



2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Carson
Community Services/Recreation/
Park Maintenance Department

Parks
Make
Life
Better!





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Message from The Director



As the Director of the Department of Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance, I am proud to reflect on a dynamic and productive year. With programs now fully in motion post-pandemic, 2023-2024 was a time of renewed energy and focus. While recent years brought significant challenges, the team met them with extraordinary agility, resilience, and commitment to the diverse needs of our residents. I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the hard work and dedication of our staff, and I am incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.

The Department offered an abundance of meaningful opportunities that promoted mental health, physical

fitness, and personal growth. In the Recreation Division, staff delivered classes that supported youth development and prepared them to become confident, successful members of society. Our adult sports leagues gave participants a much-needed outlet from their busy, demanding schedules. In our continued efforts to improve safety, we installed security cameras in key areas across our parks and facilities. These cameras help us monitor activity, identify areas for improvement, and find creative solutions for park concerns.

A major milestone this year

was the grand opening of eight public pickleball courts - the first of their kind in Carson - at Hemingway Park on December 9, 2023, that were developed in direct response to community interest. We also finalized a \$7 million grant agreement from the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) for the expansion of Carriage Crest Park, which will add 10 acres and feature Carson's first-ever dog park. Construction is set to begin in Fall 2024. Additionally, construction began on April 29, 2024, on a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) path upgrades at Anderson Park, ensuring greater accessibility.

The Community Services Division continued to serve our residents across a wide range of programs.



The Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center provided vital social, physical, and mental stimulation for survivors. Our Senior Recreation program offered a robust schedule of physical and social activities and welcomed two new computer instructors, reopening the Senior Technology Center for both structured classes and one-on-one support.

The Social Services Section revived its award-winning Intergenerational Program in collaboration with Dominguez Hills Prep School, building meaningful connections between generations.

Our Early Childhood Education Program improved classroom safety with new emergency supply rooms and upgraded playground padding for a safer, more enriching play environment.

The Therapeutic Recreation Section hosted the most successful Autism Acceptance 5K to date, with over 600 participants and \$9,225 in revenue.

Meanwhile, the Transportation

Division doubled its Lyft program budget to provide additional rides for residents and commuters, expanding access to essential services and community events.

The Park Maintenance Division marked its first anniversary as part of the Department and has already had a noticeable impact. Community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the improved appearance and care of our parks. The division aerated and overseeded fields on a quarterly basis, and implemented a mowing contract to support landscaping and turf care at City Hall, the Carson Event Center, and all City parks. These efforts have significantly enhanced the safety, aesthetics, and usability of our outdoor spaces. I truly believe the integration of Park Maintenance into our department has brought valuable synergy to our operations and elevated the quality of service we provide.

As we look ahead, I anticipate that 2025 will be equally - if not more - exciting and

productive for the Department of Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance. With major renovations on the horizon at Carriage Crest, Mills, and Foisia Parks, along with key upgrades at the Carson Event Center, we remain committed to delivering programs and services that meet the evolving needs of our residents while enhancing the safety, accessibility, and vibrancy of our public spaces. I look forward to sharing the progress of these projects with you in next year's Annual Report. In the meantime, please join me in celebrating the many accomplishments of the past year, and thank you for your continued support as we work together to serve and uplift the Carson community.

*Michael
Whittaker, Jr.*

Director, Community Services/
Recreation/Park Maintenance
Department



Community Services/ Recreation/Park Maintenance Department

Michael Whittiker, Jr.	Director
Tim Grierson	Recreation Superintendent
Bobby Grove	Community Services Superintendent
Modesto Bolanos	Park Maintenance Superintendent
Luchie Magante	Principal Administrative Analyst
Kimberly Madrigal	Administrative Secretary
Scott Griffie	Recreation Program Manager
Gloria Marroquin	Recreation Program Manager
Dara Sandoval	Recreation Program Manager
Dani Cook	Human Services Program Manager
Victor Fernandez	Community Center Program Manager
Jason Jo	Transportation Program Manager
John Martinez	Park Maintenance Supervisor
Cesar Padilla	Park Maintenance Supervisor
Christina Lutu	Administrative Specialist
Toni Costanzo	Senior Administrative Specialist





Community

Carson is widely recognized not only as an industrial hub with unmatched access to transportation and the Pacific Rim, but also as a culturally rich community that offers an appealing place to live and work. The city features over 120 acres of parkland, divided into 12 parks, 4 mini-parks, and various sports and recreational facilities. These include 2 swimming pools, 2 aquatic centers, a boxing center, a state-of-the-art sports complex,

a skate park, and the Carson Event Center.

These amenities provide residents with ample opportunities to engage in sports, recreational, and cultural programs. Carson's educational needs are supported by the Los Angeles Unified School District, and the community benefits from the involvement of 47 church organizations, creating a strong and diverse environment for all.





About Us

97 Full-Time Staff

400+ Part-Time Staff

4 DIVISIONS

Administration

- Department Planning
- Budget Administration
- Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission

Recreation

- (16) Park Facilities
- Fabela Chavez Boxing & Weightlifting Center
- Youth and Adults Sports
- Aquatics
- Enrichment
- Fitness Centers
- Kids Club/Summer Day Camp
- Reservations
- Special Events
- Veterans Affairs Commission
- Youth Commission

Park Maintenance

- Turf and Infield Maintenance
- Integrated Pest and Irrigation Management
- Planting
- Fertilizing
- Irrigation Water Management
- Field Safety Inspections

Community Services

Carson Event Center

- EOC Evacuation Center
- Events and Sales
- Hospitality/Event Planning
- Information Hub
- Meetings/Trainings
- Room Reservations

Human Services

- Early Childhood Education
- Senior Independence Support
- Senior Recreation
- Social Services
- Special Interest Classes
- Stroke Center
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Family Support and Prevention
- Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

Transportation

- BREATHE Program
- Carson Circuit
- Dial-A-Ride
- Excursions
- Lyft
- Long Beach Transit



