Fri. 24	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic. Call 562. 570.7387	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Sat. 25	9 – 10 a.m.	4 th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	El Dorado Area III
Mon. 27	8 a.m.	Register for Mon./ Wed. swim lessons from 12/3-2/26	Silverado Park Pool
	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic. Call 562. 570.7387	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Tue. 28	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.
Wed. 29	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Th. 30	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Fri. 31	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.

FEBRUARY 2025 CALENDAR

Sat. 1	10 a.m. – noon	First Saturday Stewarts Nature Center Cleanup	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 3	8 a.m.	Spring Class Registration Begins	Visit LBParks.org
	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Tue. 4	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Wed. 5	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities; homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.
Th. 6	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Fri. 7	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.
Mon. 10	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Tue. 11	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Wed. 12	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.
Th. 13	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Fri. 14	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Sat. 15	10 a.m. – noon	Wetland Warrior Cleanup	Jack Dunster Marine Reserve
Sun. 16	8 a.m.	Free Docent Led Bird Walk Register at 562.570.1745	El Dorado Nature Center
Mon. 17	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Tue. 18	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Wed. 19	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.
Th. 20	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Fri. 21	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.
Sat. 22	9 – 10 a.m.	4 th Saturday El Dorado Regional Park Cleanup	El Dorado Area III
Mon. 24	10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Low Cost Vaccination Clinic	Long Beach Animal Care Svcs
Tue. 25	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Wed. 26	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.
Th. 27	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Free recreation and wellness programs for older adults	Visit LBParks.org for locations
Fri. 28	3 – 7 p.m.	Free Teen Centers recreation activities, homework help	Visit LBParks.org for locations.

FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR AGES 5-12

Parents must register children on site. Visit LBParks.org for locations.

Mon- Fri, 3-6 p.m.

Bixby, Cesar E. Chavez, Coolidge, Drake, El Dorado West. Houghton M.L. King Jr., McBride, Orizaba, Ramona, Scherer, Seaside. Silverado, Somerset, Stearns Champions, Veterans and Wardlow Parks.

Mon-Fri, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

College Estates, MacArthur, Pan American (1:30-5:30 p.m. on Thursdays), Veterans and Whaley Parks.

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2760 STUDEBAKER ROAD
LONG BEACH, CA 90815
PHONE: 562.570.3100
FAX: 562.570.3109



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