



Livermore Area
Recreation and Park District
An independent special district

**GENERAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY UPDATE
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON ISSUES AND PROJECTS
DRAFT NOVEMBER 2024**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: MATHEW FUZIE, GENERAL MANAGER

The information contained in this report is intended to help keep the Board of Directors informed on current projects and study issues. Reported below is the most current and available information. Since work on these items is ongoing, the information is subject to rapid change. If a project or issue has not changed from the previous month's report, the information provided may be the same as was previously reported. Please note that some projects are not directed or managed by LARPD, but they are included below as informational only.

GENERAL SUMMATION

The month of October finally brought cooler weather. Construction is completed on the Sycamore Grove restrooms. Staff are busy updating our systems with the new software for our accounting and budget systems. One request for proposal (RFP) for a consultant to begin and complete an update to our Parks and Trails Master Plan. The audit is complete and will be presented to the full Board with a recommendation to accept by the Finance Committee. An RFP will be going out soon for Audit Firms to bid on taking on our business to complete our annual audit. The Board will vote on this item in the new year. Our newly formed Morale Committee for employees has been working hard this month hitting up several departments with donuts and signs that say, "You have been BOOED!". It's a fun and cute concept. Managers and Supervisors completed their third day of training by our consultant on best practices, personalities, and professional practices. This training is part of our investment in formal professional training for our staff. A version of this training may be offered in the future for those employees who request professional development training.

Trails Update

The Patterson Ranch Trail should be completed very soon and will be open to the public before the New Year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In October, Board members attended two regular board meetings, four standing committee meetings, and enjoyed dining with LARPD employees at a special luncheon prior to the October 30th board meeting. Additionally, members of the Board of Directors participated in meetings at the following:

- Livermore Downtown Inc.
- Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance
- LARPD Foundation
- Livermore Cultural Arts Council
- Ala. Co. Agricultural SubComm. For Trails

Board actions for the month included:

- Resolution No. 2817 approving amendments to the District's Conflict of Interest Code.

Upcoming Board Schedule: (All meeting locations are held at 4444 East Avenue, Livermore, unless otherwise noted.)

- a. Program Committee Meeting: November 4, 1:00 p.m., - Cancelled.
- b. Facilities Committee Meeting: November 13, 2024, 3:00 p.m., West Conference Room.
- c. Regular Board Meeting: November 13, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Sycamore Room.
- d. Personnel Committee Meeting: November 12, 2024, 2:00 p.m., West Conference Room.
- e. Finance Committee Meeting: November 18, 2024, 2:00 p.m., West conference Room.

HUMAN RESOURCES

HR GM Report for October: October is a month of planning in Human Resources. It is a good time to invest in leadership training as well as to prepare for year-end compliance reporting.

Recruitments: Our headcount is steady at 233 total active employees. We had five new hires in October with two in pre-employment.

Open Enrollment, November 12 - 26: Many things go into preparation for open enrollment including communications, internal compliance requirements, and preparing UKG/Kronos. Chelynn Watkins does exceptional work in vetting and preparing our benefits packages including assessing enhancements. Open enrollment is almost upon us. Much of November and December will revolve around this annual process.

Performance Reviews: Another annual process is performance reviews; these are wrapping up for a large part of the benefited staff. We rolled out the online review process to over 100 staff. Thank you to Amber Maugeri who simplified the process in UKG/Kronos. Ensuring performance reviews is difficult given our seven day a week operation and dispersed locations. The format itself was simple and was intended to create an opportunity for conversation between supervisor and employee.

Training: In October, the LARPD Leadership Academy held two sessions. The first was entitled Communicating for Action. This course discussed how to approach and navigate difficult discussions in the workplace. The focus was on practice and role play leveraging institutional communication models. The second session in October was focused on Managing Change. An assessment provided some introspection of how comfortable we are individually and as a group. Attendees learned how change briefly reduces productivity with tips on how to manage the dip and come back stronger. LARPD has been evolving with the times and this was a great reminder for us to stay resilient and lean into the positives of our changing environments.

Extra Mile Award: Sometimes you get a message from the public that is so wonderful you must share it. On 10/4/24, Steve Sommers and Ken Moniz were doing their jobs at Jack Williams Park. A member of the public asked them if they could install a bench to sit on. Recalling that LARPD had a spare bench, they returned with a bench for the public. A few days later the same member of the

public was delighted to find a brand new pickleball net that was installed by Ken and Steve. They reached out to send a big thank you to Ken and Steve for being efficient, friendly, and great ambassadors for LARPD. Great job guys, thanks for going the Extra Mile!

