



El Dorado Duck Pond Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Project Improvements

Q: Will the paved area around the lakes be repaved?

A: Yes, the existing pathway around the duck pond will be demolished and replaced with a new reinforced concrete sidewalk.

Q: Will all parking areas and the roadways between be paved?

A: Some of the ADA stalls will be repaved and restriped. There are plans to improve the rest of the parking areas and roadways in the future.

Q: Can signage regarding not feeding wildlife be posted?

A: Yes, Public Works and Parks Recreation and Marine are working together on permanent signage, but temporary signage will be present.

Q: The City had a blueprint drawn up about 10 years ago. Is that blueprint going to be used?

A: The most current set of plans were developed and approved in 2020.

Q: The Health Department wrote a report stating the City could not just drain the water from the pond, have conditions of the pond water been improved making it safe to handle?

A: The drawdown of water will not be drained onto the adjacent park grass. A temporary 10-inch irrigation pipe will be installed and connected to an existing Los Angeles Sanitation District trunk sewer (industrial waste discharge). A water sampling point will be installed to monitor the effluent. Upon completion of the pond drawdown the temporary irrigation line will be permanently disconnected and shall be labeled as "sewer".

Q: What improvements will be made in and around the park, pond area, and walkway?

A: The scope of work consists of but is not limited to:

- Dewatering
- Sediment removal
- Site demolition
- Utility relocation
- Site grading
- New sewer and reclaimed water connection construction
- Construction of sidewalk, shoreline, forebay, wetland and wetland planters
- Booster irrigation pump and connection to existing lines
- Micron filtration system installation

- Aluminum sulphate delivery system installation
- Disinfection system installation
- Removal of existing trees and vegetation from the habitat island and affected duck pond surroundings
- Planting of native trees and vegetation at habitat island, forebay, wetland and duck pond surroundings
- Storm drain connection
- Best Management Practice (BMP) installation (practices or measures to control runoff from construction sites)
- Traffic, installation of security and safety controls
- Reseeding of affected lawn areas.

Q: How will fresh water be introduced into the duck pond to keep the water quality as high as possible?

A: Treated reclaimed water will be provided to the duck pond by Long Beach Water Department. Once in the pond, the water is recirculated and aerated to maintain high water quality for the wildlife. Before the water is pumped for irrigation, it is filtered and treated with chlorine.

Q: How many trees have been removed and what trees will replace them?

A: 14 trees have been removed (13 Trees were Carpe Myrtle and 1 Canary Island Pine Tree). Replanted tree options are the western redbud (24"), catalina ironwood (36"), coast live oak (36"), catalina cherry (36"), desert willow (24"), crape myrtle (24")

Q: What is the plan to water the newly planted trees?

A: Each new tree has a watering schedule that the Public Works maintenance team will maintain.

Funding

Q: Where are the funds coming from to pay for the renovation costs, and maintenance?

A: The project is currently supported by Measure A, Measure W, grant funding from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Grant, in addition to federal grant funding in partnership with the Long Beach Water Department.

Wildlife

Q: Who will monitor the safety of the wildlife inside the fencing?

A: Wildlife inside project fencing will be relocated before heavy construction begins.

Q: What will happen to the turtles and fish in the pond?

A: A relocation plan has been reviewed and approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the relocation of turtle and fish species. Turtles will be netted and removed along with the assorted fish at El Dorado Duck Pond. The turtles will be assessed and placed in holding pens on the day of removal. Turtles deemed healthy will be transported by truck to a pet wholesaler (Zoo Med Laboratories in Santa Ana) for re-adoption. All under sized or unhealthy turtles will be housed until such time they are deemed healthy or large enough to be adopted. Those that are too old or deformed will be placed with a turtle sanctuary (Turtle Tortoise Sanctuary – Orange County).

Captured fish such as bass, catfish, bluegill, and sunfish will be held in aerated holding tanks to limit stress. Healthy sports fish will be released to the nearest approved park lake in accordance with approval from the CDFW.

Q: If you are not restocking the pond, what prey will fledging Egrets and Night Herons eat?

A: The pond will not be restocked. The black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax Nycticorax*) and snowy egrets (*Egretta Thula*) diet is not limited to fish. Black-crowned night herons are opportunistic feeders and will eat many kinds of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine animals. This includes leeches, earthworms, insects, crayfish, amphibians, lizards, snakes, turtles, rodents, birds, and eggs. The adults and fledglings of snowy egrets also consume frogs, worms, crustaceans, and insects. These bird species are not solely dependent on fish.

Q: Will there be volunteers helping to remove and transport the turtles and ducks to a different location? If so, where will they be transported?

A: We will not have volunteers handling the turtles. AquaBio Environmental Technologies will handle the relocation. AquaBio was selected based on their previous experience relocating wildlife species associated with public ponds.

Q: What is going to happen to the ducks and other birds that are injured that cannot fly?

A: Birds that are injured or unable to fly will be placed with the International Bird Rescue.

Q: Can citizens help with rescuing the animals?

A: All persons must be approved by the CDFW to handle the animals. The best way for citizens to help is by encouraging their friends and the public to refrain from feeding the wildlife for the duration of the construction.

Q: After the park reopens, will some of the turtles and fish be returned to the new pond?

A: The wildlife species relocated will not be returned to the pond. All relocated species will remain at the locations where they were resettled.

Q: Each year there are lots of herons that nest. Where will they now go to nest?

A: We have no control where these birds will nest. While construction is occurring at the pond, measures will be taken to keep the herons from nesting on habitat island to avoid take of active nesting birds ("take" is defined by Fish and Game Code Section 86 as hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill).

Q: People ignore the signs that say, "No fishing" and "Do not feed the birds." How do you plan to educate the public on this?

A: The Park Safety Ambassadors program may be able to help with continued public education.

Construction Operations

Q: What date will the pond be closed? When will the duck pond reopen?

A: The duck pond will be closed for the duration of the project, which is set to begin in mid-September 2022, with an estimated completion by winter 2023.

Q: How much of the park will be closed?

A: The surrounding area adjacent to the duck pond and parking lots will be closed. However, the playground, recreation building, restrooms, and soccer field will remain open.

Q: Will all the parking lots be closed?

A: Yes, all the parking lots will be closed at El Dorado Duck Pond. The golf course parking lot will remain open for golf course patrons.

Q: How high will the fences be?

A: Fences will be 6' tall.

Q: Who will monitor the fencing?

A: Fencing will not be monitored outside of working hours. The fences will be locked with chains.