



Livermore Area  
Recreation and Park District  
*An independent special district*

**General Manager's Monthly Update  
to the Board of Directors on issues and projects  
APRIL 2026**

**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 at or managed by LARPD, but they are included below as informational only.*

**GENERAL SUMMATION**

With summer registration opening, there is a strong sense of anticipation in the air. Little League has started and parents are already setting their summer plans. Registrations are strong, with participation in programming up approximately 10% year over year.

I attended the Public Agency Risk Management Association (PARMA) Conference and California Association for Park and Recreation Indemnity (CAPRI) meeting concurrently in March. The conference was held in Monterey this year. My participation in California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) will continue for at least one additional year, as my Board seat is idle this election cycle.

LARPD continues to rebound from COVID in an impressive way. Demand for our programs may be at an all-time high — so much so that we are adding a soccer league in the fall in response to a groundswell of parents requesting for a recreation league.

The vineyards in front of Ravenswood Historic Site will be undergoing a generational shift in the wine industry. The vineyards are aging out and must be managed to support future plantings placed in this location. The vines directly in front of the historic house will remain, while the vineyard south of the entrance will be transitioned to new vines following a fallowing period.

Discussions with Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District about LARPD's use of facilities continue in a positive direction. Expanding available inventory to support our programming needs would be highly beneficial.

**Trails Update:** No update at this time.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

In March, Board members attended two regular board meeting and four standing committee meetings. They also participated in meetings with the Alameda County Agricultural Subcommittee on Trails, LARPD Foundation, and Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance.

**Board actions for the month included:** No reportable actions.

- Resolution No. 2838 commending Linda Van Buskirk on her retirement from the District.
- Resolution No. 2839 nominating Director Philip Pierpont for election to the CSDA Board of Directors - Bay Area Network, Seat C, for the 2027-2029 term.

### **Upcoming Board Schedule:**

- a. Finance Committee Meeting: Monday, April 6, 2026, West Conference Room
- b. Program Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, West Conference Room
- c. Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, Sycamore Room
- d. Personnel Committee Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026, West Conference Room
- e. Facilities Committee Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, West Conference Room

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Recruiting:** Recruitment remained strong in March, with 22 open requisitions. Key positions were filled within Youth Services, including an Assistant Site Coordinator, Site Coordinator, and two Assistant Teachers. Additional hiring across the organization included Senior Office Assistants, Recreation Coordinators, and a Park Ranger.

All summer seasonal positions have been posted, and recruitment is underway to ensure adequate staffing for upcoming programs and services.

Human Resources also attended the Tri-Valley Career Center Job Fair, which attracted over 500 job seekers. Recruitment efforts focused primarily on Youth Services positions, helping to expand outreach and attract qualified candidates.

**Process and Systems:** Human Resources is streamlining internal processes by simplifying software platforms and improving operational efficiencies. Work is currently in progress to transition to UKG as the organization's applicant tracking and onboarding system.

**Outreach:** LARPD participated in Livermore's Youth in Government Day on March 11, connecting with local students, sharing the role of special districts, and highlighting the important services LARPD provides to the Livermore community.

## **FINANCE**

**February Financials:** Preliminary financial results through February indicate the District continues to outperform budget expectations, with a positive net operating variance of \$1,018,227, or 47% above target. However, a significant portion of this variance (\$733k) is attributable to timing, as these revenues are typically received in March, where they are budgeted.

- **Total Revenues:** \$15.785 million, approximately \$782k (5%) above budget.
- **Salary & Benefits:** \$10.560 million, about 1% below budget.
- **Services & Supplies:** \$6.166 million, approximately 2% below budget.
- **Operating Capital:** No operating capital expenditures were incurred in February, thus the total expenditures to date remain at \$193,357.

**Bottom Line:** The District remains financially on track, ending February with a positive operating variance of \$1,018,227. Operating revenues continue to exceed budget expectations, while staff remain focused on reducing expenditures where possible.

**FY26-27 Budget:** Supervisors and managers have begun developing their FY26–27 budgets and are expected to submit them by April 27. Finance will present the consolidated operating budget, along with the FY26–27 through FY28–29 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), to the Finance Committee at its May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Following committee review, both budgets will be presented to the full Board for approval at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES & RECREATION

### Youth Services

**ESS:** Currently, we have 645 children enrolled in ESS at a monthly rate of \$620. Starting April 13, programs will begin making calls to enroll if spots are available. Our programs are also preparing for Spring Break from April 6-10. We will be open all week (7a.m. - 6p.m.) and provide fun, engaging activities throughout the day. Here is a sneak peek at the themes and special activities planned at each site.