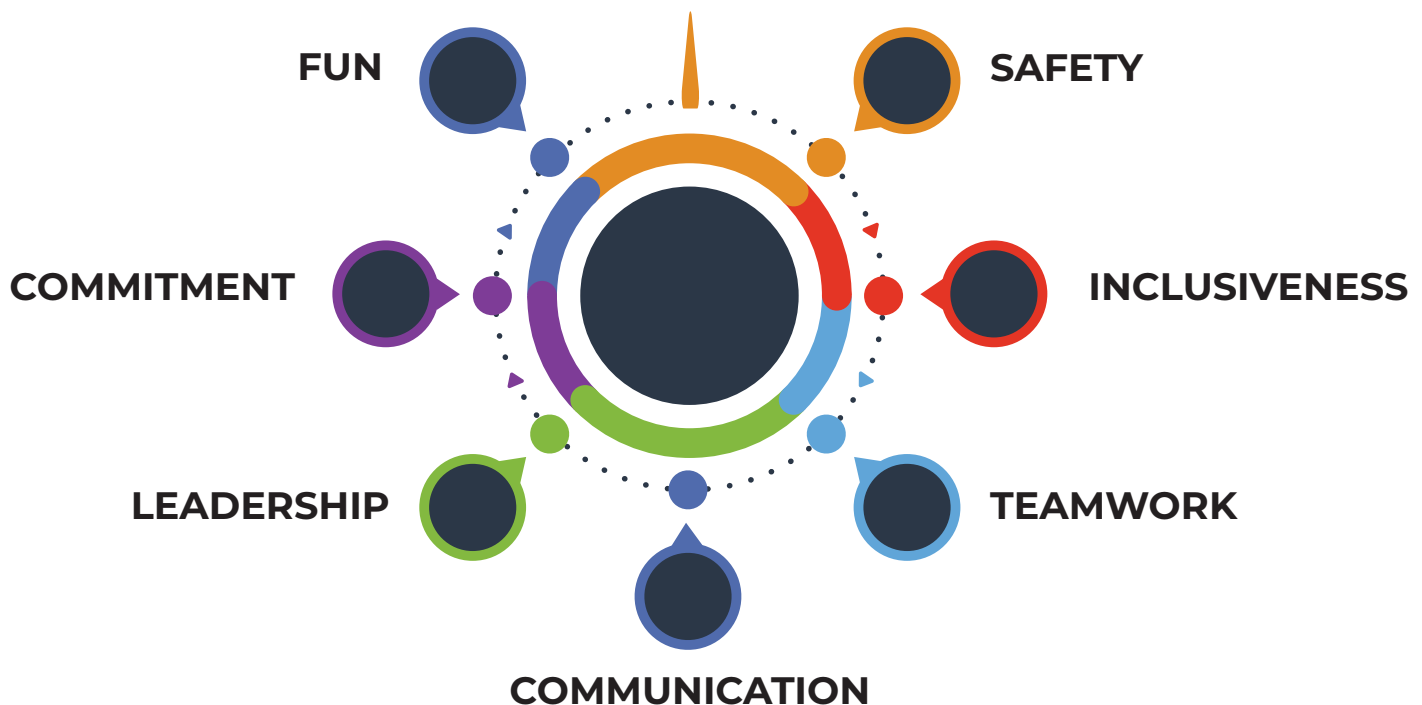
Mission Statement

The Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance Department embraces and enhances community diversity through programs, services, and facilities that improve the quality of life for people of all ages and abilities throughout the community.

Vision

To be the South Bay leader in providing accessible and safe quality parks, facilities, and recreational opportunities for all.

Core Values





Master Plan

Since the City of Carson's incorporation in 1968, it had not undertaken an extensive evaluation of its Community Services-related facilities, programs, and services to ensure that it is meeting the needs of the community. To fill this gap in understanding and insight, the Department embarked on an assessment of its sites and operations with the assistance of RJM Design Group, a highly qualified consulting firm in the Parks and Recreation industry.

Established in 1987, RJM is a multi-disciplinary landscape architectural, planning, and design firm committed to serving the needs of cities, public agencies, communities, and organizations throughout California. Among the firm's staff are licensed landscape architects, architects, and planners, most of whom are LEED Accredited

Professionals. RJM has completed similar projects for an extensive list of former clients that include Chino Hills, Dana Point, Huntington Beach, Riverside, and Santa Clarita.

On August 26, 2021, a kickoff meeting was held that formally commenced this endeavor. Thereafter, information was collected from various City Departments, a census of Department facilities and their

amenities was completed, 6 workshops were held at the Community Center and at 4 parks, and multiple surveys were released. A significant amount of data regarding community preference was gleaned from the workshops and surveys and served to provide a wealth of knowledge and insight that will assist planning in the near and far future.



allowing dogs within city parks.

Additionally, the physical condition of the parks played a disproportionate role in the community's perception and experience with the City's recreation program. The report found that the City should place greater focus on the maintenance of the City's parks, including implementing a schedule for facilities that

require immediate improvements that limit park use, and increased general maintenance after large events or at frequently used areas. Additionally, enhancements/upgrades, such as improved lighting, security cameras, and a gymnasium in the north side of the City, would add to the residents' satisfaction. Taken together, programming and environment go hand-in-hand in ensuring that the City meets the recreational needs and expectations

of the community.

At its September 6, 2022, meeting, a summary of the Final Report was presented to the City Council by RJM, and the Master Plan was subsequently adopted. In the time since the Master Plan was completed, staff continue to use the report as a guide for initiatives that impact Department programming, services, and facilities.

Recommendations primarily focused on two areas, expanding recreation opportunities and facility conditions. Residents wished for more traditional recreation programming – for example, sports leagues and fitness classes for adults and seniors - but also expressed a clear desire for the latest trend in recreation, pickleball. Notably, the community voiced a strong interest in adding dog parks and



Recreation Division

Recreation offers meaningful environmental, social, and recreational experiences to serve the City's diverse population, and the needs of all segments of the community. The Division also advocates and provides opportunities that promote mental awareness, physical fitness, and personal development.

To these ends, the Division supports an active youth and adult sports program, enrichment, aquatics, day camps, and after-school programs. Recreation ensures that there is adequate open space that preserves, enhances, and restores the natural environment. It also manages citywide special events and supports a number of local organizations that stage events.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Number of Registrants

Kids Club	3,835
Summer Day Camp	5,049
Enrichment	1,998
Spring Break Camp	338
Thanksgiving Break Camp	50
Swim Lessons	1,487

YOUTH SPORTS

Number of Registrants

Flag Football	348
Soccer	1,504
Basketball	1,415
T-Ball/Baseball/Softball	1,851

ADULT SPORTS

Number of Registrants

Coed Softball	936
Men's Softball	462
Baseball	1,456
Basketball	304

RECREATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

- Finalized a \$4.25 million matching federal grant from LWCF for Foisia Park renovation
- Finalized a \$7 million state grant from OGALS for Carriage Crest Park expansion
- Hosted a grand opening of eight (8) pickleball courts at Hemingway Park
- Installed public Wi-Fi at the parks in collaboration with the Information Technology Department
- Purchased and installed thirteen (13) new scoreboards with wireless controllers in parks
- Purchased and installed nine (9) bottle filling and cooler fountain stations with AQMD grant funds
- Replaced 32 benches at existing tennis courts
- Installed electric motors for adjustable side basketball backboards at Veterans SportsComplex
- Ordered new kitchen appliances for multiple parks
- Oversaw nine (9) special events and ten (10) Division events



