



County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

BUDGET REDUCTION

June 2025

Q 1: What is the budget cut to LA County Parks?

Similar to federal, state, and local governments currently facing budget cuts, LA County departments—including LA County Parks—are also impacted. LA County Parks must address a substantial \$22 million budget reduction.

To respond to this challenge, which is a 8.5% reduction to our LA County Parks budget, we've made some difficult but necessary decisions to preserve our core mission. These include focusing resources on essential operations, maintaining stewardship of parklands, and continuing to provide core and safety-net programs that our youth, families, seniors, and communities rely on.

While the budget reduction is permanent, our commitment to public park access, inclusive programs, and essential services remains unwavering. We are doing everything we can to navigate these changes while continuing to serve LA County residents with equity, care, and resilience.

Q 2: What parks and programs are impacted?

In order to address our budget reduction, LA County Parks will reduce the following program services, and hours of operation starting this summer:

1. Regional Parks will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays effective Monday, June 30, 2025. **Regional Parks include Castaic, Frank G. Bonelli, Kenneth Hahn, Peter F. Schabarum, Santa Fe Dam and Whittier Narrows.**
 - Regional Parks will be open to the public for full operations from Wednesday through Sunday 6AM-8PM. All services and programs will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays.
 - Regional Parks will be open on Memorial Day, May 26, 2025 and Labor Day, September 1, 2025. You will be able to visit Regional Parks on these two days. Facility rentals and programs will be available on these two holidays.
 - Swim Beaches will be open through Monday September 1, 2025.



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2. Regional Park Lakes will close on Mondays and Tuesdays effective Monday, June 30, 2025. **Regional Park Lakes will be closed for swimming, boating and fishing at Castaic, Frank G. Bonelli, and Santa Fe Dam.**
 - Regional Parks will be open to the public for swimming, boating and fishing from Wednesday through Sunday. All services and programs will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays.
3. The Summer Pool season will be reduced, but will be open from June 2, 2025, through August 16, 2025 for a full array of free and affordable aquatic programming. Year-round pools will remain open.
4. Parks After Dark programming will be suspended at 34 Parks countywide for summer, winter, and spring.
5. Reduction of part-time staffing, over-time hours, and administrative functions.

To learn more about updates and changes to LA County Parks programs, services, and hours of operation, please visit the LA County Parks - Department Operations Plan at bit.ly/dprooperationsplan.

Q 3: Will there be any evening programming at night to replace Parks After Dark this summer?

Using one-time grant funding and to support families with evening summer programming, LA County Parks will provide one summer concert and one movie at each of the 34 Parks After Dark park locations.

Q 4: What recreation programs will continue?

We encourage families to take advantage of our free and enriching programming that will continue throughout the year. For more information or to find the closest participating



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location, please visit the LA County Parks - Department Operations Plan at bit.ly/dprooperationsplan.

Every Body Plays – Drop-In Afterschool Program: Offered Monday–Friday, 2:30–5:30 PM from September 2 to May 22, for youth ages 7–17. Includes homework help, games, sports, arts, and more.

Every Body Plays – Summer Adventures: June 16–August 8, Monday–Friday, 11:00 AM–5:30 PM. Includes lunch and snack service, plus fun activities for youth ages 7–17.

Every Body Explores: Year-round nature discovery program available Tuesday–Sunday, 10:30 AM–4:00 PM. Open to all ages

Every Body Swims: Free recreational swim at select pools during open swim hours.

Every Body Plays – Sports for All Clinics: Seasonal 8-week clinics offered on Saturdays with skills training in multiple sports for youth. Pre-registration required.

Nature Center Discovery: Engage with nature exhibits, staff-led activities, and Animal Ambassador encounters at Nature Centers.

Open Gym: First-come, first-served access to indoor gym spaces across multiple park sites for individual or group play. (Schedules vary.)

Our SPOT (Social Places and Opportunities for Teens): After-school teen program (ages 12–17) with extended hours until 9 PM and a free supper. Activities include leadership development, social action projects, and recreation.

Junior Golf: Reduced-rate golf for youth in partnership with Youth on Course at all LA County golf courses.

Overnight Camping: Affordable summer family camping nights at five regional parks, with basic amenities and fun outdoor activities.

Q 5: I use the regional parks for my daily walks, exercise and mental health, why am I not able to just walk in the park?



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We recognize and deeply value the important role our regional parks play in supporting the health and well-being of all community members, especially for daily exercise and mental wellness.

The park is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. During closure days, there is limited staffing and no active park supervision, which presents safety concerns for visitors. In order to uphold our commitment to public safety, all access, both vehicular and pedestrian, is prohibited on these designated days.