Altamont Creek ESS: Egg-stravaganza, Iron Chef Cook-Off (featuring bananas as the secret ingredient), Carnival Day, Trash-to-Treasure Day, and Cozy Pajama Movie Day.

Arroyo Seco ESS: Games, games, games--Character, Mystery, Word, Card, and classic "Oldies but Goodies."

Croce ESS: Under Construction Week! Lego Building Day, STEM Day, Not-a-Box Day, Upcycle Day, and Fort Building Day.

Jackson ESS: Super Mario Brothers Week! Children will be walking to the movies to see the new Mario movie. They will also be creating Mario Bros. Diamond art, making Mario puzzles, and color giant Mario posters.

Smith ESS: Tropical Beach day, Twin day, Sports day, Weather Watchers day, Earth Day.

Sunset ESS: Aloha Spring Break 2026! Come dressed in your Hawaiian best all week! The children will enjoy a variety of Hawaiian-themed games, including Limbo, Kakamora Knock Down, Lei Races, Water Balloon Toss, Hula Hoop Contest, and will watch the movie *Lilo & Stitch*.

**Preschool:** Our preschool program is off to a busy spring. Registration on March 6 was a success, with two classes full and others filling quickly. We opened an additional Early Explorers classroom on March 2, welcoming 12 more children and their parent/guardian on Fridays only, in our Jane Addams Room B class. We continue to expand whenever possible to meet the community's demand. One child's journey stood out, coming to us with no English, she is now thriving in our play-based programs. She now can develop the language through social interactions with her peers, prior to starting TK in the fall.

Jane Addams Pre-K hosted a parent-participation field trip to the Civic Center on March 19. Officer Tracy welcomed the families with safety reminders and gave the children a chance to explore her police vehicle

and take photos. They also met Murphy, support K-9, received Monopoly themed police stickers, and stress relief police cars. They then enjoyed story time at the Civic Center Library, toured the library, and had snack time together.



### Senior Services:

This month's movies in the Vintage Lounge were *Ruth and Boaz*, a modern Cinderella story, and *Eleanor the Great*, a humorous tale of a grieving 94-year-old woman moving to New York to live with her daughter.

The monthly Mystery Movie at the Vine featured *Elvis*, concluding with a buffet at Stampede Grill and discussion.

A motorcoach of 52 seniors toured San Francisco, starting at the courthouse and enjoying lunch at the Beach Chalet. The group explored the city's history and the 49-mile route. Due to high demand, another trip will be scheduled soon.

On March 18, 26 attendees joined former City Historian Richard Finn for a presentation on the Centennial Light Bulb, followed by a visit to Fire Station 6 to see the bulb and tour the station.

At the March crafting social, seniors created stained wooden display boxes with real pressed flowers under the glass top, lined with black fleece fabric inside to use for jewelry, trinkets, or note card storage.

Bocce Ball was a hit once again at Da Boccery on March 3 with seniors teaming up, making friends, and enjoying a happy hour buffet.

Seniors attended the Chautauqua performance *Revolutionary War Spy*, with imparted little-known facts about American history.

LARPD Rangers hosted a "Nature Walk with a Ranger" at Sycamore Grove Park, allowing seniors to enjoy the spring outdoors.

For the month of March, a total of 309 adult/seniors registered for classes and programs.

### Community Outreach

**Community Outreach:** The Community Outreach team launched the Summer Activity Guide and opened registration for Livermore residents on March 18 for camps and classes, followed by swim lesson registration on March 25. Staff also collaborated closely with the Recreation team to develop promotional materials for the new Livermore Community Soccer League, including postcards, banners, social media content, and a press release.

**Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan Update:** Staff completed the final two Phase 3 workshops, an internal staff workshop on March 4 and an external partner and stakeholder workshop on March 5. A recap of Phase 3: Outreach and Engagement was presented to the Board of Directors on March 25. The next step will be a Board Workshop scheduled for April 29 to provide direction on key policy areas that will guide development of the Master Plan.