Recreation Division

BY THE NUMBERS



123.3 acres
Acres of Parkland



24 Multipurpose Sports Fields



10 Meeting/Small Activity Rooms



16 Picnic Shelters



20 Playgrounds



17 Baseball/Softball Fields



1 Boxing Center



16 Tennis Courts



22 Picnic Areas



17 Multipurpose Rooms



10 Snack Bars



3 Racquetball Courts



1 Skate Park



5 Horseshoe Pits



4 Swimming Pools (2)
Aquatic Centers (2)



4 Cymnasiums



3 Fitness Centers



1 Splash Pad



7 Volleyball Courts



8 Pickleball Courts



15 Outdoor Basketball Courts



Anderson Park

19101 Wilmington Ave.
Carson, CA 90746
310-233-4840



Calas Park

1000 E. 220th St.
Carson, CA 90745
310-518-3565

Carriage Crest Park

23800 S. Figueroa St.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-5601



Carson Park

21411 S. Orrick Ave.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-4925

Del Amo Park

703 E. Del Amo Blvd.
Carson, CA 90746
310-233-4850





Dolphin Park

21205 S. Water St.
Carson, CA 90745
310-549-4560



Dominguez Park

21330 Santa Fe Ave.
Carson, CA 90810
310-549-3962

Foisia Park

23410 Catskill Ave.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-8310



Hemingway Park

700 E. Gardena Blvd.
Carson, CA 90746
310-233-4860

Mills Park

1340 E. Dimondale Dr.
Carson, CA 90746
310-233-4870





Stevenson Park

17400 Lysander Dr.
Carson, CA 90746
310-233-4880



Veterans Park

22400 Moneta Ave.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-9997

Friendship Mini-Park

21930 S. Water St.
Carson, CA 90745
310-549-4560



Reflections Mini-Park

21208 Shearer St.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-4925

Perry St. Mini-Park

21590 S. Perry St.
Carson, CA 90745
310-518-3565

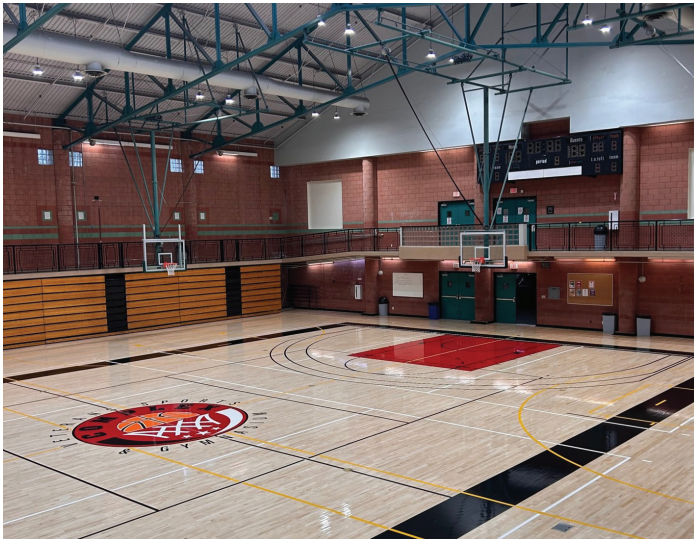


Walnut Mini-Park

440 E. Walnut St.
Carson, CA 90746
310-538-0018



FITNESS CENTERS



Veterans SportsComplex

22400 Moneta Ave.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-9991



Carson Park Gym

21411 S. Orrick Ave.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-4925



Fabela Chavez Boxing & Weightlifting Center

23410 Catskill Ave.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-6439



Stevenson Park Gym

17400 Lysander Dr.
Carson, CA 90746
310-233-4880



AQUATIC CENTERS & POOLS



Dominguez Aquatic Center

21330 Santa Fe Ave.
Carson, CA 90810
310-830-2391



Carson Pool

21436 S. Main St.
Carson, CA 90745
310-830-1053



Hemingway Aquatic Center

16605 S. San Pedro St.
Carson, CA 90746
310-233-4861



Foisia Pool

23410 Catskill Ave.
Carson, CA 90745
310-549-9051

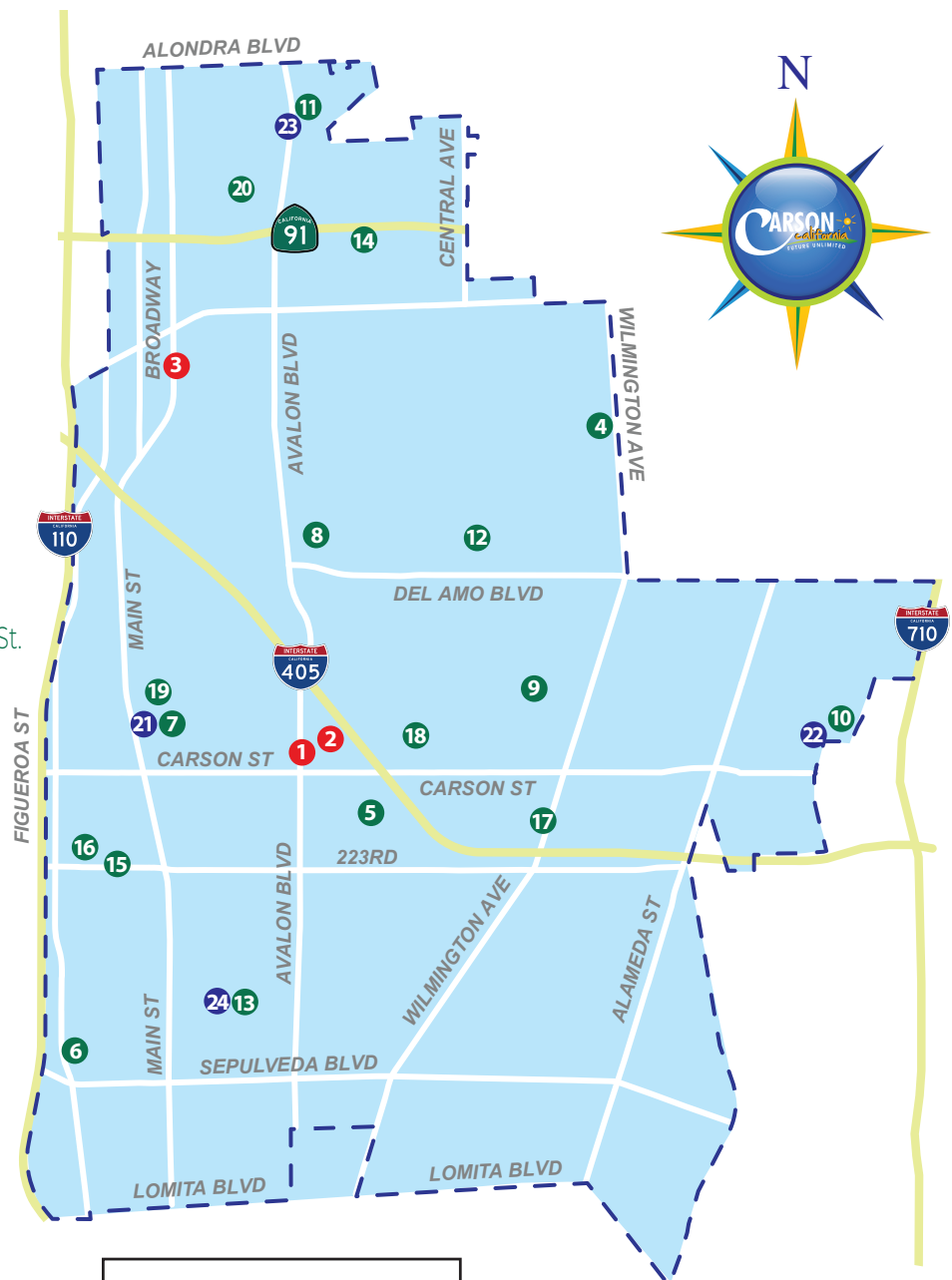


CITY FACILITIES

- 1 **Carson City Hall**, 701 E Carson St.
(310) 830-7600
- 2 **Carson Event Center**, 801 E. Carson St.
(310) 835-0212
- 3 **Corporate Yard**, 18601 S Main St.
(310) 847-3570

PARKS

- 4 **Anderson Park**, 19101 Wilmington Ave.
(310) 233-4840
- 5 **Calas Park**, 1000 E. 220th St.
(310) 518-3565
- 6 **Carriage Crest Park**, 23800 S. Figueroa St.
(310) 830-5601
- 7 **Carson Park**, 21411 S. Orrick Ave.
(310) 830-4925
- 8 **Del Amo Park**, 703 E. Del Amo Blvd.
(310) 233-4850
- 9 **Dolphin Park**, 21205 Water St.
(310) 549-4560
- 10 **Dominguez Park**, 21330 S. Santa Fe Ave.
(310) 549-3962
- 11 **Hemingway Park**, 700 E. Gardena Blvd.
(310) 233-4860
- 12 **Mills Park**, 1340 E. Dimondale Dr.
(310) 233-4870
- 13 **Foisia Park / Fabela Chavez Boxing & Fitness Center**, 23410 Catskill Ave.
(310) 830-8310
- 14 **Stevenson Park**, 17400 Lysander Dr.
(310) 233-4870
- 15 **Veterans Park**, 22400 Moneta Ave.
(310) 830-9997
- 16 **Veterans SportsComplex**, 22400 Moneta Ave.
(310) 830-9991
- 17 **Friendship Mini-Park**, 21930 Water St.
- 18 **Perry Street Mini-Park**, 215th and Perry St.
- 19 **Reflections Mini-Park**, 21208 Shearer Ave.
- 20 **Walnut Mini-Park**, 440 E. Walnut St.