FINANCE

September Financials: Preliminary financial results through the month of September 2024 are as follows:

- Total revenues are 5% better than budget at \$3.274 million
- Salary and benefits expenses are 1% better than budget at \$3.925 million
- Services and supplies expenses are \$254k over budget due to several timing issues with when invoices were received vs. when the related expenses were budgeted; however, this number is down from the \$327k overage in the prior month’s report and is expected to continue to decline over the next few months.
- The District has not yet had any operating capital spend this fiscal year, which leaves the bottom line through the month of September at \$30k better than budget.

Budgeting Tool: Finance has been actively reviewing the budget templates that Vena has built, providing feedback, as necessary, and signing off on each component upon successful testing. The only remaining components to test are the workforce planning template and the workflow, both of which will be completed during the first week of November. The project remains on track with a tentative go-live in mid-November.

Great Plains Server Migration: Finance successfully migrated its accounting system, Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains, from a server hosted by the District’s third-party IT consultant, All Covered, to its own server with Microsoft. This is the first step in the process of transitioning away from Great Plains, as Microsoft will be phasing it out over the next few years, but it will also save the District \$30k over the next year. The project to transition is tentatively set to take place during the 2025 calendar year.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & RECREATION

Youth Services

ESS: The ESS programs have been busy this month learning and exploring through play. You will find below some of our amazing staff from Sunset, Michell, Jackson, and Smith ESS getting into the Halloween spirit as they dressed up together to have fun with the children they serve.

| ESS Site | Monthly Curriculum Themes: October |
|-----------------|---|
| Altamont Creek | Autumn is here! The children learned about the changing colors of the leaves, pumpkins and how long it takes for them to grow and rot. They baked delicious pumpkin snacks like bread, cookies, and muffins. |
| Arroyo Seco | Spooky fun time! Festive Halloween activities such as spoon bats, pumpkin sink, or float, create a pumpkin stress ball, hand painted pumpkins, learning the history of witches, black cats, and jack-o'-lanterns. |
| Croce | This month we have three different themes running: Out of this world, The Brain, and Animals. Traveling through outer space and learning about planets, stars, and moon. Learning the functions of the brain and how the different sections and how the connect |

| | |
|---------|---|
| | to different parts of the body. Exploring the categories of domestic, arctic, farm, safari, and endangered animals. |
| Jackson | We played group games such as Ghosts in the Graveyard, Halloween Freeze Dance, Eyeball Races, and Halloween Hot Lava. The kids had a blast creating spooky dirt cups, bat hats, cotton ball ghosts, and monster puppets. We also played Halloween bingo and created ghost balloons adding to our festive spirit. To wrap up the month, we honored our loved ones with an Ofrenda for our Dia de Los Muertos Celebration. Each child brought in or drew pictures of those they wished to remember, turning it into a heartfelt tribute. We culminated our activities with a walk-through event where parents visited each classroom and enjoyed the ofrendas with concha bread and hot chocolate. |
| Michell | Halloween Carnival & Pumpkin Patch! The children extended their creativity by making carnival games for the children in the other room. The children participated in some fall crafts to decorate the rooms with leaves, pumpkins, ghosts, monsters, and spiders. We dove into learning about all thing's pumpkins. We did size estimations of pumpkins, made pumpkin volcanoes, and got a little spooky with our ghost rockets. |
| Rancho | This month we explored the creepy crawly animals of Halloween and more, such as spiders and bats, snakes, and pumpkin dissection and carving. |
| Sunset | Under the sea, reptiles, and video games were all the topics we explored throughout this month. The kids learned about many different sea creatures, including sea horses, dolphins, sea turtles and Christmas crabs. They enjoyed painting the sea horses and building a sea turtle together. The kids learned about the differences between alligators and crocodiles and watched some videos with Steve Irwin, the Crocodile hunter and all of his animal conservation efforts. We talked about snakes and even brought in a real snakeskin, and rattlesnakes. We also talked about some of the kids Video games and consoles were about what immersive gaming is all about. Hey Cortana, open projects and events surrounding video games, including they drew out what they thought the first game console had looked like. The students participated and showcased. Creations of their video games. |





Preschool:

- During the last week of September, our preschool programs joined in the Diaper Drive that was organized by one of our ESS Coordinators. Together, our Youth Services department collected a total of over 7,000 diapers. These donations were taken to our local Hively Diaper Pantry to help provide diapers and wipes to qualified low-income families.
- As we entered the month of October, our preschool programs have planned a variety of curriculum activities that included animals such as bats, spiders, owls, and other fall related nature activities. All of the preschool classes participated in a family field trip to Joan’s Pumpkin Patch where they were able to enter an hour early and participate in the attractions offered.
- Our park rangers have begun their site visits this month as well. Learning about and seeing live reptiles such as the king snake, was a big hit. Coach Carlie has begun some basic skills with a few different sports that included baseball, basketball, and frisbee.



