



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 is facing a substantial \$22 million budget reduction.

Despite 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, and seniors 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 programs, services, and hours of operation starting this summer:

1. Regional Parks – **Castaic Lake, Frank G. Bonelli, Kenneth Hahn, Peter F. Schabarum, Santa Fe Dam and Whittier Narrows** – and their programs and lakes will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays effective Monday, June 30, 2025. Regional parks are large, multi-use parks with amenities such as lakes, reservoirs and water recreation areas; extensive trail systems for hiking, biking and equestrian use; campgrounds; natural habitat areas; cultural, education and historic areas; and other features.
 - Regional Parks and their lakes will be open to the public for full operations Wednesday through Sunday 6AM-8PM through Labor Day, September 1, 2025.
 - Regional Park lakes at **Castaic, Frank G. Bonelli, and Santa Fe Dam** will close on Mondays and Tuesdays effective Monday, June 30, 2025 with no swimming, boating and fishing.



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2. The Summer Pool season will be reduced but is open June 2, 2025 through August 16, 2025 for a full range of free and affordable aquatic programs. Year-round pools will remain open.
3. Parks After Dark programming will be suspended at 34 Parks countywide for summer, winter, and spring.
4. Reduction of part-time staffing, over-time hours, and administrative functions.
5. 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?

Yes, 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 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.



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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?

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.

During Monday and Tuesday closure days, Regional Park closures were necessary because of limited staffing and no active park supervision. For public safety, all access, both vehicular and pedestrian, is prohibited on these days.



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We encourage visitors to explore alternative nearby parks or walking paths, and find other trails at <https://trails.lacounty.gov/> . Also, all LA County local and community parks remain open seven days a week.

Monday and Tuesday were identified for Regional Park closures because these are the days with the lowest attendance. (These closure days are similar to other LA County area attractions, museums and nature centers that are closed these days due to lower attendance.)

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. The pass is already a great value at \$150. The daily entrance fee is \$12 dollars, so if the pass is used 13 times in one year it has paid for itself. Also, the pass is only valid during normal operational hours and if hours change, the pass also changes. The department's position is no refunds.

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 LA County Regional Parks will be closed to the public, and this includes no riding into the park. This closure is necessary to ensure public safety during the closure.

Q 8: I pay a boating registration tax—why can't I use my boat at Castaic, Bonelli or Santa Fe Dam 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,



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Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park and Santa Fe Dam are determined by local park agencies, operational capacity and conditions.

Due to county-wide budget cuts, Bonelli Park Lake, Castaic Lake, and Santa Fe Dam have started 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, Bonelli Park Lake, and Santa Fe Dam 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](tel:888-239-6700) to relocate your rental to a local community park. Please have your reservations number available.

Effective June 30, 2025 no Regional Facility Park rentals will be granted on Mondays and Tuesday. Any rentals scheduled prior to June 30 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 and reservations will only be accepted Wednesday – Sunday. Also, this campground is currently closed due to Hughes Fire damage; check back for reopening.



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Q 11: What will happen if I have a Core and Community Partnership Agreement or a School MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) at a Regional Park with a reservation for Mondays or Tuesdays?

If you have a Core Community Partnership or MOA 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 reschedule a different date, or request a refund. 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 12: Are rentals, School MOAs, and core & community partnerships still available at local LA County 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 13: Are there any additional impacts like fee prices?

There will be some limited fee increases that will offset further budget reductions. Fee increases were compared to the CPI (Consumer Price Index) to ensure rental and vehicle entrance fees are aligned with similar parks and recreation agencies.

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 fees, boat launching fees and annual passes at Regional Parks are expected to increase.
 - If visitors don't drive in, park access is free via walking, cycling, skateboarding, and by alternate and public transportation. Parking will remain free at all local community parks.
3. Facility Rental Fees may increase at all reservable parks to include pools, picnic areas, sports fields, community rooms, and other amenities.

Q 14: How long will the budget cuts be in effect?

LA County Parks' budget reduction reflects federal, state, and local governments across the country that are currently impacted by budget cuts. This is an evolving situation.

Q 15: Has LA County Parks had cuts and reductions in hours/services in the past?

Yes, Regional Parks and lakes have had closures or partial closures in the past, including 2007. And Nature Centers have been closed on Mondays for a few years.



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Q 16: 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
3. **Care** for our LA County Parks by leaving no trace behind and picking up after your visit at a park.
4. **Be patient** and understanding with your LA County Parks staff who are doing more with less.

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