



Help shape the future of Anaheim parks



Andy Anaheim, the city's lovable mascot, is leading the way on the most comprehensive look at our parks in nearly 30 years.

Anaheim Community Services is reviewing each of our 57 parks from now through April 2018. We're looking at how parks serve communities and what might be needed down the road.



Anaheim's residents will play a leading role by offering their thoughts about our parks today and what's important to them in the future.

The initiative, called Planning for Parks, is made possible by \$830,000 in funding approved by Anaheim's City Council in February.

Andy Anaheim, the city's cartoon mascot dating back to the 1950s, has gone outdoorsy for the effort. Check him out in suspenders and flannel with a shovel in hand at Anaheim.net/ParksPlan.

There, you also can take our brief survey and share your vision for Anaheim's parks.

Is it more playgrounds, soccer fields, picnic areas or something else? Tell us what you'd like to see. Your answers will have an impact.

And look for Andy Anaheim's Community Services helpers at upcoming community events this spring, summer and beyond. They'll be walking around with tablets and survey ready to go for you. It's easy!

Anaheim celebrates Cinco de Mayo



Celebrate Mexican culture with music, food and family fun at the annual Anaheim Cinco de Mayo Carnival and Fiesta May 4-7.

The fun kicks off on Thursday night with the Cinco de Mayo Carnival. Get a special half-price ride wristband, only available on the first day — just \$15 for unlimited rides.

The carnival continues through Sunday, offering the regular price \$30 ride wristband as well as a host of fun rides and games. Tickets can also be purchased for individual rides.

All are welcome to get a taste of Hispanic culture at the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, which will feature Mexican food, live bands and mariachi music, dance performances and more.

Fans can also see the championship games of the Fiesta Soccer Tournament on Saturday and Sunday at La Palma Stadium.

New to the festival this year is a classic car show on Friday evening and the fiesta's first folklorico dance competition on Saturday and Sunday.

Entrance to the event is free.

Anaheim Cinco de Mayo Fiesta:

- **When:** Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 7
- **Time:** 5 p.m.-11 p.m. on Friday; 9 a.m.-11 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday
- **Carnival hours:** 5 p.m.-10 p.m. on Thursday; 5-11 p.m. on Friday, 12-11 p.m. on Saturday and 12-10 p.m. on Sunday
- **Where:** La Palma Park, 1151 N. La Palma Parkway
- **More:** Anaheim5demayofiesta.com or call (714) 765-5191.

Anaheim's budget: what makes our city go



It's budget time in Anaheim!

Now, before your eyes glaze over, remember Anaheim's budget impacts just about everything you do in the city.

What's in Anaheim's budget?

- 600 police officers and firefighters who respond in our time of need.
- 57 parks where kids play sports, families celebrate birthdays and music lovers enjoy concerts.
- Ten community centers providing recreation, classes, homework help and assistance finding a job.
- Eight libraries that help kids learn and serve as meeting places for the community.
- Our electric and water utility, which provides service to 120,000 households, nearly 20,000 businesses and 25 million annual visitors.
- Road improvements including new pavement, slurry, sidewalks and pothole repair.

There's a lot more in Anaheim's budget. But you get the picture: Anaheim's budget makes your city what it is!

We are just starting to put together the budget for the 12 months through June 2018.

Like the state of California and other cities, Anaheim operates on a fiscal year that runs from July 1 to June 30 of the following year.

So from May through mid-June, we'll be seeking community input on the budget at neighborhood meetings and workshops at City Hall.

You can share your thoughts on the budget by joining us for a meeting, or by visiting our website at Anaheim.net/mycitybudget or by emailing us at budget@anaheim.net.

New way to buy fireworks for the Fourth



Fireworks sales are changing in Anaheim this year.

Eight nonprofit groups and eight public high schools will be able to host their own fireworks stand to raise money for the year.

This is a change from the past two years, when all fireworks sales were combined into two large stands in the city.

The City Council approved the new process this year in an effort to better benefit local nonprofits and school groups.

Using a lottery, the city will select eight nonprofits to host fireworks stands. Any interested nonprofits should submit a lottery application *in person* to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 200 S. Anaheim Blvd., by May 19.

