

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT: NOVEMBER 2025-JANUARY 2026

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Executive Summary

From November 1, 2025-January 1, 2025, the Stewardship Program engaged a total of 135 volunteers who participated in community-based habitat restoration programs. The 270 hours worked by these volunteers contributed \$9,393.30 of in-kind services. These volunteers propagated over 450 plants, removed 150 pounds of weeds, and planted 147 salt marsh plants. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program (LCWSP), in partnership with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust and Applied Energy Services (AES), hosted eight field trips for students. Additionally, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach assisted eleven times during this period assisting with land management and stewardship tasks.

Monthly Habitat Restoration Events

Monthly Habitat Restoration events take place at Zedler Marsh every 1st Saturday of the month. Volunteers help with many activities from native plant installation, non-native plant removal, mulching, trash clean-ups, plant propagating, watering, site preparation, and trail clean-up.

The LCWSP hosted two monthly habitat restoration events during this period on November 1, 2025 and December 6, 2025 (Figure 1 and 5). A total of 65 volunteers propagated 450 plants and removed 100 pounds of weeds. All this help from the community resulted in 130 hours of volunteer work contributing \$4,522.70 worth of in-kind services. This event is supported by funding from AES.

Special Events

Community and school groups regularly reach out to participate in special community-based habitat restoration events. The LCWSP hosted four additional community-based habitat restoration events with Cal State Long Beach Re:Wild club on November 22nd, and three LBCC Biology classes on November 26th and December 4th during this period (Figure 2-4). In total, 50 pounds of weeds were removed, 147 plants were planted and various plant care tasks were performed in the nursery. A total of 140 volunteer hours were contributed with \$4,870.60 of in-kind services. These events are supported by funding from AES.

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 works each year to coordinate class field trips for underserved schools. For these field trips the Land Trust provides a bus that picks up students from their school and transports them to Zedler Marsh. At Zedler Marsh, the LCWSP Environmental Educators offer an engaging and informative grade-based curriculum of ecological activities where youth participate in hands-on learning focused on the Los Cerritos Wetlands and Zedler Marsh. Since November 2025, the LCWSP hosted eight school field trips which accommodated about 245 Long Beach youth. Since AES funding started in 2023, this program has served 4,045 students. These field trips are sponsored by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust (Figure 6 and 7).

Land Tours

Salt Marsh Stroll

During this period, the LCWSP hosted two land tours at Zedler Marsh which included the Heron Hike and the Salt Marsh Stroll. The Heron Hike provides a unique opportunity to explore the Central Los Cerritos Wetlands which features a freshwater marsh which is home to many herons and waterfowl (Figure 8). In November, 11 participants enjoyed the Heron Hike. In December, the Salt Marsh Stroll was offered to 16 participants to experience Zedler Marsh trails system where they encountered many aromatic plants and several bird species while learning about ethnobotany (Figure 9). This was an opportunity to learn about all of the habitat restoration activities that have taken place over the past decade.

Youth Workforce Development

During this period, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) Ocean Corps dedicated eleven workdays to habitat restoration activities in Zedler Marsh and Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands to help expand the impact of the stewardship team (Figure 8). CCLB has helped with some of the heavy lifting to support the LCW Stewardship Program to work efficiently with a skilled field team to accomplish priority tasks such weed whacking and clearing tasks for the stewardship program, leading salt marsh plug procurement and processing, assisting with propagation in the LCWA nursery, and removing nonnative plant species. The Ocean Corps has evolved into an internship program and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program has the privilege of working with one intern twice a week starting in January 2026.



FIGURE 1. November 1 Habitat Restoration- Plant Propagation



FIGURE 2. Habitat Restoration- Nov 22 Re:Wild volunteers



FIGURE 3. Nov 26 LBCC Habitat Restoration Event



FIGURE 4. December 4 Habitat Restoration at Zedler Marsh



FIGURE 5. Dec 6 Monthly Habitat Restoration event



FIGURE 6. Elementary School Field Trip 10.06.25 mudballs



FIGURE 7. Oct 4th Salt Marsh Stroll of Zedler Marsh



FIGURE 8. November 1 Heron Hike



FIGURE 9. December 6 Salt Marsh Stroll