- CITY FACILITIES
- PARKS
- POOLS

POOLS

- 21 **Carson Pool**, 21436 S. Main St.
- 22 **Dominguez Aquatic Center**, 21330 Santa Fe Ave.
- 23 **Hemingway Aquatic Center**, 16605 S. San Pedro St.
- 24 **Foisia Pool**, 23410 Catskill Ave.



YOUTH SPORTS

Youth sports are vital to the growth and development of young individuals, encouraging physical health, teamwork, and discipline. By participating in sports, children and teens gain confidence, enhance their social skills, and develop a strong sense of community. Additionally, regular physical activity has been linked to improved academic performance and reduced stress. Our commitment to youth sports programs ensures that every child has access to these valuable benefits, helping to build a healthier and more connected community.



ADULT SPORTS

The City of Carson continues to prioritize health and wellness for residents of all ages, including adults seeking opportunities to stay active and engaged. A variety of adult sports leagues are offered, including men's softball, co-ed softball, and basketball. These programs give participants a fun, competitive outlet to relieve stress, build camaraderie, and improve physical fitness. In addition to team sports, adults can take advantage of wellness-focused group exercise classes at the Veterans SportsComplex, such as yoga, hip hop, and muscle conditioning.

These programs promote not only physical health, but also mental well-being and social connection, supporting a balanced and vibrant lifestyle for Carson's adult community.

RESERVATIONS

The Reservations Section plays a vital role in planning and executing over 30 citywide special events and programs each year. From holiday celebrations and park events to award ceremonies, this team brings events to life by managing all behind-the-scenes details.

Specifically, the coordinate all event logistics - equipment setup, and breakdown, vendor coordination, and staffing - to ensure that each event runs smoothly. Beyond city events, the Reservations Section also oversees indoor and outdoor facility rentals at the city's parks, making it easy for community members to host their own events year-round.





ENRICHMENT

Cooking with Chef T. Jackson

Dedicated to providing unique and delicious meals targeting different cultures and age groups, Chef T. Jackson develops fun and easy dishes utilizing new and old family recipes, but transforming them into healthier versions. The program is offered at six (6) parks across Carson, providing greater access to residents throughout the city. Best of all, it's completely free!



CSUDH STEM & Robotics

In Fall 2024, the Enrichment Program partnered with California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) to offer a free robotics program for youth ages 5–10. The four-week session took place at Del Amo Park, Dominguez Park, Stevenson Park, and Veterans Park.

A total of 116 participants registered for the program, which was taught by CSUDH students. The hands-on curriculum provided computing opportunities that encouraged discovery, creativity, and engagement through robotics. Students learned foundational computer science concepts, such as algorithms, coding, and computational thinking by programming robots like Bee-Bot and Dash, and exploring blockbased platforms like ScratchJr and Blockly.





Ballet Folklórico Alma de Oro

2024 marked the 15th anniversary of Ballet Folklórico Alma de Oro, a beloved part of the City of Carson's Enrichment Program. The program began in 2009 at Calas Park, led by Assistant Recreation Coordinator Karen Ruan, who introduced students to the rich traditions of Mexican culture through dance.

Today, the classes are led by

instructors Jacob Castillo and Viviana Franco, continuing the legacy of cultural education and artistic expression. A total of 141 students participated in various levels of dance classes, including Modern Dance. Over the years, the group has performed in competitions, city events, and sports venues, proudly representing Carson's diverse

cultural community.

In partnership with the Calas Park Volunteer Association, Ballet Folklórico Alma de Oro celebrated their milestone with their first-ever solo recital on November 22, 2024, at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Theater, highlighting 15 years of dedication, talent, and community pride.





Kids Club

Our state-licensed Kids Club after-school program provides a safe and structured alternative for latchkey kids. Offering academic support, students benefit from one-on-one homework help to boost their performance.

Beyond academics, Kids Club fosters social development, helping children build confidence, communication skills, and self-esteem in a supportive environment. The program also includes arts and crafts, outdoor play, and recreational activities, ensuring a fun and engaging experience.

As a reliable childcare option, Kids Club gives parents peace of mind, knowing their children are in a secure and enriching space at their local parks.

Summer Day Camp

Our Summer Day Camp is the ultimate place for kids to learn, play, and grow in a fun, safe, and enriching environment! Through team-based activities, campers build friendships, develop social skills, and learn the value of

teamwork.

With a focus on physical activity, kids stay active with sports, swimming, and outdoor games, while arts and crafts spark creativity and self-expression. Plus, our camp provides a much-

needed break from screens, offering hands-on experiences that inspire and engage.

More than just a camp, it's a summer of memories, growth, and endless fun!





Community Services Division

The Community Services Division continues to serve Carson's diverse community through its three key sections: Community Center, Human Services, and Transportation, all operating out of the Carson Event Center.

Together, these sections offer a wide range of inclusive programs and services that support residents and visitors of all ages and abilities, promoting overall physical, mental, and social well-being across the community.



COMMUNITY SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

- Installed security cameras throughout the facility for enhanced safety
- Upgraded fire alarm system to meet current safety codes
- Began installation of Tesla charging stations in the East Parking Lot
- Increased facility event bookings by over 20%
- Hired two computer instructors and re-opened the Senior Technology Center, offering beginner and intermediate classes, plus open lab hours for one-on-one assistance.



- Hosted four Senior Information & Resource Fairs connecting older adults with vital services and programs.
- Hosted the 20th Anniversary Reunion Luncheon for the Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center, that

honored survivors, caregivers, and staff.

- Social Services reinstated speech therapy and water exercise programs at the Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center.
- Hosted the most successful Autism Acceptance 5K to date through Therapeutic Recreation, with over 600 participants and \$9,225 in revenue generated.
- Doubled the Lyft program budget to expand ride availability for residents and commuters.

HUMAN SERVICES

Human Services is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Carson through a variety of impactful programs, including Early Childhood Education, Social Services, Senior Services, Therapeutic Recreation, and Youth and Family Services.

In addition, this section organizes several City Special Events that celebrate identity, self-worth, and community unity, bringing residents together through meaningful and inclusive experiences.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The City of Carson’s Early Childhood Education program experienced a dynamic and enriching year, marked by a strong emphasis on play-based learning, hands-on experiences, and meaningful community engagement. Children participated in a variety of thoughtfully designed daily activities that fostered creativity, stimulated imagination, and supported the development of independence and social-emotional growth.

Among the many highlights of this past year were two standout events: Earth Day/KidsFest and Community Week. Both events exemplified the program’s commitment to experiential learning and civic awareness.

Earth Day provided a special opportunity for our young learners to connect with the natural world. Through interactive lessons and outdoor exploration, the children learned about the seasons, the environment, and the important role each of us plays in caring for our planet. This celebration instilled a sense of environmental stewardship and encouraged children to think about how communities can come together to protect and preserve nature for future generations.

Community Week was another memorable experience, designed to introduce children to the diverse and vital roles of community helpers in the City of Carson. Over the course of the week, children explored the people, places, and services that form the foundation of their neighborhood. The week culminated in a heartwarming celebration where children dressed up as who they would like to be when they grow up, while sharing their dreams and aspirations with peers.

The success of this year’s Early Childhood Education program reflects not only the dedication of our staff and families, but also the City of Carson’s ongoing commitment to fostering inclusive, imaginative, and community-centered learning environments for our youngest residents.





SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services consists of the Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center, as well as specialty programs such as Start Smart, Fit Happens, and the Intergenerational Program.