Applications are available from the City Clerk's Office or online at Anaheim.net/fireworks.

All eight Anaheim public high schools will automatically be granted one fireworks sales permit and can determine which school groups or teams will benefit. Schools do not need to apply for the lottery.

Sales of safe and sane fireworks will begin at 12 p.m. on June 28 and go until 9 p.m. on July 4.

Questions? Call (714) 765-5162 or email fireworks@anaheim.net.

For more, visit Anaheim.net/Fireworks.

Get your barbecue on



Enjoy delicious food, fun entertainment and party with your neighbors at the West Anaheim Neighborhood Development Council's 21st Annual Western Barbecue on May 13.

The barbecue features food booths, live entertainment, a raffle, free cake and activities for the whole family.

Children's activities will include pony rides, games, animals, Disneyland Resort's Junior Chef Program, a reptile show and more.

Adults can enjoy the classic car show, horse shoe games, community resources and shopping at a variety of craft booths and vendors.

The day's entertainment will include performances from local school groups and demonstrations by the Anaheim Police Department, along with other stage performances.

Admission to the event is free and all are welcome.

WAND Annual Barbecue:

- When: Saturday, May 13
- Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Where: Twila Reid Park, 3100 W. Orange Ave.
- More: Wandbbq.org

A kinder approach to drug abuse



Nearly a dozen people have been referred to treatment under an innovative Anaheim program designed to address drug abuse in our community.

Since January, 11 people have contacted Anaheim Police to ask for help with drug problems under a program known as Drug Free Anaheim.

The program works to connect those who voluntarily come forth for help with treatment. As long as a person isn't wanted for a crime, police will refer them to help without fear of punishment.

Those seeking out help also can reach out directly to the city's nonprofit partner, [Social Model Recovery Systems Inc.](#)

The program is part of Anaheim's larger City of Kindness initiative and brings a more holistic approach to a community problem.

Drug Free Anaheim was inspired by the Angel program started in 2015 in Gloucester, Mass.

A fishing town north of Boston, Gloucester has been hard hit by the opioid-abuse crisis.

Anaheim businessman Orin Abrams, who runs The Clubhouse at Anaheim Hills Golf Course, heard about the program and shared it with city leaders.

More than 150 police agencies across the country have adopted programs similar to Gloucester's.

For more, visit Anaheim.net/DrugFree.

Do your part for California's fruit



That citrus tree in your backyard may be bearing more than just fruit.

A plant disease that kills citrus trees has been found in Anaheim, along with the tiny bug that carries the disease.

The disease, called Huanglongbing, is spread by a small, flying insect known as an Asian Citrus Psyllid. They're about the size of an aphid.

The disease they carry produces lopsided, bitter, discolored fruits.

There's no risk to humans or pets, but Huanglongbing can be devastating to California's fruit industry.

And while Anaheim is no longer a major citrus producer, infected trees here can spread the disease to groves elsewhere.

State agricultural officials are knocking on doors in central-west Anaheim and are likely to expand their outreach to other parts of the city.

California Department of Food and Agriculture officials are inspecting citrus trees in front and backyards. If you have a diseased tree at your house, it will be removed at no cost.

Officials also have the go-ahead to spray trees on private and public property. They'll also install tree traps to catch and test the pests.

Workers will be in uniforms, carry identification and will not ask to go inside homes.

Here's what you can do to help:

- Be on the lookout for signs of the disease or pests on your trees.
- Visit your local garden center for products to treat your trees for the pest.
- Do not move citrus plants from your home to another location.
- If you'd suspect the pests and disease, call (800) 491-1899.

For more information, visit CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org.

Celebrate Water Awareness Month



Winter rains did a lot to address the drought, but water conservation remains a way of life in Anaheim and across the Golden State.

Visit the Anaheim Public Utilities booth at the Downtown Anaheim Farmers Market on May 11 to take part in a special Water Awareness Month celebration.

From noon to 3 p.m., you can enter to win prizes including a free rain barrel. Plus, get tips on water conservation and learn more about the programs and incentives we offer to our residents.

Every drop counts when it comes to conserving water, so make sure you're doing everything you can to help.

For more, visit Anaheim.net/savewater.