



Planting kindness



Monument signs — they're the calling cards of Anaheim's parks.

Now they're getting a makeover as part of a program that sums up what it means to be a city of kindness.

Since May, patches of ground in front of monument signs at Twila Reid, Pearson and Peralta parks have been cleared, prepped and replanted with native, water-wise plants.

What once was just dirt, mulch or worn plants, now shines with colorful succulents and ornamental grasses.

“This is probably one of the lowest cost, highest impact things we can do,” said Brent Dennis, director of Anaheim Community Services, which teamed with local kids to replant the patches. “This is curb appeal. It is one of the first things you see when you come to one of our parks.”

The replanted areas are dubbed “kindness gardens.” Dennis, a landscape architect by training, came up with the idea after coming to Anaheim in 2016 and learning about the city’s kindness initiative.

The kindness gardens are a perfect fit with the city and community joining together in a small but impactful way to make a neighborhood better.

At Twila Reid Park, west Anaheim school kids helped plant a kindness garden ahead of the annual May barbecue held by the West Anaheim Neighborhood Development Council.

In early June, members of the Miss Anaheim program planted a garden around the Pearson Park monument sign, ahead of Flag Day and other events at the park.

In late June, members of Boy Scout Troop 538 joined in for a kindness garden at Peralta Park.

“It is a way to get kids involved and invested in our parks,” Dennis said. “For many, it is their first time planting.”

Next up, we’re looking to partner with the community at La Palma, Brookhurst and Pioneer parks.

“Eventually we will do all of Anaheim’s 57 parks,” Dennis said.

Free Health Fair & Citizenship Clinic



The annual Anaheim Health Fair, featuring free medical, dental and vision services, is set for Sept. 23 and 24 at the Anaheim Convention Center.

New this year, the event will also include a free Citizenship Clinic, offering help for those seeking citizenship.

Now in its 11th year, the health fair provides free health screenings and services for family members of all ages.

More than 150 doctors, healthcare professionals and community members are set to volunteer their time.

Free health services:

- Dental, vision services
- Specialist consultations
- Vaccines
- EKG, physicals
- Hearing tests
- Bone density assessment
- Diabetes, cholesterol, hemoglobin testing
- Mammograms, pap smears

Free citizenship clinic:

- N-400 citizenship application help

- Naturalization legal advice
- Citizenship courses
- Citizenship educational materials

The Anaheim Health Fair & Citizenship Clinic is open to anyone in need of health services as well as for those looking for updates to ensure optimal wellness.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the fair.

The event is presented by founding partners the city of Anaheim, the Anekant Community Center and GBS Linens Inc., along with recently added partners Lestonnac Free Clinic and Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development.

For general information, call (714) 765-5162. For medical related questions, call Dr. Nitin Shah at (562) 244-9035.

For more information, to register or to volunteer, visit Anaheim.net/healthfair.

Find your next job



Looking for a new opportunity?

Employers hiring for thousands of positions are set to be on hand at the free Anaheim/OC Job Fair Expo at the Anaheim Convention Center on Sept. 20.

The job fair, now in its ninth year, is expected to draw hundreds of employers looking to meet one on one with job seekers.

Admission and parking are free.

Employers signed up include Disneyland Resort, AT&T, B. Braun Medical, Mitsubishi Motors, Parker Aerospace, Allied Universal, El Pollo Loco and others.

Job seekers also can take advantage of career skills workshops, resume reviews and entrepreneurship resources.

Even amid a strong job market, the job fair is a great opportunity for those exploring new careers or for recent graduates looking for their first job.

Veterans will find resources tailored to them, including information about apprenticeship programs and job opportunities suited to their skills.

Anaheim/OC Job Fair Expo 2017

- **When:** Wednesday, Sept. 20
- **Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Where:** Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim
- **Location:** Exhibit Hall E
- **More:** Anaheimjobs.com/JobFair2017.html

Summer Nights



Dance to live DJs, enjoy food, shopping and family fun at the KCRW Summer Nights concert in downtown Anaheim on Sept. 23.

The event features music by KCRW DJs Travis Holcombe and Jose Galvan, plus food trucks, a beer garden, shopping at vendor booths and kids games. The event is free to attend.

You'll also get free admission to Anaheim's downtown art museum, Muzeo, to see the "Deconstructing Liberty: A Destiny Manifested" exhibit.

The exhibit is part of a regional project by The Getty, Pacific Standard Time LA/LA, which explores connections between Latin American and greater Los Angeles.