We encourage you to explore alternative nearby parks or walking paths that remain open during these closure periods. All LA County local and community parks remain open seven days per week.

Q 6: With Regional Parks and Lakes being closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, can I get a refund on my annual pass?

Refunds will not be issued for annual passes. LA County Parks identified the days with the lowest attendance at Regional parks with Lakes to minimize the impact. Similar to museums and nature centers that are closed on Mondays, LA County Parks identified the days with the lowest attendance at Regional Parks and Lakes.

Q 7: I board my horse at an equestrian center next to a Regional Park, will I be able to use the trails in the park?

On Mondays and Tuesdays, all trails located within a regional park will be closed to the public. This closure is necessary to ensure public safety during the park's closure.



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Q 8: I pay a boating registration tax—why can't I use my boat at Castaic or Bonelli on Mondays and Tuesdays anymore?

While state boating registration taxes support broader statewide programs such as safety, education, and waterway maintenance, access to specific facilities like Castaic Lake and Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park is determined by local park agencies. operational capacity and conditions.

Due to County-wide budget curtailment measures, Bonelli Park Lake and Castaic Lake have implemented closures on Mondays and Tuesday, which include boating and other recreational services. These closures preserve essential operations, prioritize peak-use days, and maintain long-term sustainability of our regional parks system. Castaic Lake and Bonelli Park Lake will be open Wednesday- Sunday.

Q 9: What will happen if I have a planned rental at a Regional Park on Mondays and Tuesdays?

Please contact the Regional Park staff to reschedule your rental to a different date. If rescheduling to a different date is not an option, please contact the Central Reservations Unit, at CentralReservations@parks.lacounty.gov or call 888-239-6700 to relocate your rental to a local community park. Please have your reservations number available.

Effective July 1, 2025 no Regional Facility Park rentals will be granted on Mondays and Tuesday. Any rentals scheduled prior to July 1 will be offered the opportunity to be rescheduled or refunded.

Q 10: Will the Castaic Campground be closed on Monday and Tuesday?

Yes, the campground will be closed. Reservations will only be accepted Wednesday – Sunday.



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Q 10: What will happen if I have a Core and Community Partnership Agreement or a School MOA at a Regional Park with a reservation for Mondays or Tuesdays?

If you have a Core Community Partnership or MOU and are impacted by these closures: Please contact the Core and Community Partnership Unit, at Partner@parks.lacounty.gov, to assist you with rescheduling or relocating your program/event to a local community park.

For school field trips, please contact the Regional Park staff to assist in rescheduling for a different date. If rescheduling is not an option, please contact the Central Reservations Unit, at CentralReservations@parks.lacounty.gov or call [888-239-6700](tel:888-239-6700), to relocate the field trip to a local community park.

Q 11: Are rentals, School MOAs, and core & community partnerships still available at local community parks on Mondays and Tuesdays during Regional Park closures?

Yes, rentals, school MOAs, and partnerships are still available on Mondays and Tuesdays at local community parks.

For reservation inquiries, please contact the Central Reservations Unit at CentralReservations@parks.lacounty.gov or call [888-239-6700](tel:888-239-6700)

For partnership inquiries, please contact the Partnership Unit at Partner@parks.lacounty.gov

For School MOA inquiries, please contact the MOA team at MOAforSchools@parks.lacounty.gov



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Q 12: Are there any additional impacts?

- There will be some limited fee increases that will offset further budget reductions. Extensive fee and charges benchmarking analysis were completed to ensure rental fees are aligned with other parks and recreation agency fees.

LA County Parks is proposing fee increases at select locations:

1. Admission Fees at the Arboretum and Botanic Gardens
 - To address access, a new community benefit program will provide free-admission for low-income youth, families and seniors in Los Angeles County who hold Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards.
2. Vehicle entrance and boat launching fees at Regional Parks
 - Park entrance will remain free for accessing the park via walking, cycling, skateboarding, and on alternate and public transportation. Parking will remain free at all local community parks.
3. Facility Rental Fees

Q 13: How long will the budget cuts be in effect?

LA County Parks budget reduction is permanent. This budget reduction reflects federal, state, local governments across the country and locally impacted by budget cuts.

Q 14: Can the public help LA County Parks during this difficult budget time?

1. **Donate** to the Los Angeles County Parks Foundation to support a park, program and service. Donate (tax-deductible) at <https://www.lacpf.org/>
2. **Volunteer** as a coach, docent, or offer your talents to support a youth, family and senior program. Contact us at volunteers@parks.lacounty.gov



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3. **Care** for our LA County Parks by leaving no trace behind and picking up after yourselves when visiting a park.
4. **Be patient** and understanding with your LA County Parks staff who are doing more with less.