

# LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT MAY 2022-JULY 2022

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Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

## Nature Walks

*Raptor Ramble, Heron Hike, Turtle Trek*

Each of these tours immerse visitors in the unique habitats of Los Cerritos Wetlands and allows them to gain new perspectives on the purpose of these rare environments. Each walk begins at the northeast corner of 1st Street and Pacific Coast Highway in Seal Beach at 8:00 A.M. on the first Saturday of every month. Members of the public are encouraged to attend all three different tours to experience diverse wildlife encounters in the Los Cerritos Wetlands. For more information and to RSVP for land tours/nature walks, please contact Elizabeth Lambe at [elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org](mailto:elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org)

May's nature walk was the Heron Hike where participants joined us on a walk to Marketplace Marsh. The freshwater marsh was filled with water, which is not always the case, boasting cattails and territorial red-winged black birds (Figure 1). In June we walked through the Hellman Ranch area up to Heron Pointe for the Raptor Ramble. Over the marsh we were greeted with 2 red-shouldered hawks and Belding's savannah sparrows displaying breeding behavior. Once we arrived at the riparian habitat of Heron Pointe we heard the songs of the yellow-breasted chat and the least Bell's vireo. July's Turtle Trek was the best one yet with about 4 different turtle individuals observed surfacing for air in the San Gabriel River. The first Pacific green sea turtle seen greeted us with 11 surfacings, one after another and then between the other 3 we saw a total of about 30 surfacings which was a spectacular sight given during some of the Turtle Treks we do not see any turtles.

## 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! Restoration events follow immediately after Land Tours on the first Saturday of every month starting right at 10:30 A.M., please contact [iwanttohelp@tidalinfluence.com](mailto:iwanttohelp@tidalinfluence.com) for more information.

April marks our last month of planting season until October, due to the warmer weather, so the last 3 habitat restoration events focused on nonnative plant removal and mulching (Figure 2). During our May, June, and July events a total of **118 volunteers** helped remove 250lbs of nonnative vegetation and helped spread mulch into restoration areas to aid in soil moisture retainment, nonnative plant suppression, and soil health. In addition to the work that the Stewardship teams completes, **249 volunteer hours** went into the last quarter, contributing **\$7,473 of in-kind services**.

## Special Events

Thanks to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust we hosted 10 field trips with our partners at Heroes Elementary for grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> that finished in May. On these trips we have a fun and interactive curriculum we call “Explore the Coast” where students get to learn about the LCW, Zedler Marsh, help with habitat restoration, make plant presses, and participate in a scavenger hunt for different insects and animals they may find on site (Figure 4). In May we hosted two separate field trips for a Marine Biology class and Wildlife Biology class from Long Beach City College. The 63 college students helped us spread mulch as well as sightsee and learn about restoration ecology. Through a partnership with the Aquarium of the Pacific, a volunteer group from SoCal Edison had 25 participants join us in mulching our trails. This year the LCW was once again chosen as a site for volunteers to sign up for Make a Difference Day in Long Beach (Figure 3). This day brings people from all different backgrounds together for a day of giving in their community and the creative slogan our group received was “Not badlands wetlands”. We had 15 volunteers dedicate time on their Sunday to remove 100lbs of nonnative vegetation and mulch our restoration areas. In July we had a summer camp group from Campfire DeForest Park with ages from 8 to 12 join us to learn about the “hidden treasure” that the Los Cerritos Wetlands are.



FIGURE 1. MARKETPLACE MARSH CATTAILS & RED-WINGED BLACK BIRD(TOP) HERON HIKE GROUP AT MARKET PLACE MARSH (BOTTOM)



FIGURE 2. MONTHLY HABITAT RESTORATION EVENTS:  
MULCHING



FIGURE 3. SOCAL EDISON GROUP (TOP 2) MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY (BOTTOM)



FIGURE 4. EXPLORE THE COAST FIELD TRIPS:  
SCAVENGER HUNT FOR BUGS & MUD BALL  
RESTORATION ACTIVITY