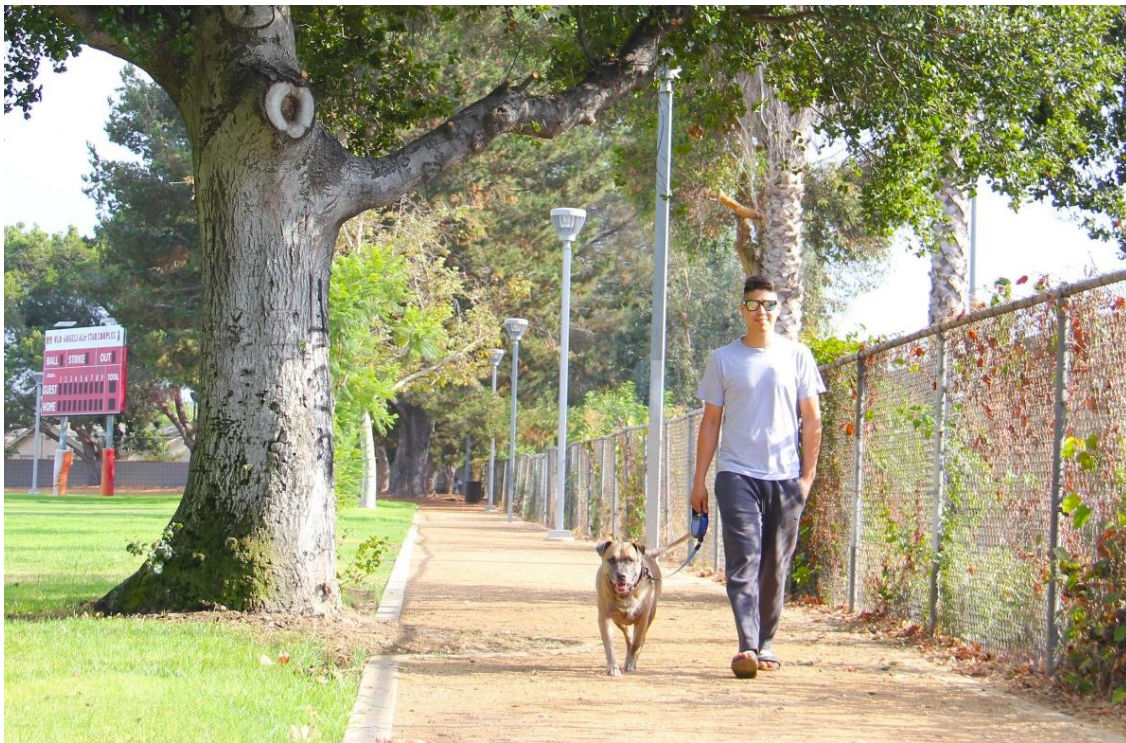
The Muzeo exhibit features traditional paintings and sculptures, as well as video, performance art and pop culture pieces. The works focus on the themes of immigration and liberty.

The night promises to be full of free, fun entertainment and art for the whole family.

Here are key details:

- **What:** KCRW Summer Nights concert
- **When:** Sept. 23 from 5 - 10 p.m.
- **Where:** Center Street Promenade, 201 S. Anaheim Blvd.
- **More:** KCRW.com/summernights

A better Pioneer Park



Pioneer Park is looking better than ever after the city invested more than \$1 million in improvements.

The park has a brand new restroom building, new outdoor exercise equipment, new lighting, picnic tables and a walking and running trail that wraps around the perimeter.

The new features make going to the park a better experience for our central Anaheim residents at the largest park in District 5. They'll also help the park stay beautiful for years to come.

The restroom building was built from the ground up, replacing a worn and outdated one. It features durable materials that will help counter vandalism and keep it clean.

Pioneer Park's new restroom is part of an ongoing effort by the city to replace or refurbish nearly all of the city's park restrooms over the next several years. The one at Pioneer serves as a model for future projects.

Many of the improvements at Pioneer Park were chosen based on input from the neighborhood surrounding the park.

Don't forget to take our parks survey and make sure your voice is heard on upcoming parks projects. Visit [Anaheim.net/parksplan](https://www.anaheim.net/parksplan).

Be a part of addressing homelessness



Homelessness is one of the most pressing issues facing Anaheim.

The city has convened a 14-member Homeless Policy Working Group to look at current and potential policies touching on homelessness.

The working group is meeting now through October. The group's meetings also are a chance for residents to share their thoughts and concerns, all with a goal of framing policy recommendations for the City Council to consider.