- The Stroke Center offers individual and group rehabilitation activities specifically designed to enhance the recovery of stroke survivors while providing opportunities to socialize.
- Start Smart is a non-competitive introduction to sports for children ages 2-5 and their parents/guardians.
- Fit Happens is an outdoor fitness class for adults that is designed for people of all fitness levels to help improve cardiovascular conditioning while building strength.
- The Intergenerational Program aims to bridge the generational gap by pairing high school seniors with senior citizens for a 6-week class with themes such as technology and health.

STROKE CENTER TESTIMONIAL

Joseph B. Jr. and Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center

Our award winning and state recognized facility is available to survivors to participate in social, mental, and physical stimulation and exercise. The facility features

rehabilitative fitness equipment, and offers a variety of activities and group exercises.

"The stroke center has made me stronger. I've been coming here

a long time. I love the structure... I love the stroke center... I really do!"

- Maryette Alexander



SENIOR SERVICES

Senior Services is comprised of the Senior Citizen Advisory Commission, Senior Independence and Support, Senior Information and Referral, Senior Recreation, and the Senior Computer Lab. These sections are led by the Human Services Supervisor and two full-time assistant coordinators. This program provides information, activities, and services to enhance the wellbeing of people ages 50 and over.

- The Senior Citizens Advisory Commission provides feedback and

recommendations on senior programming and issues that impact the senior population in the City.

- Senior Independence and Support offers the Senior Services Aide program, as well as Emergency Alert Response System (EARS program). Support programs include Bereavement Support Group, Caregiver Support Group, Senior Share, Silver Cheer, and quarterly Senior Resource Fairs.
- Senior Information and Referral partners with local organizations to refer

seniors to tax assistance, legal assistance, educational workshops, and health information.

- Senior Recreation promotes fitness, socialization, and fun through its engagement-based activities. These include fitness programs, recreation classes, Senior Bingo, and quarterly luncheons.
- The Senior Computer Lab is an on-site free computer lab at the Carson Event Center. Free computer classes teach basic personal computer use such as navigating the Internet and Microsoft Word.





SILVER CHEER:

Employees Share the Spirit of the Season

Every holiday season, Carson employees step up to bring warmth, joy, and connection to some of our most cherished residents, local seniors. What began in 2020 during the height of the pandemic as a compassionate response to the isolation experienced by many seniors, Silver Cheer has grown into one of the city's most heartwarming traditions.

Spearheaded by the Human Services Division, Silver Cheer gives employees the opportunity to sponsor a senior during the holidays. Participants receive basic background information—age, gender, and a few personal interests—and then thoughtfully curate a care package. Whether it includes a warm card, groceries, a favorite snack, a small gift, or a heartfelt note, each contribution is a deeply personal expression of kindness.

Year after year, employees have watched as deliveries made by Santa and his team of staff and volunteers bring genuine joy - and often tears - to the recipients. The program has grown steadily, with individuals, pairs, and even entire departments teaming up to sponsor one or more seniors.

Human Services staff work throughout the year to ensure that the essential needs of our senior residents are met. Especially during the holiday season, these thoughtful gestures become cherished memories. The program not only uplifts seniors but also reminds us of the incredible generosity and compassion of our city workforce.

We thank all the employees who participated this year, and we look forward to continuing this beloved tradition for many more seasons to come.





THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

Therapeutic Recreation is designed to meet the recreational, social, and physical needs of individuals with disabilities. The goal of this program is to improve the quality of life for all participants through structured programming provided by trained staff. Services

include activities such as art, fitness, excursions, and sports: Softball, bowling, track and field, basketball, and participation in the Special Olympics. Therapeutic Recreation is also proud to partner with Occupational Therapy faculty and students from CSUDH who

provide services to children and adults alike. In addition to the ongoing programs, Therapeutic Recreation staff plans and presents an annual Autism Awareness 5K Run/Walk at CSUDH.

Therapeutic Recreation Skill Builders O.T. Program

The Therapeutic Recreation Skill Builders Occupational Therapy (O.T.) Program continues to thrive through a successful partnership with the California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) Occupational Therapy Department. This collaboration not only provides essential fieldwork opportunities for CSUDH students, but also delivers meaningful support to community members with diverse needs.

Offered three times a year, the program serves different age groups each session - adults 18 and over in the winter, youth ages 13 to 22 in the summer, and children ages 5 to 12 in the fall. Each session is carefully designed to promote growth in practical,

social, and physical skills.

Participants engage in a range of activities that support daily living and independence, such as money management, meal and snack preparation, and basic household tasks like folding clothes. The program also emphasizes development in motor coordination, social interaction, and mobility. In addition, collaboration with parents and guardians ensures that programming is aligned with individual goals and areas for improvement.

The Skill Builders O.T. Program has proven to be a valuable asset in the Therapeutic Recreation Section, enhancing services through hands-on learning and community-based support.





YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Youth and Family Services offers support for at-risk families through in-home case management and innovative programs. These services strengthen family relations by encouraging healthy behaviors for all ages and genders. Programs offered by this section include: Growing Through Grief Together, Paint & Sip, Make-A-Craft, Beautifully Empowered Youth Girl Workshop series, and Women Empowering Women Workshop series.

Case Navigation

Case Navigation services are made possible through longstanding grant funding and a valued partnership with the South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC). This collaboration has spanned over two decades, providing consistent support to families in need. Each year, approximately 30 to 50 clients receive some form of case navigation assistance.

These services are tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual or family, and may include in-home visits, goal setting, resource linkage and referrals, youth mentorship,

housing assistance, and support for court and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) visits. Visits are typically scheduled on a weekly to bi-weekly basis, lasting between 1.5 to 2 hours. While many referrals come directly from DCFS, families also have the option to self-refer.

Among the many success stories throughout the year, one stands out. A mother, referred by DCFS, was engaged in a difficult custody battle with an abusive partner. Facing declining mental health and a loss of motivation, she was

connected with a domestic violence organization through the program. Over the course of a year and a half, she received ongoing support, including weekly meetings, counseling referrals for both herself and her daughter, and court accompaniment. As a result, she was awarded permanent custody of her daughter. Today, she has transformed her experience into advocacy, working as a domestic violence advocate and offering guidance and support to other clients navigating similar challenges.



Community Services Events

The Human Services Division hosts a variety of citywide special events throughout the year, fostering community engagement, awareness, and celebration. Signature events include the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, Autism Awareness 5K, Earth Day/KidsFest, the Mariachi Fiesta, Cajun and Blues White Linen Festival, Women's Health Conference, Black History Month Celebration, and the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Earth Day/KidsFest at Dolphin Park

The City of Carson promoted environmental awareness and family fun at the Earth Day/KidsFest, a vibrant community event held at Dolphin Park. This free, city-wide celebration welcomed families to enjoy a day of interactive and educational activities.

Attendees had the opportunity to explore numerous vendor booths, play games, win raffle prizes, and interact with live animals in the engaging animal exhibit area. A special tree planting ceremony was held in honor of Arbor Day, reinforcing the event's focus on environmental stewardship. Popular attractions included the electric trackless train ride, hands-on arts and crafts, and a variety of family-friendly activities that encouraged creativity and exploration.

The Earth Day/KidsFest successfully combined fun, learning, and environmental education, making it a standout community event that reflected the City of Carson's ongoing commitment to sustainability and family-focused programming.





CARSON EVENT CENTER

With 40,000 square feet of space, the Carson Event Center offers a variety of inviting spaces and professional services to successfully host a diverse range of events that bring together Carson and its surrounding areas.

The Carson Event Center is comprised of two sections, Operations and Sales. Operations is responsible for daily facility maintenance, room setups, and assists in capital improvement

planning. The goal of Operations is to ensure the Carson Event Center remains an inviting space for clients, staff, and visitors.