**Volunteers:** Staff welcomed approximately 200 Summer Youth Volunteers during two orientations held on March 19 and March 25. Additional volunteer efforts supported events and programs, including Muffins with Bunny, Egg-Stravaganza, Native Garden Workdays, and Open Space Trail Stewards.

**Senior Meal Program:** In February, Open Heart Kitchen served 452 meals to 51 seniors as part of LARPD's ongoing senior nutrition partnership.

### **Upcoming Events**

- 4/8 – Mystery Movie at the Vine (50+)
- 4/11 – LARPD Foundation Membership Wildflower Walk with Ranger Seth
- 4/12 – Ravenswood Docent Tours
- 4/14 – Livermore Community Soccer League Info Night
- 4/15 – Line Dance Social (50+)
- 4/18 – Teddy Bear Picnic
- 4/19 – Earth Day Celebration at Sycamore Grove
- 4/25 – Kids Night Out
- 4/25 – Brushy Peak Lowlands Hike
- 4/26 – Grazing in the Grove: LARPD's Cattle Pilot Program

For more information and a complete list of upcoming district events, visit: <https://www.larpd.org/events>

## **Recreation Programming and Facility Rentals**

**Second Annual LARPD Summer Expo:** Held on March 14, 2026, the event showcased a wide range of youth summer programs and community partnerships. Attendees connected with staff, instructors, and partners through interactive, hands-on experiences. Feedback highlighted the value of these direct connections and discovering new camp options.

The event also saw significant financial growth, generating \$105,100 in revenue compared to \$68,800 in 2025 (which did not include early registration for contract classes). Based on community feedback from the previous year, early registration for contract classes was offered at the Expo in 2026, contributing to the substantial increase and overall success of the event.

**Livermore Community Soccer League:** The Recreation team launched a new program for boys and girls ages U6–U12, beginning in Fall 2026. Designed to expand access to quality youth soccer, registration opened in March, kicking off community outreach and engagement efforts.

Sebastian Forero has been hired to lead the league, bringing experience as a player, coach, and referee. He will connect with families at local events like the Farmers Market and Livermore Street Fest. An information night on April 14 will give the community a chance to meet Sebastian, ask questions, and learn more. His goal is to create a fun, development-focused environment where young athletes build skills,

confidence, and a lifelong love of the game, while providing quality experience for families and the community.

**Group Picnic Rentals:** The season opened March 1, hosting 34 picnics—a 55% increase from 22 in March 2025. This growth reflects strong community demand, providing families and friends with dedicated outdoor spaces to gather and enjoy the parks.

**Robertson Park:** Robertson Park continues to thrive as a premier tournament destination, thanks to its multiple fields, ample parking, and well-maintained facilities. LARPD staff provide friendly, responsive support from booking to on-site coordination, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable experience for teams, spectators, and organizers. In March, Robertson Park hosted three major tournaments: the NorCal Rugby Championships, the NorCal Soccer State Cup, and the Cavaliers Rugby Girls Tournament.

### Open Space

#### Programs/Events:

- **Livermore Half Marathon:** Sycamore Grove and Holdener parks hosted sections of the Livermore Half Marathon, with 2,134 runners participating in the race.
- **Marylinn Avenue STEAM Academy** Interpretive staff joined a panel of STEAM professionals. Interpreter Christine Cardosi shared her experience working for the park district alongside meteorologists, engineers, and nutritionists. Approximately 240 students in grades 2-5 attended.
- **Spring Egg-Stravaganza:** Interpreter Eric Whiteside led a large egg hunt at the Ranger Station Picnic Area, with 230 egg hunters in attendance.
- **LARPD & EBRPD Wildflower Program:** On March 29, the fifth annual *Wildflowers of the Arroyo* highlighted wildflowers along the Arroyo del Valle, led by EBRPD Del Valle naturalists and LARPD Open Space staff.
- **LARPD & Livermore Public Library “History of Ranching” & “In Honor of Women in Land” programs:** LARPD staff partnered with the library to present two programs this week as part of their *Livermore Reads Together* series in celebration of Women's History Month.
- **Continued Community Connections:** Naturalist Candace Rho continues to build community connections. In preparation for Women's History Month Library Program, she reached out to Jill Amano, Muwekma Ohlone Operations Manager, and Tina Henson, Director of the Tri Valley Native American Center. Candace is engaging with Muwekma Ohlone leaders on potential future collaborations with LARPD. She also attended an LCAT meeting in March, which focuses fostering relationships within the city of Livermore and promoting sustainable development.
- **Youth in Government:** A local high school student shadowed Interpreter Christine Cardosi at Sycamore Grove Park to explore a career in parks through Livermore's Youth in Government Program.

