

# THE WONDER OF BALLONA



# Background



Hi! You've made it to the recap of my capstone project titled "The Wonder of Ballona."

This project was inspired by my deep desire to connect with my local waterway.

I was raised in the Mid-City area and for the vast majority of my life I had no clue that there was a local creek. For a while I felt cheated of the opportunity to learn about the blue spaces in my own community.



# Background



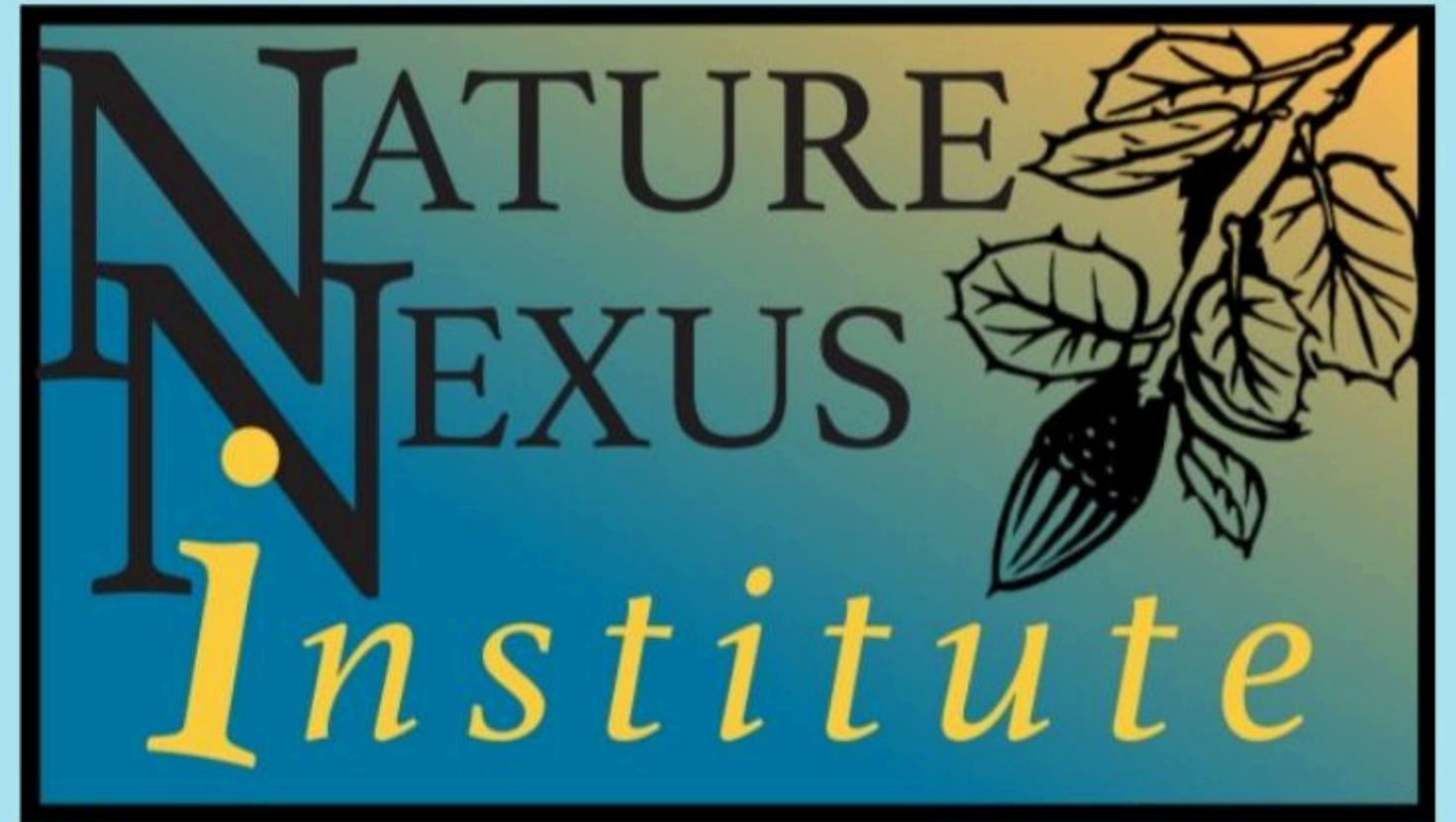
This sparked my idea to create a project around the importance of how coastal access can grants us the opportunity to learn about coastal ecosystems and coastal birds.



For this project I wanted to have a special focus on Ballona Creek/Ballona Wetlands. I partnered up with Emily C. from Nature Nexus to do a posterboard science lesson on the aforementioned topics.