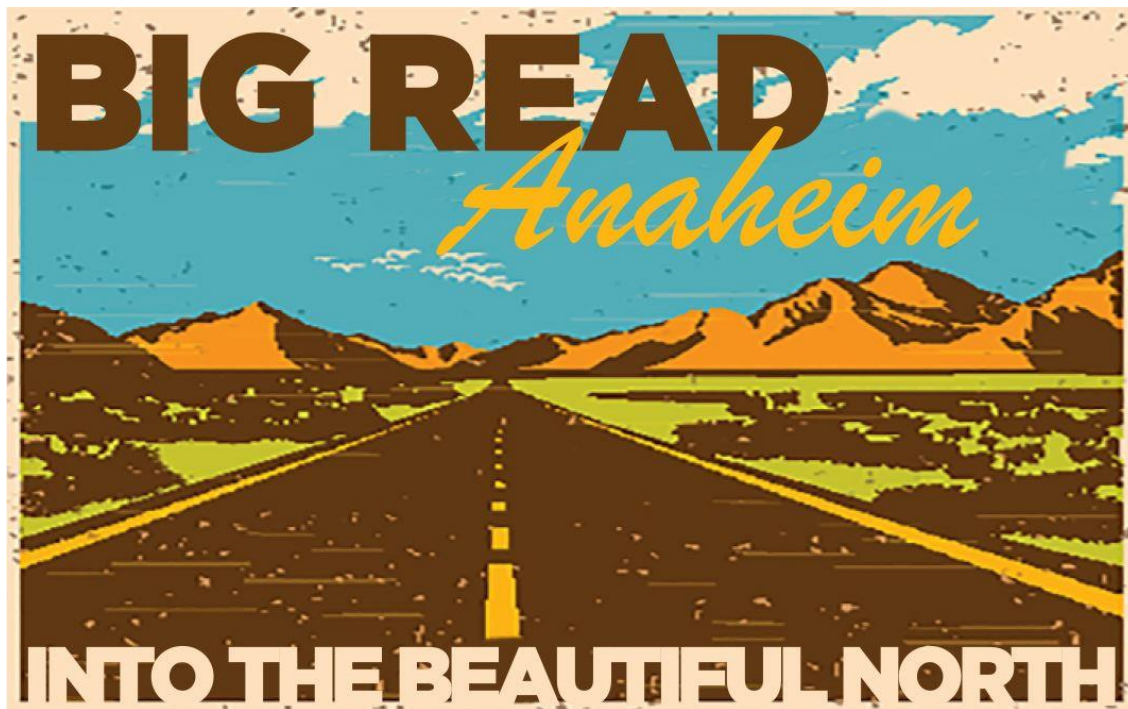
The group's next meeting is set for this Friday, Sept. 8, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Gordon Hoyt Conference Center at 201 S. Anaheim Blvd. The next scheduled meeting after that is Sept. 22, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Gordon Hoyt Conference Center.

The working group also is holding additional evening meetings in Anaheim's neighborhoods, including one on Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. with a location pending.

Please check Anaheim.net/homeless for updates.

The working group includes residents, City Council members, our nonprofit partner City Net and representatives of the Anaheim Police Department, the county of Orange and the offices of state senators and assembly members.

Meet the author



Acclaimed Mexican-American author Luís Alberto Urrea is coming to Anaheim Central Library on Sept. 16.

Born in Tijuana to a Mexican father and American mother, Urrea brings personal experience to his writing about the meshing of America and Mexico.

Urrea will be talking about "Into the Beautiful North," his 2009 novel about a changing Mexican town and its complex relationship with America.

The author conversation kicks off Anaheim Library's National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read program, in which Anaheim has joined with cities across the country in reading "Into the Beautiful North."

Urrea will talk at 2 p.m. The event will also include food and entertainment for the whole family.

“Into the Beautiful North” tells the story of a young woman’s efforts to save her Sinaloan home from drug gangsters after the men of the town leave to work in the United States.

Inspired by the American Western classic “The Magnificent Seven,” the novel is filled with radiant depictions of the Mexican landscape and unforgettable characters.

As part of Anaheim’s celebration of “Into the Beautiful North,” you can join us for a free screening “The Magnificent Seven” at Pearson Park on Sept. 23. The fun starts at 6 p.m. with food trucks and family entertainment.

You can check out “Into the Beautiful North” or download the eBook now at Anaheim Libraries. You also can check out a calendar of cultural events at Anaheim Libraries during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Urrea’s Anaheim visit and other events are made possible by a \$16,000 NEA Big Read grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, an independent federal agency that promotes the arts.

For more, visit Anaheim.net/library.

Monthly billing is here



There’s a new way to pay for water and electricity from Anaheim Public Utilities.

Residential customers can now choose to be billed monthly, instead of every other month.

Monthly billing has a number of advantages:

- **Smaller bills:** Instead of receiving a larger bill covering two months of service, get a smaller bill once a month.
- **Manage your money better:** Monthly billing can make it easier to take care of your finances each month.
- **Avoid surprises:** Utility bills are typically higher in summer and around wintertime. Getting billed monthly allows you to make adjustments to your electricity and water use.
- **Detect issues sooner:** If you have a running toilet, undetected leak or an appliance that's drawing too much power, monthly billing can alert you to the problem earlier.

Monthly billing also puts your utility bill on a similar schedule as most other bills in your life.

Making the switch is easy.

Just call Anaheim Public Utilities Customer Service at (714) 765-3300. Or if you happen to be downtown on Center Street Promenade, come see us at 201 S. Anaheim Blvd. Our customer service office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

After signing up, you'll be switched to monthly billing as soon as your current billing cycle ends.

Learn more at [Anaheim.net/utilities](https://www.anaheim.net/utilities).