Senior Services

Classes: Senior Services Recreation Classes and Programs (Set-up & Take-down: average 30 minutes/week/program, except for Zumba, and Yoga).

| Program/Camp | Monthly Registration |
|--------------|----------------------|
|--------------|----------------------|

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Zumba Gold with Alice – 1 class | 15 registrants |
| Line Dancing w/ Delores (Beginner) | 9 registrants |
| Line Dancing with Delores (Beginner) | 11 registrants |
| Line Dancing with Gary – 3 classes (Beginner/Inter./Combo) | 28 registrants |
| Tai Chi with Barbara – (Memory/Level 1/Level 2) | 13 registrants |
| Tai Chi with Kim – (Level 3A/Level 3B) | 9 registrants |
| Yoga for Self-Care | 3 registrants |
| 3-D Greeting Cards | 8 registrants |
| Legal Assistance for Seniors – AEP 2025 | 17 registrants |
| Estate Planning | 7 registrants |
| Rethink Your Retirement | 3 registrants |
| Total Registered: | 123 registrants |

Trips: On October 24th, fifty-three Seniors boarded a luxury motorcoach to Moss Landing for a sold-out catamaran tour of the Elkhorn Slough waterway of Monterey Bay. The Eco Tour had sea otters appear, and afterwards the seniors enjoyed lunch on the dock. It was a delightful day on the coast!



Activities:

- On October 9th, twenty movie-goers attended the monthly Mystery Movie at the Vine, viewing the film “Lee” starring Kate Winslet depicting the life of WWII war correspondent and photographer, Lee Miller. Afterwards a lively discussion was enjoyed over appetizers at the Zephyr Grill.
- On September 26th, twenty-four Seniors enjoyed the October Crafting Social as they put together their woodland sleighs in the theme of “Over the River and Through the Woods” to adorn their Fall themed table décor for the season. As usual, it was a fun time creating and socializing with old and new friends.
- This month’s Ed Kinney Speaker Series at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, attendees spent an afternoon with historical Chautauquan figure, Kasturba Gandhi, capturing her trials and triumphs in her journey from child bride to freedom fighter. The audience is always included in a lively session of questions and answers after the show.



ITEM 3.2

- In our RLCC Vintage Lounge, Netflix movies were shown on October 7th and 21st. The featured films this month were “Megan Leavy” and “NYAD” and were enjoyed by a small crowd of local movie enthusiasts. The everchanging puzzle board is always set up in the Lounge to keep people engaged as well.
- The Trevarno Road History Walk was well received and appreciated by 25 guests as they walked with Heritage Guild docent (and resident), Susan Canfield to learn the interesting chronicles of this historically unique Livermore neighborhood. Susan has frequently donated her knowledge and time to provide this offering to our LARPD Senior population to enjoy.



- The Museum on Main in Pleasanton has again partnered with our Seniors to offer the “Ghost Walk” in downtown Pleasanton to learn of the spooky locations that enhance the charm of this little city. The date was postponed from early October to Halloween day ...to heighten the intensity of the mysterious walking tour.

You can find pictures from our trips and activities on LARPD social media outlets.

Community Outreach

The community outreach team distributed a press release this month celebrating and honoring the passing of Livermore's inaugural Ambassador, Boomer Bowers, and his legacy of community. The outreach team also connected the community with LARPD program offerings through email communication, social media, peach jar, and www.larpd.org. Throughout the month, the team sent 26,892 emails with a 61% open rate (35% industry average) between the District-Wide Newsletter, Senior Prime Time, Open Space Valley Wilds, and Senior Pop-Up Trip Emails. Across our social media accounts, 58 posts were shared reaching 23.6k. Highlights included a tribute to Boomer, promotion of the Sycamore Scares event at Ravenswood, and welcoming our new Naturalist, Candace Rho to the LARPD team. On www.larpd.org, September page views were 170,701.

Information Technology:

The IT team tackled a long-standing pain point of network connectivity at the Maintenance Service Center this month. This issue has puzzled multiple consultants, but the team was finally able to diagnose and address the problem to improve connectivity throughout the MSC.