# Who is Nature Nexus?

Nature Nexus Institute is an organization that strives to be a nexus for science, culture, art, and research endeavors that result in a new generation of change-makers and storytellers.



Emily C.

- Community Programs Director



# Planning

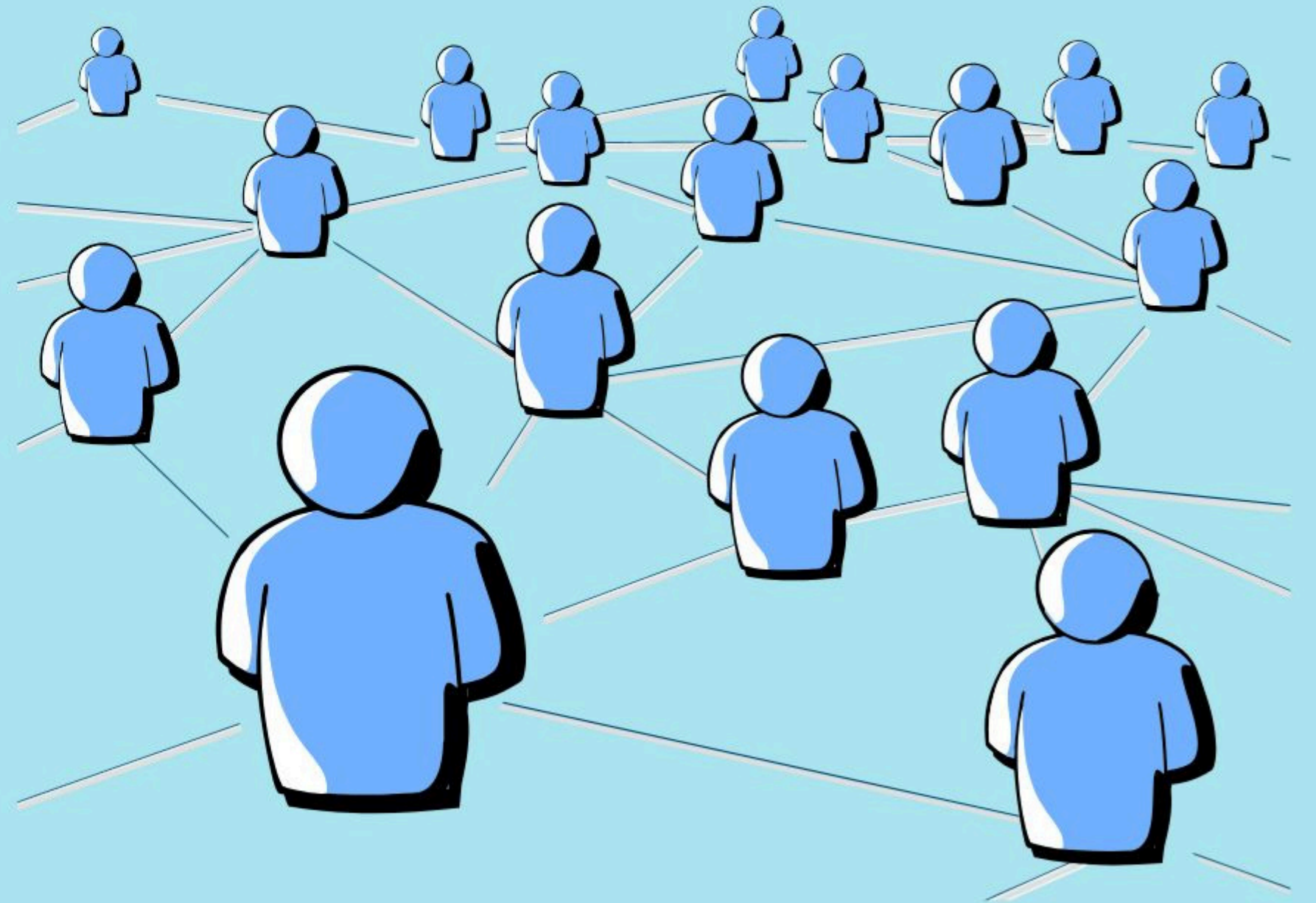
The planning stage consisted of meetings with Emily and Liliana to review logistics such as where to have the lesson once at the reserve. I also joined Emily's zoom class to introduce myself to our intended audience.



It was a fun and messy process bringing the poster board to life. I even decided to do a goodie bag giveaway at the end of my lesson.

# Community Engagement

My audience for the capstone project was Emily's students from Los Angeles Conservation Corps, staff from LACC & NNI, and any member of the public that decides to join us on the day of the event.



# Community Outreach

Promotion was done on social media and the NNJ website.