#### Park Updates/Natural Resource Management:

- **Mowing:** Open Space Rangers focused on mowing trail edges, park entrances, and picnic areas throughout the park.
- **Memorial Bench Installs:** Ranger Gilbert Rodriguez led the installation of two new memorial benches in Sycamore Grove Park this month.
- **Meeting with Clayton Koopmann re: Grazing at Sycamore Grove Park:** Open Space staff, with consultant Clayton Koopmann and rancher Paul Fagliano, concluded that 25 additional cows can be added to Upper Sycamore Grove

Volunteers:

- **Garden Work Day:** At the beginning of the month, volunteers came to Sycamore Grove Park to help remove weeds from the garden.
- **Trail Work Day:** Park Ranger Field Supervisor Seth Eddings led a volunteer group to perform trail maintenance and repair Patterson Ranch Trail.
- **Spring Egg-Stravaganza:** This popular spring program was made possible by wonderful volunteers who helped with attendee check-in, hide eggs, distribute prizes, and run experiments.

Staff Updates & Development:

- **MaintainX:** Open Space Staff have been trained and have started using MaintainX.
- **Park Ranger Field Supervisor:** Park Ranger Field Supervisor Doug Sousa has left LARPD to start a new role as a Supervising Ranger in another department. We wish him well!
- **Summer Hirings:** Open Space staff have started accepting applications and conducting interviews for summer positions.

Upcoming:

April is the busiest month for programming, natural resource management, and general park visits. Programs will include CIT and Spring Nature Camp.

- Earth Day celebration with many partners attending.
- Public Cattle Talk.
- Volunteer opportunities for trail maintenance and removing invasive species.
- Last week of April, the Mower comes to Sycamore Grove Park.

March Snapshot:

Provided 59 programs to the community, with a total of 4,376 participants.



Aquatics

**Lap Swim:** 64 pass holders made 613 visits, and we sold 677 drop-in units.

**Water Exercise:** 28 pass holders made 344 visits, and we sold 144 drop-in units.

**Adult Water Polo:** 15 pass holders made 70 visits, and we sold 39 drop-in units.

**Livermore Aqua Cowboys( LAC):** LAC continues to use both of our facilities for their year-round team and brings in an average of 300 participants aged from 6-70+. In March, they hosted 2 more block party meetups.

**USA Water Polo Olympic Development Program:** On March 20th-22nd, the Robert Livermore Aquatic Center hosted a national water polo tournament. This tournament "ensures that the event not only identifies top athletes but also strengthens the overall pipeline of players, coaches, and officials nationwide."

**New Lifeguard Training:** Our aquatics team held a lifeguard training course for seven prospective employees. We are happy to share that all seven have passed the training and are moving forward with the next steps to join our aquatics team.

**Spring Splash!** The spring splash event is coming up soon and is already at full capacity with 100 registered participants.

### Facility Rentals & Operations

**Facility rentals** are held at the Ravenswood Historic Site, and the Robert Livermore Community Center. Facility rental information is located on our website. Total facility rentals for the month = 59. Total monthly hours = 248.

**Facility Operations (Custodial):** Facility operations staff are scheduled Monday through Friday from 7:30am-10:00pm to support District-wide facility and park restroom cleaning, along with RLCC operations and custodial work, requiring approximately 1,150 staff hours per month across multiple locations, with a combination of LARPD staff and contractors handling daily and weekend duties.

**Facility Operations (Program and Service support):** Facility operations staff are scheduled Monday through Friday from 7:30am-10:00pm to support District-wide facility program and service support, requiring approximately 82 staff hours this month.

## PARKS, FACILITIES, and MAINTENANCE

### Parks Department

This month focused on grounds maintenance, safety improvements, and seasonal irrigation adjustments. Crews completed extensive tree and safety pruning, mainline irrigation repairs at Bruno, and began annual backflow inspections with necessary part replacements. The Parks team took over recreational maintenance, including picnic rental preparation, weekend cleaning, and upkeep of baseball infields and pickleball courts, along with new responsibilities for sports field event preparation.