LARPD Foundation:

At the LARPD Board Meeting held on Wednesday, October 30, LARPD Foundation President Connie Campbell presented the Annual Report highlighting the Foundation's accomplishments over the last year. It has been a positive year of growth in both fundraising and impact on the community. [VIEW ANNUAL REPORT](#)

Volunteers:

LARPD had a full slate of Halloween activities, and it was a busy month for volunteers. LARPD had 96 volunteers working 430 hours over the month of October. Larger events included the Sycamore

Scares at Ravenswood and the Boo Bash at the Robert Livermore Community Center. Other volunteer opportunities included Neighborhood Park Ambassadors, Native Garden Workdays, Open Space Volunteer Days, Puzzle Palooza, and Senior Tech Tutoring.

Upcoming Key Dates/Events

Golden Circle Holiday Bazaar: Tuesday and Wednesday, November 5-6. Join us for a holiday bazaar with hand-crafted gifts made by our Golden Circle Craft group that are available for purchase. Gifts include toys, plants, aprons, towels, hot pads and more. [MORE INFO](#)

Pop-Up Trip to Into The Woods at Sierra Rep Theater: Thursday, November 7. The Senior Services team is heading to enjoy lunch in downtown Sonora followed by a performance of Into the Woods at the Sierra Rep Theater. [MORE INFO](#)

Ravenswood Docent Tours: Second and Fourth Sunday of Each Month: Ravenswood Historical House will be open to the public on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for docent-led tours. [MORE INFO](#)

Adaptive Rec: Movie and Game Night: Friday, November 15: This program is an opportunity for participants to socialize with friendly people over board games, cards, activities, and movies in a cozy and friendly environment! [MORE INFO](#)

Brushy Peak Adventure Hike Climb to the Peak: Saturday, November 16: Explore the magical parkland known as Brushy Peak Regional Preserve. This hike covers approximately 4-miles over dirt and rocky trails with an elevation gain of 800+ feet, reaching the summit of the peak. The hike includes an exploration of unique sandstone rock formations, introduction to the Native Ohlone, Bay Miwok and Delta Yokuts cultures associated with the site, and opportunity to view the plants and animals that live or visit this area. [MORE INFO](#)

Santa's Mailbox Arrives at RLCC: Monday, November 18 in the Recreation Building. Write a letter to Santa and he'll write back to you! Make this holiday season extra special by writing and receiving a letter from Santa! [MORE INFO](#)

Toys for Tots Holiday Toy Drive Begins: Monday, November 18 through December 13. LARPD has once again partnered with Toys for Tots this holiday season to help children in need. Drop off new/unwrapped toys at Robert Livermore Community Center from November 18 through December 13. [MORE INFO](#)

November Crafting Social (50+): Friday, November 22. Enjoy time with new friends, creating fun and imaginative crafts and decor for your home or as gifts for friends and loved ones. [MORE INFO](#)

Kids Night Out – Glow in the Dark Night: Saturday, November 23. We will provide your child with a fun-filled night of activities, crafts, and silly games. Best of all - pizza dinner and popcorn are included! [MORE INFO](#)

Historical Walking Tour of Downtown Livermore: Tuesday, November 26. Join Heritage Guild's Susan Canfield on an informative walk in historical downtown Livermore and learn about history of the homes and buildings on your one-mile tour. Conclude with a no host lunch downtown. Rain or shine. [MORE INFO](#)

Aquatics

Year-round programs: Lap Swim, Water Exercise, and Master’s Water Polo have all continued to attract a desirable number of participants dropping and purchasing memberships.

| Program | Drop-In | Membership Sales | Membership Usage |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Lap Swim | 794 entries | 67 individuals | 744 entries |
| Water Exercise | 190 entries | 31 individuals | 407 entries |
| Master’s Water Polo | 54 entries | 7 individuals | 43 entries |

Lap Lane Rentals: In October, the Livermore Aqua Cowboys rented lanes at the Robert Livermore Aquatic Center and May Nissen Swim Center. The team consistently rents lanes six days a week throughout the year. The team rented the facility for a two-day swim meet that brought in over 500 people into the facility each day. The Aqua Cowboys lane rentals at the Robert Livermore Aquatic Center are set to bring in about \$13,284 in revenue while the May Nissen Swim Center is set to earn \$7,281 in revenue.



The Robert Livermore Aquatic Center was rented on October 26th for the Tri-Valley Invitational Water Polo tournament for local high school water polo players. The facility was used for 11 hours and 16 teams from the Bay Area competed in our facility.



