

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT: MAY 2026-AUGUST 2026

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Executive Summary

From May 1, 2026, to August 31, 2026, the Stewardship Program engaged a total of 267 volunteers who participated in community-based habitat restoration programs. The 730.5 hours worked by these volunteers contributed \$29,322.27 of in-kind services. These volunteers propagated over 4,214 plants, removed 1250 pounds of weeds. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program (LCWSP), in partnership with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust and Applied Energy Services (AES), hosted three field trips for students. Additionally, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach assisted five times during this period assisting with stewardship and ecological monitoring tasks.

Monthly Habitat Restoration Events

Monthly Habitat Restoration events take place at Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands every 1st Saturday of the month. Volunteers help non-native plant removal and site preparation activities to prepare for the Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands bluffs planting and plant propagation for large-scale restoration projects at the LCWA Nursery.

The LCWSP hosted four monthly habitat restoration events during this period on May 2, 2026, June 6, 2026, July 11, 2026, and August 1, 2026 (Figure 1-3). A total of 101 volunteers removed 350 pounds of weeds and propagated 1,275 plants for the nursery. All this help from the community resulted in 202 hours of volunteer work contributing \$8,108.28 worth of in-kind services. These events are 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 nine additional community-based habitat restoration events with Long Beach Community College Geology club on May 8th, Aquarium of the Pacific on (May 16th, June 20th, and June 27th), Being the Church on May 30th, Bank of America on June 5th, LCWA Anniversary Event on July 18th, REI on July 21st, and Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust on July 25th during this period (Figure 4-6). In total, 1,842 plants were propagated, and 203 nursery plants were weeded. A total of 240 volunteer hours were contributed with \$9,633.60 for 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 annually hosts Be SAFE summer park programs where disadvantaged parks are bused to Zedler Marsh for an evening education program. The Land Trust provides a safe activity outdoors and a meal to participants. At Zedler Marsh, the LCWSP Environmental Educators offer an engaging and informative curriculum of ecological activities where community members participate in hands-on learning focused on the Los Cerritos Wetlands and Zedler Marsh. Since May 2026, the LCWSP hosted five park field trips which accommodated about 159 Long Beach youth. These field trips are sponsored by the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust and the Port of Long Beach (Figure 7 and 8).

Land Tours

During this period, the LCWSP hosted three land tours which included the Heron Hike and the Salt Marsh Stroll (Figures 9-10). 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. In May and August, 26 participants and 12 participants enjoyed the Heron Hike. In June, the Salt Marsh Stroll was offered to 26 participants to experience Zedler Marsh trails system where they encountered many aromatic plants and several bird species while learning about ethnobotany. This was also an opportunity to learn about all 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 three workdays to habitat restoration activities in Zedler Marsh and Southern Los Cerritos Wetlands to help expand the impact of the stewardship team (Figure 11). CCLB 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 with weed management. With just six workdays, CCLB removed 1,050 pounds of weeds (including large invasive trees, invasive succulents, and annual weeds.), propagated 157 plants for the nursery, maintained 4334 ft². of trails by spreading mulch and sanded and stained tables for LCWA's special events.



FIGURE 1. May Habitat Restoration - SLCW Weed Removal



FIGURE 2. July Habitat Restoration Event - Nursery Plant Propagation



FIGURE 3. August Habitat Restoration Event - Nursery Plant Propagation



FIGURE 4. June 5th Bank of America Nursery Event at Zedler Marsh



FIGURE 5. June 20th AOP Nursery Event at Zedler Marsh



FIGURE 6. July 18th LCWA Anniversary Event



FIGURE 7. Be Safe Field Trip July 16th



FIGURE 8. Be Safe Field Trip July 30th



FIGURE 9. May Heron Hike



FIGURE 10. August Heron Hike



FIGURE 11. July 31st CCLB Invasive Species Removal at Southern LCW