## Fall Field Trip: Library to Wetlands!

Saturday, November 2, 2024  
8:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Baldwin Hills Branch Library  
2906 South La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, CA,  
90016, United States (map)

The [Baldwin Hills Branch Library](#) is just a short distance from some of the best nature spaces in the city!

Join us at the library to catch a bus to a morning of fun at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve in Playa del Rey.

This is a **FREE** trip open to all families. We will provide transportation and a guided hike throughout the wetlands.

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 2nd and Saturday, December 7th

**TIME:** 8:45am to 1pm

**HOW:** The bus will pick up in front of Baldwin Hills Branch Library (2906 S La Brea Ave, Los Angeles, CA, 90016) and return us to this same spot at 1pm.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Snacks/lunch, water, sunscreen, and good walking shoes.

**WHO:** We invite all families and friends to come along to enjoy a day at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

\*\*\*\*Minors are required to be accompanied by parent/guardian

[Click HERE](#) to register for this event!

People had the option to ride on the bus to Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve from Baldwin Hills Branch Library.

# Morning of Nov. 2nd

in front of the library



I decided to join the NNI  
crew at Baldwin Hills Branch  
Library to welcome LACC  
students and public members.  
Public transit for the win!



# Birding



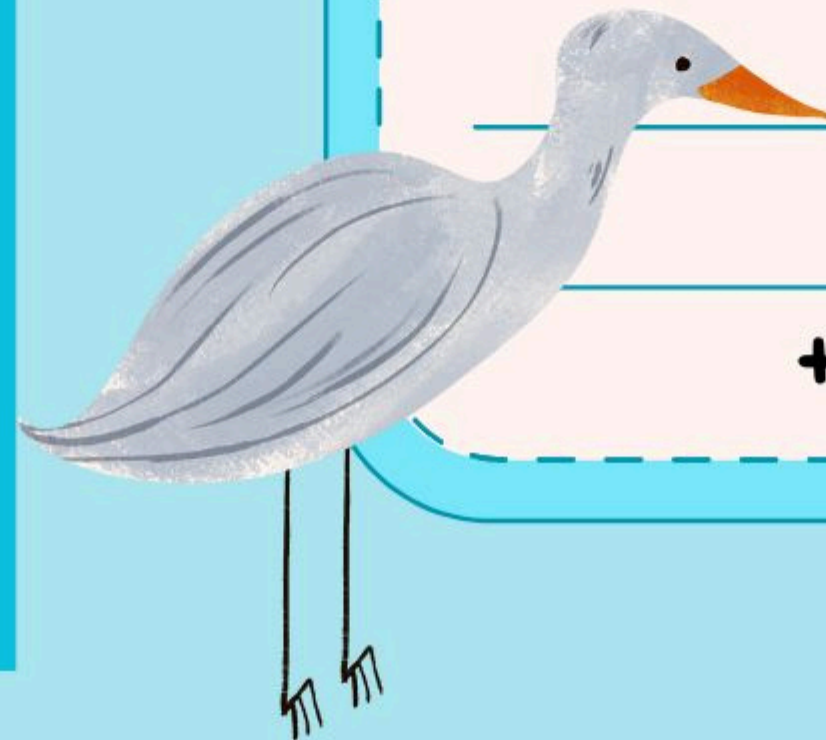
Did I mention that I brought binoculars for people to do some birding before and after my lesson?

# Things we saw

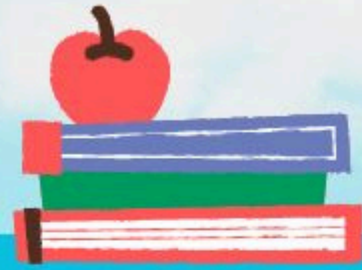


Alligator lizard

- Snowy Egret
- Red-tailed hawk
- California Gull
- Whimbrel
- Hummingbirds
- Mallard duck
- Snake skin
- + many others



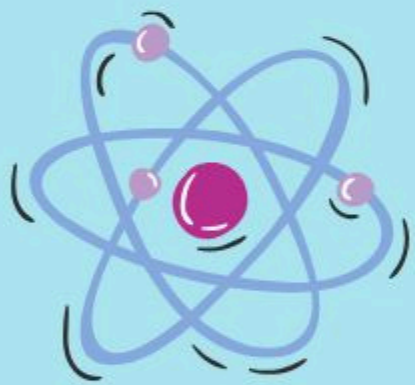
# Ballona Lesson



Me teaching the lesson!

# Ballona Lesson

NNI Staff helping hold my board open against the winds.



Student using binoculars to read the poster board!



Students taking notes and asking great questions!



Student using bird field guide.

