

# LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT

## AUGUST 2023- OCTOBER 2023

### Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

#### Executive Summary

From August 2023- October 2023, the Stewardship Program engaged a grand total of 202 volunteers who participated in community-based wetlands habitat restoration. The 404 hours worked by these volunteers contributed \$9,696 of in-kind services. These volunteers planted 32 plants and removed 100 pounds of invasive species thereby reducing the seed bank of noxious weeds and mulched 12,000 square feet to amend degraded soils. The Stewardship Program team led 2 field trips for 58 grade school students from community centers located in disadvantaged communities. Additionally, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach assisted with removing 10 tons of severely degraded soils.

#### Habitat Restoration Events

Monthly Habitat Restoration events take place at Zedler Marsh, which is currently the only active restoration site throughout the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Here volunteers can help with a plethora of activities from native plant installation, non-native plant removal, mulching, watering, trash clean ups, propagating and more!

The LCWSP hosted three monthly habitat restoration events during this period on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A total of 136 volunteers helped remove over 100 lbs of nonnative vegetation, 215 lbs of debris and trash, and mulched 12,000 square feet of habitat to amend heavily degraded soil conditions. All this help from the community resulted in 272 hours of volunteer work time contributing \$4,432 worth of in-kind services. These events are supported by funding from the OCCF Warne Fund.

#### Special Events

The LCWSP hosted three additional habitat restoration events at Zedler Marsh during this period, August-October 2023. Community groups regularly reach out to participate in special community-based habitat restoration events. There were 3 organizations that volunteered including 1) Being the Church, hosted on Sunday, October 1, 2023, 2) a Wetland Ecology course from California State University, Long Beach hosted on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, and 3) the Long Beach Container Terminal for “Clean Air Day” on Wednesday, October 4, 2023. Through these events, a total of 66 volunteers installed 32 container plants in saltmarsh habitats to optimize Belding’s savannah sparrow, removed 200 pounds of trash in the high salt marsh, and mulched a 2,700 area to repair degraded soils. 132 total volunteer hours were contributed with \$3,954 of in-kind services. These events are supported by funding from AES.

#### Service-Learning Students

The Stewardship Program is currently hosting 2 service-learning students from an Applied Anthropology class at CSULB. Each service-learning student is dedicated to volunteering at least 20 hours in exchange for learning about Los Cerritos Wetlands and habitat restoration techniques. These students work alongside our team of experts and

assist with public programming. This partnership allows us to educate students from CSU Long Beach who are aspiring conservationists by introducing them to hands-on experiences in restoration ecology.

## Environmental Education Field Trips

The LCWSP continues to host a variety of youth groups and community members out at the wetlands. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust has worked each summer to coordinate with the City of Long Beach's summertime community center program called "BeSafe". For these field trips the Land Trust provides a bus that picks up students from their local parks and transports them to Zedler Marsh. At Zedler Marsh the LCWSP Environmental Educators offer an engaging and informative curriculum of ecological related activities where youth participate in hands-on learning focused on the Los Cerritos Wetlands and Zedler Marsh. The field trip participants are also provided with a meal at the end of the event. In total this summer the LCWSP hosted four field trips with BeSAFE which accommodated 116 Long Beach youth. These programs are sponsored by funding provided by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust.

## Nature Walks

*Raptor Ramble, Turtle Trek*

Each month the LCWLT hosts a land tour and rotates through the Raptor Ramble, Heron Hike, or Turtle Trek. These tours immerse visitors in the unique habitats of Los Cerritos Wetlands and allow them to gain new perspectives on the purpose of these rare environments. Members of the public are encouraged to attend all three different tours to experience diverse wildlife encounters in the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

The Raptor Ramble was hosted in September and is an important outreach campaign to share the upcoming Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands restoration project. In this hike, there is a high chance to see raptors soaring the sky such as red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, turkey vultures and an array of herons and egrets hunting in the marsh. October was the month of the Turtle Trek, where the Land Trust walked with over 70 people along the San Gabriel River to look for signs of the Pacific green sea turtle.



FIGURE 1. Students have plugs ready for habitat restoration and enhancement



FIGURE 2. CCLB propagating alkali rye grass



FIGURE 3. Heron Hike participants



FIGURE 4. BE SAFE education participants