Sales meets with individual and business clients to coordinate conferences, trainings, weddings, celebrations, and other social gatherings. Sales works with the Carson Event Center's on-call caterer, Choura Venue Services, who provides full-service catering for individual clients, business clients, and City Events.



Exciting Upgrades Coming to the Carson Event Center

The Carson Event Center is scheduled to receive a major facelift in 2025, bringing exciting new features to enhance both functionality and aesthetics. Planned upgrades include a brand-new outdoor courtyard

featuring a waterfall, along with a spacious outdoor stage and event area designed to accommodate over 300 guests. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2024, with completion anticipated by the end of 2025. We look forward

to welcoming the community back and sharing these beautiful, revitalized spaces that will serve as a hub for celebrations, performances, and gatherings for years to come.





TRANSPORTATION

Transportation provides an array of mobility options for its residents and the community including Carson Circuit - the City's own fixed-route public bus service, Long Beach Transit – an intercity partnership consisting of regional fixed-route service; Dial-A-Ride - a specialized elderly and disabled demand-responsive taxi program; Lyft – an on-demand rideshare service, multiple group excursions to fun and exciting attractions throughout Southern California, transit in support of city park programs, and BREATHE, a staff-driven initiative to encourage employee use of emissions-reducing travel modes to the City's three major worksites.



Long Beach Transit total boardings- 169,900+

Lyft total boardings- 12,400+

Carson Circuit total boardings- 4,300+

Dial-A-Ride total boardings- 21,300+





City of Carson *Special Events*

It's no secret that the City of Carson takes great pride in its special events which serve as a cornerstone of community engagement. Throughout the year, we bring residents together to celebrate culture, family, fun, and education. Signature events like the Country Western Festival, Juneteenth Celebration, Winterfest, Samoan Heritage Celebration, and Philippine Independence Day reflect the diversity and unity of our community.



Country Western Fall Festival

The City of Carson proudly hosted the Country Western Fall Festival at Dominguez Park, bringing together residents for a vibrant day of family fun, music, and community spirit. This lively celebration was designed to offer something for everyone, featuring live entertainment, interactive activities, and festive attractions.

Families enjoyed a range of kid-friendly fun, including jumpers, inflatables, game booths, a petting zoo, and even a mechanical bull for those eager to test their rodeo skills. For adults, a beer garden provided a relaxing space to enjoy refreshments and take in the festivities.

The event's entertainment lineup was a standout feature, offering an exciting mix of musical talent. Performers included Banda Las Angelinas, a powerful all-female banda group; the Just Dave Band, known for their original tunes and classic country flair; and Selenamos, whose dynamic tribute to Selena energized the crowd.



Honoring Black History:

California Dreamin': The West Coast Migration

On February 23, 2024, the City of Carson proudly hosted its annual Black History Month Celebration at the Carson Event Center, welcoming residents of all ages for a powerful evening of culture, history, and community connection. This year's theme, "California Dreamin': The West Coast Migration," explored the profound impact of African American migration to the western United States and its

lasting contributions to culture and society.

The event featured inspiring guest speakers including historian Dr. M. Keith Claybrook, Jr., cultural preservationist Alison Rose-Jefferson, and KJLH radio personality Roland Bynum. The program also showcased unforgettable live musical tributes celebrating the legacies of artists like Etta James, Sam Cooke, James Cleveland, Sly and

the Family Stone, and others, culminating in a special tribute to Leon Silvers and Solar Records.

Guests enjoyed light refreshments following the program and were treated to a few surprise appearances that made the night even more memorable. The celebration reflected the City's ongoing commitment to education and honoring African American heritage.





Park Maintenance Division

The Park Maintenance Division prioritizes continuous learning through targeted training programs. This year, staff participated in hands-on instruction covering proper PVC pipe gluing techniques using Weld-On products. In addition, they received equipment-specific training on the safe and effective use of the top dresser and the Toro aerator—tools essential for improving soil health and drainage by creating air pockets and enhancing the delivery of

water and nutrients to plant roots.

While much of the staff's knowledge is gained hands-on, the development of soft skills—such as leadership, communication, and teamwork—is equally emphasized to support staff morale and department success.

Staff frequently attend sessions hosted by Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, with topics including:

- Preventing and addressing retaliation
- Performance documentation and corrective action
- Identifying and addressing workplace bullying

These comprehensive training efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to professional excellence, public service, and community trust. We believe that by investing in our people, we are investing in a stronger, safer, and more connected Carson.



Celebrating One Year of Park Maintenance in Community Services

The Park Maintenance Division plays an integral role in preserving over 79 acres of fields and landscaped areas across sixteen (16) city parks, City Hall, the Carson Event Center, and the Corporate Yard. The division is powered by a dedicated team of 28 skilled professionals, including Grounds Workers, lead personnel, a Mowing Crew, and an Irrigation Technician. It is responsible for a wide range of essential services, including trash removal, turf and infield maintenance, weed control, hedge trimming, mowing, and irrigation management. Their work ensures that the City's outdoor spaces not only meet but exceed the expectations of the community.

This year marks the one-year anniversary of the Park

Maintenance Division joining the Community Services Department—a milestone that reflects the City's deepened commitment to maintaining clean, safe, and welcoming outdoor spaces for all residents. Since the City Council approved this transition, the Division successfully completed a reorganization that relocated staff and operations under the Community Services Department, resulting in the creation of the unified Department of Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance. This structural shift has streamlined communication and enhanced collaboration across teams. To bolster staffing, the Division reduced full-time vacancies by more than 75%, significantly improving workforce

capacity. It also recruited the City's first Park Maintenance Superintendent, providing vital leadership and strategic direction.

Operational improvements included the implementation of a mowing contract to assist staff with landscaping and turf care at City Hall, the Carson Event Center, and all parks. The Division also made critical equipment upgrades, which have increased maintenance efficiency. Achievements over the past year have laid a strong foundation for continued progress and excellence in the year ahead.

As we look back on a successful first year, we extend our gratitude to the Park Maintenance team for their hard work and dedication to keeping Carson beautiful.



PARK MAINTENANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

- Successfully completed a reorganization that relocated staff and operations to the Community Services/ Recreation Department, ultimately creating the Department of Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance
- Reduced all full-time vacancies by more than 75%
- Purchased six (6) John Deere Gators to improve maintenance efficiency and park aesthetics
- Purchased four (4) John Deere SandPros to enhance sports field grooming and quality
- Aerated and overseeded fields quarterly to enhanced the overall aesthetics of turf fields



The Park Maintenance Crew Comes Together With Volunteers, Watson Land Company, and Sharefest to Beautify Veterans Park.

In a heartwarming display of community spirit and collaboration, the Park Maintenance Division, Watson Land Company, Sharefest, and dedicated volunteers joined forces at Veterans Park to breathe new life into one of Carson's most beloved public spaces. This beautification initiative was made possible through the generosity and dedication of Sharefest, an organization committed to service and neighborhood revitalization.

Throughout the day, volunteers rolled up their sleeves to paint, plant, and refresh key areas of

the park, bringing vibrant color and care to a space enjoyed by residents of all ages. Their efforts went beyond just aesthetics - they represented a shared commitment to preserving and enhancing community spaces for future generations. Events like this not only improve our parks, but also strengthen the bonds among those who live, work, and serve in Carson.

The Park Maintenance Division played a vital role in preparing Veterans Park for the beautification event. Staff tilled planter areas, picked up plants from Maria's Garden Nursery, and

ensured all tools and equipment - shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, and pruning shears, were ready. They also provided PPE for 30 volunteers, including gloves in various sizes and leather gloves for the rose garden team. Their preparation helped ensure a smooth, safe, and successful day of service.