Aquatic Special Events: The Aquatics Team had a successful Pumpkin Patch and Splash event on October 19th. The event had 100 registrants and 70 drop-in participants. Kids and families in attendance enjoyed picking a pumpkin in our floating pumpkin patch, having the option to decorate and carve it, and participating in crafts and games. The pumpkins were purchased locally from Joan’s farm. Our lifeguard staff got into the Halloween spirit with matching shirts for the event.

Sports Facility Rentals

- 43 permits were issued for picnic rentals in the month of September, generating \$5,390 in revenue with 2,035 attendees.
- Tri-Valley Pickleball Club held their Club Tournament at May Nissen courts. Youth League Tennis continues to rent courts at May Nissen for their year-round program and the sand volleyball courts at Robert Livermore continued to be rented on Friday nights by a local group.
- Livermore Junior Football League holds their home games at Robertson Park. Each week LJFL plays teams from eight surrounding cities with approximately 300-400 people in attendance. Game

days consist of weigh ins for the football players, lots of enthusiasm from the cheerleaders, food trucks, and more.

- Fusion Soccer held a Ghouls & Goals tournament utilizing all fields at Robertson Park and Cayetano. This event catered to both boys and girls' teams U9-U12 boys and girls in the Premier/Gold level.

| Park Location | Total Rentals | Total Rental Hours |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Robertson Park | 104 | 502 |
| Cayetano | 43 | 143 |
| Ernie Rodrigues | 27 | 142 |
| Robert Livermore | 45 | 240 |
| Randy Johnson | 0 | 0 |
| Christensen | 8 | 33 |
| Max Baer | 31 | 69 |
| Independence | 47 | 273 |
| Altamont Creek | 2 | 54 |
| Bill Payne | 20 | 272 |
| Hagemann | 64 | 248 |
| May Nissen Courts | 50 | 217 |
| Gymnasium | 89 | 297 |
| Total: | 530 | 2,490 |

| Picnic Locations | Total Number of Rentals | Total Number of Attendees |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| May Nissen (main site) | 7 | 425 |
| May Nissen (tennis court) | 8 | 320 |
| May Nissen (library) | 6 | 140 |
| Big Trees | 8 | 320 |
| Hagemann | 0 | 0 |
| Independence Lower | 0 | 0 |
| Independence Upper | 9 | 320 |
| Les Knott | 1 | 40 |
| Pleasure Island | 4 | 160 |
| Robertson Park Pole Barn | 1 | 150 |
| Cayetano | 1 | 80 |
| Robert Livermore | 1 | 80 |
| Other | | |
| Total: | 46 | 2,035 |

Sports & Enrichment Programs/Classes/Events:

- This year’s Boo Bash event was a huge success, surpassing previous years in both size and excitement. New activities, including face painting and a glow-in-the-dark dance room, were added to enhance the Halloween experience for 450 participants. A highlight this year was our partnership with the Mendenhall Middle School Advanced Orchestra, which brought a unique musical element to the event. Thirty talented middle school students performed Halloween-themed music throughout the evening.
- Seeing an increase in demand for the peewee age group and younger, we have expanded programming, adding classes for one-and two-year-olds. These classes are parent/me based allowing for social interaction and practice of their fine motor skills.
- Little Hoopers was a standout program with 14 enthusiastic 3.5-5-year-olds learning the basics of basketball through fun and engaging drills and games. A group favorite is Pac-Man Tag, where players dribble along the court lines, trying to escape “ghosts” (the coaches). This game is an effective and enjoyable way for the children to practice dribbling skills and court awareness.
- LARPD’s Youth Basketball League has been running weekly games that have been exciting for both players and spectators. The 1st-2nd grade league has shown noticeable improvement. Each game has brought new excitement, as teams grow more confident, and games become more action-packed. The 3rd-4th grade league has featured back-and-forth play that keeps everyone on the edge of their seats.

| Program | Total Registered Participa |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| LARPD Youth Basketball League | 61 |
| LARPD Small Group Training Baske | 19 |
| LARPD Practice & Play Basketball | 17 |
| LARPD Pee Classes | 62 |
| LARPD Pee Wee Soccer League | 56 |
| LARPD 4/5 Year Soccer League | 64 |
| LARPD Boo Bash Event | 450 |
| LARPD Kids/Pee Wee Night Out | 53 |
| LARPD Adaptive Programs | 14 |
| LARPD Adult Softball | 360 |
| LARPD Adult Kickball | 45 |
| Arora Tennis Classes | 112 |
| Youth/Adult Karate | 29 |
| Youth/Adult Hip Hop | 19 |
| Kidz Love Soccer Class | 80 |
| Adult Yoga | 51 |
| Drop In Pickleball | 421 |
| Ballet | 101 |
| Total Participants Served: | 2,014 |

