

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT

NOVEMBER 2022- APRIL 2023

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Nature Walks

Raptor Ramble, Heron Hike, 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 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

Since November we have had 6 of our monthly nature walks. The 6 land tours saw approximately 400 community members join us. Starting with the Heron Hike in November, Raptor Ramble in December and the Turtle Trek in January and then the cycle continued in order. From Fall to winter and now into Spring on each trip we were greeted with a variety of different flora and fauna species. This winter really soaked our wetlands, which especially benefited areas that are no longer connected to the San Gabriel River or inundated due to the muted tides. The seasonal fresh water ponds bring migrants such as Cinnamon teals, Ibus, isopods, tadpoles and more! These much-needed winter rains also woke up our coastal sage scrub plants right before spring such as our sagebrush, bush sunflower, and wildflowers before the annual nonnative plants germinated in the in the spring. As spring approached, we started to see a decrease in the winter migrants and more of our endemic and endangered Belding's savannah sparrow and the arrival of the endangered least Bell's vireo, swallows and terns. The one constant throughout our tours was the endangered Pacific Green sea turtle that is here year round!

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 for more information.

Since November the LCWA has hosted 6 monthly habitat restoration events as well. In the past 6 months we have hosted **225 volunteers** who helped remove **210lbs of nonnative species**, **235lbs of debris**, and **installed 735 containers of native species** in the CSS, marsh buffer and mulefat scrub to help restore endangered Belding's savannah sparrow, least Bell's vireo habitat and much more. All of this help from the community resulted in 450 hours of volunteer work time contributing **\$13,260 of in-kind services**.

Special Events

The past 6 months we have had a variety of age groups and community members near and far join us out at the wetlands. Thanks to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust we have hosted 16 field trips with local title 1 elementary classes. We currently have 5 more scheduled until the end of the spring semester and more currently being planned. 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).

We have also hosted 4 additional habitat restoration events at Zedler marsh thanks to our eager community that wants to get involved. In December we hosted two separate field trips for a Marine Biology class and Wildlife Biology class from Long Beach City College. The 58 college students helped us spread mulch as well as sightsee and learn about restoration ecology. These two classes are expected to join us again in May again thanks to our longstanding partnership. A new partnership was formed through LA’s Metropolitans Districts new Resiliency, Sustainability and Innovation office that joined us in January to get outside and learn about some of the last remaining open space in the Long Beach that is within their range. We also had a returning AP Environmental class join us again to get their hands dirty and propagate salt marsh plants. These additional events have resulted in an additional **102 volunteers** that helped install **144 native container plants, propagate 25** salt marsh gallon plants which contributed to **156 hours** and **\$4,355 of in-kind services**.

Upcoming we have two Earth Day events thanks to our partners at the Aquarium of the Pacific, Make a Difference Day through the city of Long Beach, and more university classes scheduled to come out to the wetlands through LBCC and CSULB.