The City extends its heartfelt thanks to Sharefest, Watson Land Company, and all the individuals who participated in making this beautification effort a success. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more beautiful community.



Behind the Scenes, Making It Happen: Park Maintenance Brings Pickleball to Carson



The Park Maintenance Division often works quietly behind the scenes, but their impact on the community is loud and clear. While they may not always receive the recognition they deserve, their dedication is the reason our parks remain beautiful, safe, and functional every day.

A great example of their impact is the addition of pickleball courts in Carson, something residents had increasingly requested. The sport has surged in popularity, especially during the pandemic, as people sought fun, accessible outdoor activities.

Recognizing this growing demand, the Park Maintenance team helped turn community feedback into action. They worked diligently to prepare and maintain spaces where residents could enjoy this fast-growing sport, giving people of all ages a fun and healthy way to stay engaged and outdoors.

Thanks to their hard work, Carson continues to evolve with the needs of its residents, proving that even behind the scenes, Park Maintenance is always at the heart of our community's progress.



Capital Improvement Projects

For the first time in the City of Carson's history, four major sites - Mills Park, Foisia Park, Carriage Crest Park, and the Carson Event Center—will all be under construction at the same time. This unprecedented effort reflects the City's strong commitment to investing in vibrant public spaces that support and uplift the entire community, especially our most vulnerable populations, including youth and seniors.

Mills Park will see upgrades to outdoor amenities including the playground, picnic shelters, and basketball court, creating a

more enjoyable and accessible experience for families.

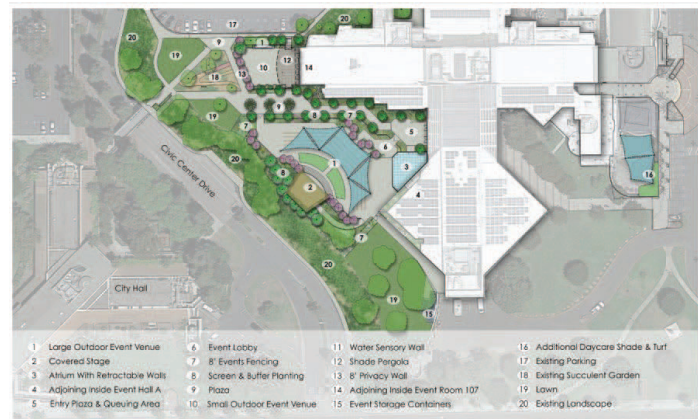
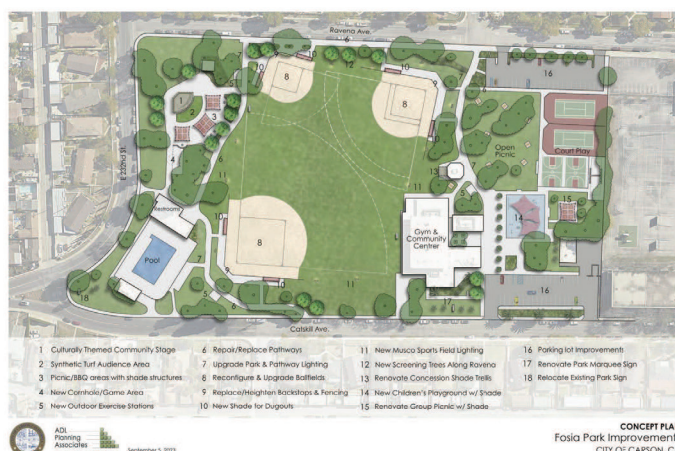
Foisia Park will undergo significant enhancements, with improvements to the playground, picnic area, and baseball diamonds to expand recreational opportunities.

Carriage Crest Park will experience a transformative 10-acre expansion, dramatically increasing the park's capacity and potential for future programming and events.

Meanwhile, the Carson Event Center will be enhanced with a brand-new outdoor courtyard

featuring a waterfall, along with a spacious outdoor stage and event area that can seat over 300 guests, ideal for large community gatherings and celebrations.

Groundbreakings are expected in fall 2024, with construction projected to be completed by the end of 2025. These historic renovations signal the City's deep commitment to creating inclusive, engaging, and resource-rich environments where residents of all ages can gather, play, and thrive. Stay tuned for exciting updates as these projects come to life!



Heartfelt Thank You to Our Volunteers

Carson continues to thrive as a city where civic engagement is both valued and vibrant. Each year, hundreds of dedicated residents generously contribute their time, energy, and skills to support the Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance Department. From assisting at local parks to enhancing programs and special events, our volunteers play a vital role in enriching community life.

To show our appreciation, this year's Volunteer Recognition Banquet featured food, music, and live entertainment - a joyful celebration honoring the incredible individuals who give so much of themselves to serve others.

The Department extends its sincere appreciation to all volunteers for their invaluable contributions and steadfast commitment. Your dedication has made a lasting and meaningful impact on the lives of Carson residents and the overall vitality of our city.





Training And Staff Development



At the Department of Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance, we take training seriously. We recognize its value not just in developing our staff, but in strengthening the community as a whole. Ongoing education allows our teams to evolve, adopt new ideas, and transform them into creative

programs and practical solutions that meet the diverse needs of Carson residents. Each division provides year-round training to ensure our staff are informed, skilled, and ready to serve. We are committed to staying current and effective—and our wide-ranging training efforts reflect that.

Recreation Division

The Recreation Division hosts and participates in a variety of professional development opportunities. Staff regularly attend external trainings such as the SCMAF Institute, which offers 12–15 educational sessions focused on youth sports programming and management. In addition, staff participate in key industry conferences, including CPRS (California Park & Recreation Society) and BOOST, which provide valuable insight into recreation trends, youth programming, and out-of-school-time services like afterschool and summer camps.

Internally, the division delivers annual trainings such as the Top Gun Training, covering topics like customer service, volunteer associations, and administrative tools and software. One of the most important internal sessions is the Summer In-Service, which prepares staff for the busy summer

season with training on:

- Customer service
- Heat safety
- Active shooter preparedness
- Interacting with unhoused individuals

Specialized in-service sessions are also held for key program areas, including Aquatics and Summer Day Camp. Additionally, staff attend regular safety meetings focused on job-specific risk prevention.

To complement these efforts, staff participate in Liebert Cassidy Whitmore trainings, which cover essential HR topics such as employee rights, performance evaluations, and handling difficult workplace situations.





Community Services Division

The Community Services Division conducts monthly safety trainings attended by all staff levels, from entry-level to superintendents. Topics include:

- Fire protection and prevention
- Crowd control and event power/electricity
- Hazard communication
- Workplace violence and emergency protocols