Open Space

Programs/Events:

- Rangers led a **tour of Brushy Peak** for a local church congregation who was interested in learning about Native American heritage. These privately organized and led tours are becoming more popular as word gets out about this amazing parkland managed by LARPD Open Space.
- **Sycamore Scares** at Ravenswood Historic Site was another spooky success this year! We added an extra night and additional time slots to fit more groups in in response to the event's growing popularity. 50+ volunteers, including the Young Men's Service League, came dressed up as zombies and had a great time. This program could not happen without volunteer support and enthusiasm!
- Ranger Explorers, ages 13-16, joined Ranger Jay and Interpreter Christine on an **overnight camping trip to Lake Del Valle Regional Park**. They hiked in nearly complete darkness along Deer Jaw trail, encountered scorpions glowing under UV light, spent the morning fishing at the lake, and watched birds through a newly donated spotting scope.
- **Sycamore Sprouts, Sycamore Science Camp, Junior Rangers, and Ranger Explorers** continue to provide nature education and adventure for varying age groups of children. Rosters have also continued to grow for these programs.
- Staff led two full **Ravenswood Day** programs for Livermore schools. This 4-hour long program uses 7 Open Space staff and serves 4 classrooms at once to teach them about the Ravenswood estate and the Victorian time when it was built. This has become a very popular program over the last few years even as we have raised the price to be more in line with other programs.
- In October, the **Ranger Station Picnic Area** was rented out for a birthday party with a ranger-led program and an Eagle Scout ceremony. We've experienced increased interest in reservations and custom-led programs at the picnic area through word of mouth. Open Space is working with facilities and communications team to update our policies and webpages in anticipation of increased usage of this reservable site.
- October Community/Partnership Events:
 - 10/10 – Farmers Market at Downtown Livermore
 - 10/12 – Tabling at Bikes & Brews
 - 10/13 – Livermore Public Library & LARPD Bird Walk at Sycamore Grove Park
 - 10/19 – Unity Walk with a Cop at Sycamore Grove Park
 - 10/23 – Trunk or Treat
 - 10/23 – Tabling at Homegrown Hops



Park Updates/Natural Resource Management:

- Work on **Patterson Ranch Trail** is nearing completion! Final signposts have been installed, spring loaded gate mechanism will be installed soon, and final bits of trail clearing that was intentionally saved until just before opening will be starting soon.
- Romteck has finished work on the **Ranger Station Picnic Area bathroom!** We look forward to final steps to be completed through the county to be able to utilize the new restrooms for picnic area rentals and programming at the ranger station.
- Biologists have begun a study at Sycamore Grove Park of native and non-native turtles. In anticipation of the federal listing of the native Western Pond Turtle as threatened, this study aims to shine light on turtle movements through different seasons. More to come.



Volunteers:

- For the October **Open Space Volunteer Day**, Natural Resource Technician Justin led volunteers in a bioblitz, a community science effort to document living things at Sycamore Grove Park. Using smart devices and the app iNaturalist, volunteers took photos and identified organisms in the park. Collecting seasonal data like this will not only contribute to the online database of observations but help LARPD Open Space in making decision regarding resource management and weed abatement.
- As the seasons change, volunteers were needed back in the **native garden** for autumn maintenance. A small team of new and returning volunteers helped prune back shrubs, remove leaves, and prepare newly installed garden boxes at the Wetmore garden in anticipation of fall rain.

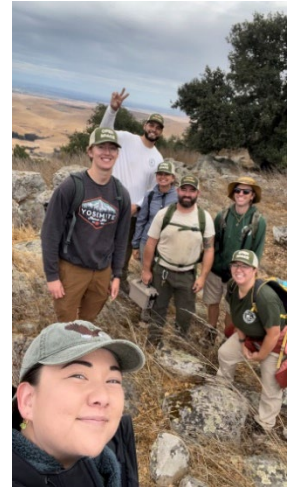


Staff Updates & Development:

- Open Space staff took a **field trip to Brushy Peak** in lieu of a regular staff meeting in October. We learned about its history, flora, and fauna as we explored the natural sandstone rock formations and hiked up to the peak and back.
- Multiple staff trainings took place to prepare new staff and enrich veteran staff in our **California Indian school program**. We run several of these 2-hour long field trips each year – however, the information about Ohlone way of life is useful in many park interactions and programs.