Additional work included Tervano demolition and sod installation, filling holes at the dog park, removing dirt ramps and tripping hazards, graffiti removal, playground cleaning and disinfecting, and weed abatement across parks and trails. Irrigation preventative maintenance was ongoing, with increased controller run times due to higher temperatures, and trail maintenance included weed control and pothole patching to improve safety and accessibility.



Trevarno- pathway demo and Sod



Added Mulch at Croce ESS



Trail maintenance- weed abatement, pothole patching, and filling up holes at the dog park.

### Facilities Department

This month, work focused on safety and appearance. Crews addressed tripping hazards along the RLCC pathway, lowered a copper condensate line, repaired downspouts with new brackets and matching paint, and fixed siding at Christensen Preschool.

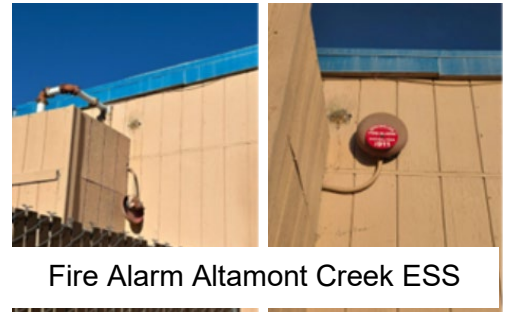
Repaint handrails at Smith ESS



RLCC pathway tripping hazard repair

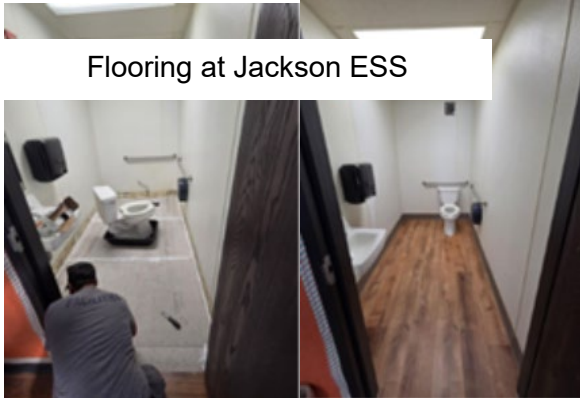


Christensen Preschool

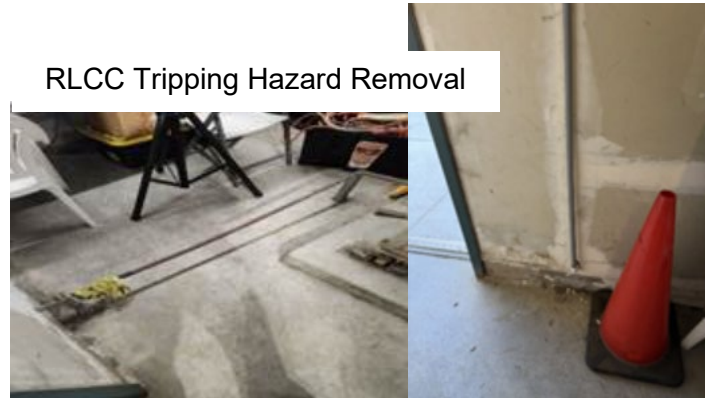


Fire Alarm Altamont Creek ESS

The Facilities team completed general building upkeep and touch-ups at RLCC and ESS/Preschool sites. Repairs included replacing a sink sprayer hose, reattaching a fire alarm bell at Altamont ESS, drywall and handrail repairs at Smith ESS, flooring replacement at Jackson ESS, and installing a new condensate pump at Bothwell Art Center.



Flooring at Jackson ESS



RLCC Tripping Hazard Removal

### **Mechanic's Shop**

Vehicle work included tire and battery replacements, inspections, wiper and tail lamp repairs, and fixing a check engine light. Grounds equipment received routine inspections, blade sharpening/replacement, fluid checks, lubrication, and tune-ups, including mulching blades, belts, pulleys, tires, carburetors, chains, and valves. Shop operations continued smoothly with parts ordering, inventory management, and general maintenance.

**Total equipment serviced/repared:** 22 pieces of various types.

Respectfully submitted,



Mathew Fuzie  
General Manager

MF/rvd