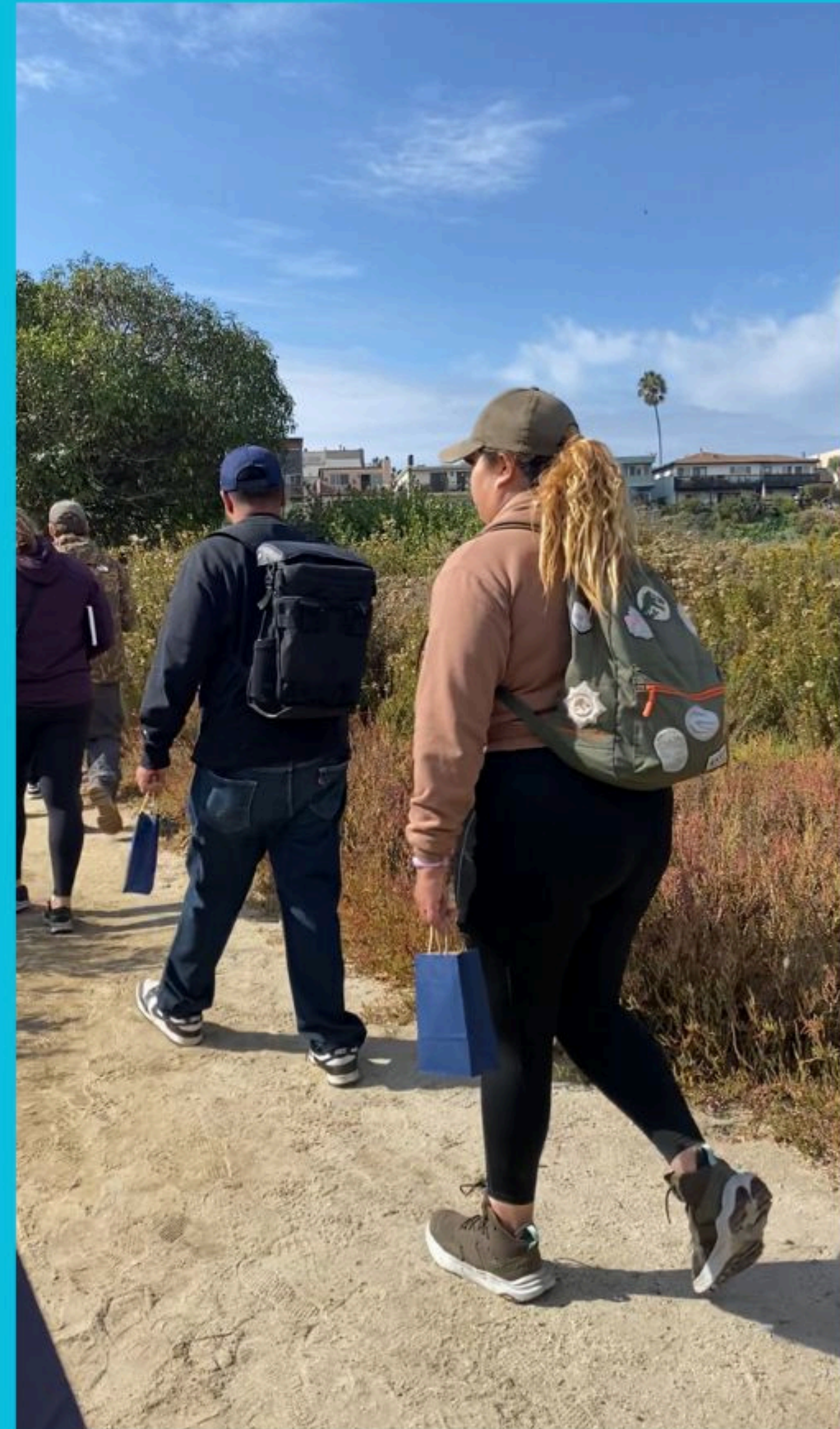
# Goodie bags



In total I had an audience of 23 people including LACC students, staff, and public members.



I distributed exactly 25 goodie bags including our school bus driver of the day!



# Group Photo





# Thank You

In sweet gratitude of Liliana G, Sophia M, Emily C  
from Nature Nexus, and the Cohort for the  
opportunity to learn and grow.

# Works Cited & Image Credits

- All information and images between the slides and/or my poster presentation were sourced from: Friends of Ballona Wetlands ([ballonafriends.org](http://ballonafriends.org)), Ballona Creek Renaissance ([ballonacreek.org](http://ballonacreek.org)), Wikipedia (Ballona Creek), Mongabay.com, All About Birds, Nature Nexus Institute website, Why Coastal Access Is an Environmental Justice Issue by Mardi Fuller ([nrdc.org](http://nrdc.org)).
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