- Open Space staff participated in tractor and spray training, expanding the available tools staff can use for natural resource management, fuel load reduction, and maintenance.
- Interpreters Eric and Christine led a day of training and enrichment for over 40 East Bay Regional Park District interpretive and recreation staff as part of an ongoing partnership with EBRPD, especially the Del Valle interpretive team. This day-long meeting introduced the guests from EBRPD to LARPD and Sycamore Grove Park, highlighted some of our flagship interpretive programs, and opened up discussions on providing interpretive and recreational opportunities to East Bay communities. We concluded the day with a guided tour of Sycamore Grove Park showcasing the ongoing challenges of managing and interpreting on the topic of flooding and sycamore tree restoration.



Upcoming:

- 2025 Parking Passes will go on Presale at the end of November.
- Colder weather in November will see an expected lull in outdoor school field trips. There will still be plenty of weekend ranger programs (including campfires), youth programs, in-class school programs, partnership programs, and peak numbers of our night hike “Hoot Owl” program. We eagerly anticipate the opening of the Patterson Ranch Trail. Seasonally, we are already seeing an increase in photo permits and park usage as the sycamore leaves change colors and we head into the holiday season.
- While current predictions forecast a slightly less than average rainfall year for California during La Niña, Open Space is ready to respond to expected downed trees and branches, flood releases from the dam and potential park closures, and storm damage to trails.

Bimonthly Snapshot:

| SEPTEMBER'24 Open Space | # of programs | # Participants (TOTAL) | OCTOBER'24 Open Space | # of programs | # Participants (TOTAL) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| School Programs | 6 | 157 | School Programs | 17 | 593 |
| ESS | 2 | 96 | ESS | 3 | 129 |
| ASES/ELOP | 1 | 32 | ASES/ELOP | 4 | 35 |
| Ranger Programs | 3 | 53 | Ranger Programs | 7 | 247 |
| Hoot Owls | 1 | 20 | Hoot Owls | 2 | 40 |
| Sprouts | 2 | 22 | Sprouts | 2 | 22 |
| Science Camp | 7 | 91 | Science Camp | 5 | 81 |
| Junior Rangers | 3 | 30 | Junior Rangers | 2 | 19 |
| Ranger Explorers | 2 | 380 | Ranger Explorers | 1 | 6 |
| Special Events | 6 | 668 | Special Events | 6 | 1255 |
| Custom Fee Programs | 2 | 58 | Custom Fee Programs | 3 | 102 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| Volunteer Opportunities | 1 | 40 | Volunteer Opportunities | 4 | 64 |
| SEP'24 Totals | | 1647 | OCT'24 Totals | | 2593 |

Facility Rentals

Facility rentals are held at the Ravenswood Historic Site, and the Robert Livermore Community Center. Facility rental information is located on our website at larpd.org.

| Facility | Activity | Monthly Total Rentals | Monthly Total Hours |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Ravenswood | Facility Rentals | 3 | 11 |
| Ravenswood | Wedding Rehearsals | 2 | 2 |
| Ravenswood/RLCC | Facility Rental Tours | 21 | 21 |
| Ravenswood | Photo Permits | 6 | 12 |
| RLCC | Facility Rentals | 20 | 220 |
| RLCC | On-going Rentals | 1 | 14 |
| Total Facility Rentals for the Month: | | 53 | 280 |

Facility Operations

Facility operations staff are scheduled Monday through Friday from 7:30am-10:00pm to support District-wide facility operations, programming, and custodial. Weekend hours vary depending on programming and facility rentals. Below is the Day-to-Day Operations & District Support matrix.

| Operations | Staff | Days | Time | Weekly Total Hours | Monthly Total Hours |
|---|-------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Outlying Facility Restroom Cleaning: Ravenswood, Carnegie, & Vets Hall (Raquel) | 1 | M/Tu (Friday as needed) | 6:30am-9:30am | Between 4-6 | Between 16 and 20 |
| RLCC Operations & Custodial (LARPD – days / Contractor – nights) | 2 | M-F | 7:30am-10:00pm | 217.5 | 870 |
| RLCC Operations & Custodial (LARPD – days / Contractor – nights) | 2 | Sat/Sun | 8:00am-8:00pm | 24 | 96 |
| Park Restrooms: Field Rentals (Contractor) | 2 | Sat | 7:00am-5:00pm | 20 | 80 |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|-------------------|----|----|
| Park Restrooms: Field Rentals (Contractor) | 2 | Sun | 7:00am- 5:00pm | 20 | 80 |
|--|---|-----|-------------------|----|----|