- Vehicle safety inspections
- Eye injury prevention
- Power outage procedures

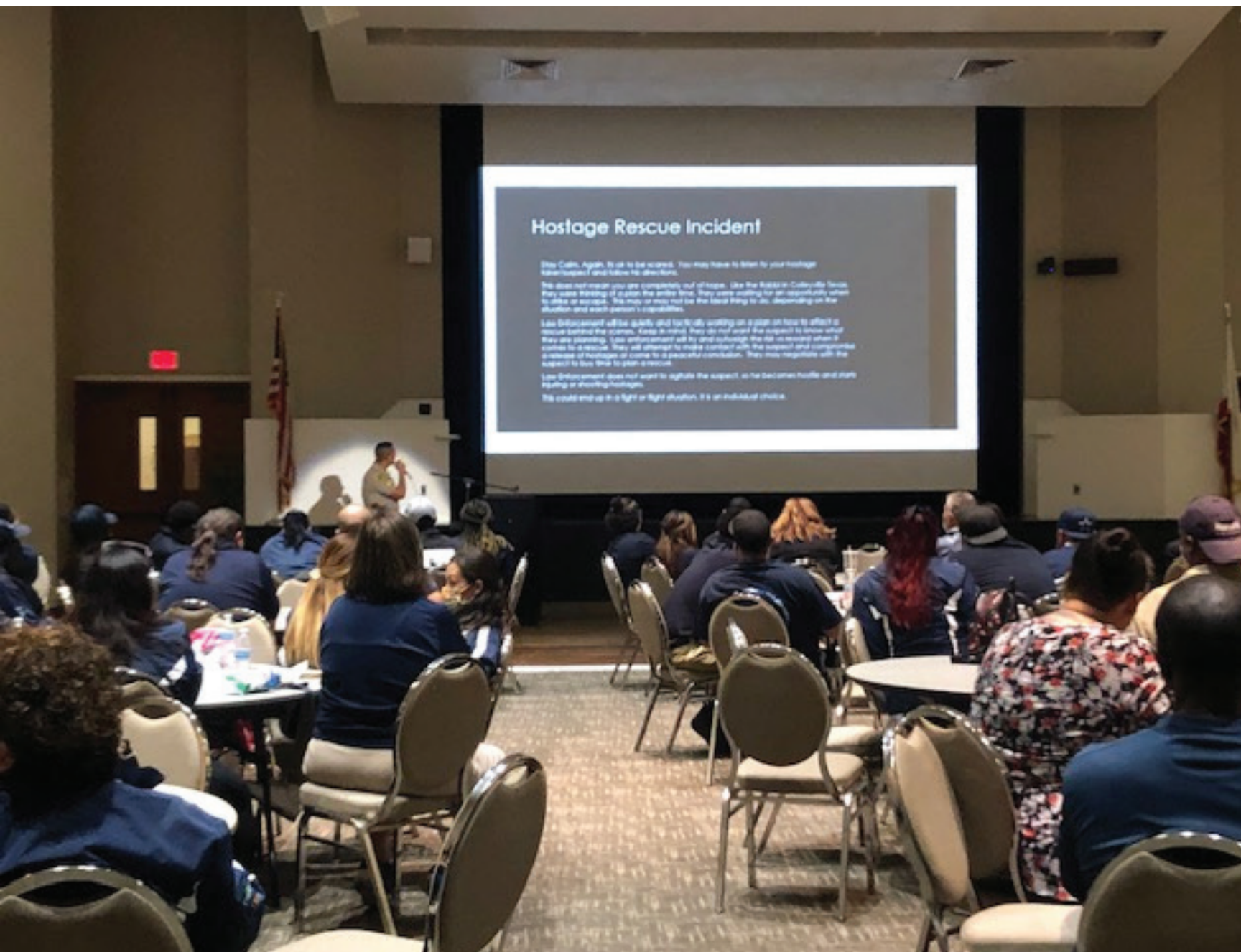
These sessions help ensure staff are prepared to respond effectively in a wide range of emergency and safety scenarios.

In addition to safety, the division conducted a customer service training for 25 supervisors, coordinators, and managers.

This training emphasized the roles and responsibilities of public employees and included guidance on ethics and professionalism.

Further training efforts in the division include:

- Leadership development
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)
- Emergency Operations Center (EOC) awareness





LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Small Outdoor Event

With the year now concluded, there is much for residents to look forward to in 2025 from the Department of Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance.

The Carson Event Center is set for a year of exciting upgrades. Enhancements include new mechanical walls in the Main Halls, a new outdoor patio, and a highly anticipated 300-seat outdoor amphitheater—opening doors to concerts, cultural events, and large-scale gatherings.

Security will be strengthened with new locks in the East Wing, and visitor experience will be improved through updated wayfinding signage, kiosks, room signs, and digital info boards. New electric vehicle

charging stations in the north lot will support sustainability and accessibility for residents and guests.

As the home of Human Services and Transportation, the Carson Event Center will also see program advancements in Fiscal Year 2024–2025. Human Services will launch Senior Recreation ID cards compatible with ActiveNet scanners for quicker, paperless check-ins, and publish a Carson-specific Senior Services Resource Guide. Therapeutic Recreation programs will expand with the return of speech therapy and water exercise at the Stroke Center, alongside new Youth and Family Services initiatives like male/female empowerment groups and life-skills workshops.

Transportation is preparing to

acquire the City's first Battery Electric Buses (BEBs) and will implement real-time CAD/AVL technology for live route tracking and public service alerts - enhancing transit reliability and responsiveness. These developments reflect Carson's commitment to innovation, inclusion, and an improved quality of life for all residents.

The Recreation Division is making bold strides to enhance outdoor spaces for residents of all ages. In the coming year, Carriage Crest Park, Mills Park, and Foisia Pars will undergo major renovations. Carriage Crest will expand from 5 to 15 acres and feature Carson's first dog park—a long-requested amenity.

A \$2 million federal grant will



fund a new Capital Improvement Project to install solar panels at Veterans SportsComplex and Veterans Park, reinforcing Carson's commitment to sustainability.

Recreation programming is also growing. Following the successful launch of pickleball courts at Hemingway Park, more courts are planned citywide in response to growing community interest. Facility upgrades include new gym scoreboards at Foisia Gym and Veterans SportsComplex, relocated scoreboards at Stevenson Park, and new bleachers at Foisia Gym to improve the experience for athletes and spectators alike.

Finally, all outdoor basketball courts will be replaced with durable, height-adjustable systems suited for players of all ages and skill levels - ensuring safe, inclusive, and enjoyable spaces for everyone.

Park Maintenance continues to enhance the safety, beauty, and functionality of Carson's outdoor spaces. Looking ahead, the team is focused on key initiatives, including launching a Sports Turf Agronomic Program, recruiting Assistant Grounds Workers and an Irrigation Technician, and scheduling sports field renovations and infield laser leveling. Plans also include purchasing a new top

dresser, completing outdoor court resurfacing, selecting a pest control contractor, and establishing an Integrated Pest Management Program. These efforts will ensure Carson's parks remain vibrant, well-maintained, and a top destination for families.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Department of Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance is launching major upgrades across parks, facilities, and programs to create a more vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable Carson. We're excited to share the results of these efforts with you in next year's report.



Elected Officials

Lula Davis-Holmes, Mayor
Cedric L. Hicks, Sr., Mayor Pro Tempore, District 3
Dr. Jawane Hilton, Council Member, District 1
Jim Dear, Council Member, District 2
Arleen Bocatija Ramos, Council Member, District 4

Dr. Khaleah Bradshaw, City Clerk
Monica Cooper, City Treasurer

City Administration

David C. Roberts, Jr., City Manager
John S. Raymond, Assistant City Manager- Economic Development
Dr. Robert Lennox, Assistant City Manager- Administrative Services
Michael Whittiker, Jr., Director of Community Services/Recreation/Park Maintenance
Tim Grierson, Recreation Superintendent
Bobby Grove, Community Services Superintendent
Modesto Bolanos, Park Maintenance Superintendent
Luchie Magante, Principal Administrative Analyst
Kimberly Madrigal, Administrative Secretary
Mikala Mulitauaoepele Brown, Division Secretary
Joline Barela, Senior Clerk

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commission

Jesus-Alex Cainglet, Chair
Shannon Lawrence, Vice Chair
Kimberly Cortado, Secretary
Rudolfo Brillantes
Cesar Dahilig, Jr.
Walter Gonzalez
Kisa Hilliard
Edwina Hunter
Jo Jacqueline Johnson
DeAnthony Langston
Oscar Ramos
Kelvin Brown, Sr.

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