Community Services Program and Service Support

| Program | Task | Staff | Days | Weekly Total Hours | Monthly Total Hours |
|--|------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Open Heart Kitchen | Setup & Takedown | 2 | M-F | 10 hours | 40 hours |
| Pet Food Distribution | Setup & Takedown | 2 | Wednesdays | 30 minutes | 2 hours |
| Occasional Events (Seniors; 1-2/mo.) | Setup & Takedown | 2 | Days vary | 30 minutes | 1 hour |
| Livermore Rotary Meetings | Setup & Takedown | 2 | Wednesdays | 1 hour | 4 hours |
| Golden Circle & Learn to Knit! | Setup & Takedown | 2 | Mondays | 30 minutes | 2 hours |
| Movie Madness | Setup & Takedown | 1 | Mondays | 1 hour | 2 hours |
| Mah Jong | Setup & Takedown | 1 | Wednesday | 30 minutes | 2 hours |
| Bridge | Setup & Takedown | 1 | Thursday & Friday | 1 hour | 4 hours |
| Livermore Rotary Club | Setup & Takedown | 2 | Wednesdays | 1 hour | 3 hours |
| LARPD Foundation Meeting | Setup & Takedown | 1 | Monday | 15 minutes | 15 minutes |
| October Crafting Social | Setup & Takedown | 2 | Thursday | 1 hour | 1 hour |
| Alameda County Ag Subcommittee on Trails Meeting | Setup & Takedown | 1 | Monday | 15 minutes | 15 minutes |
| LARPD Board Meeting | Setup & Takedown | 1 | Wednesday | 30 minutes | 1 hour |
| Caregiver Support Group | Setup & Takedown | 1 | Thursday | 30 minutes | 1 hour |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---|----------|------------|------------|
| Livermore Chamber of Commerce – Leadership Livermore | Setup & Takedown | 2 | Tuesday | 1 hour | 1 hour |
| Leadership Academy | Setup & Takedown | 2 | Thursday | 30 minutes | 30 minutes |

PARKS, FACILITIES, & MAINTENANCE

Parks Department Update:

In the past month, the team focused heavily on tree maintenance, removing 21 dead trees and grinding 27 stumps to improve safety and landscape aesthetics. Routine backflow testing was completed, with 25 tests conducted and 5 necessary repairs. Personnel received training on mower and forklift operation, enhancing operational efficiency. In addition to shrub planting at Bruno, new Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies and schedules were developed to address pest control sustainably. Staff were trained on proper herbicide handling, mixing, and application, with broadleaf herbicide applied to neighborhood and sports turf. Aeration and fertilization were carried out on sports fields, and team members participated in Healthy School Act training, led by the Department of Pesticide Regulation, to ensure safe practices in educational environments.



Tree Health Improvement Plan: Mulched tree wells via soil amendments for all trees.



Herbicide Treatment



Shrubs planted at Bruno

Mechanic's Shop: This month, the shop handled essential vehicle and equipment repairs, alongside maintenance and training activities. Key vehicle services included multiple road calls for V29 (stuck in mud at various sites), new vehicle prep for 27BQ4Q, and tire services across units. For mowers and tractors, maintenance highlights involved blade sharpening, hydraulic services, and a water pump belt replacement on E086 due to overheating. Small equipment repairs included replacing E075's fuel pump and air filter. Additional tasks included shop maintenance, inventory management, employee and ranger training, and logistics trips for equipment fittings and trailer pickups.

Facilities Department Update: In October, we finally saw the construction of our new restroom facility inside Sycamore Grove. Before the construction could begin, the Facilities Team had to prepare the site. A portion of the asphalt parking lot had to be removed to make space for the new building.

Through a joint effort between LARPD, Livermore Rotary, and the LARPD Foundation, LARPD was able to acquire 10 Communication Boards. These Boards give aid in communicating thoughts and feelings to people who may have difficulty. In September, the last of the boards were installed in our playgrounds. The Boards have been installed at Robertson, May Nissen, Altamont Creek, Big Trees, Bruno Canziani, Marlin Pound, Jack Williams, Pleasure Island, Sunset, and Almond Parks.

Last month, it came to our attention that a piece of outdoor musical equipment at May Nissen Park was showing indications of deterioration, possibly due to UV exposure. The damage wasn't visible to

the eye but could be felt. As the piece was only five years old, the manufacturer was contacted, and a replacement was received within two weeks.

These are but a few of the highlights that happened in October. Along with these, the facilities team built information Kiosks for several parks, repaired gates at Robertson and Cayetano Parks, replaced shade structures at Michell ESS, painted, replaced lights, performed plumbing repairs, installed a water heater, repaired drinking fountains and much more. The list goes on.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MF", is placed below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Mathew Fuzie
General Manager

MF/rvd