

Love Your Wetlands Day

At UC San Diego's Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve



Photo by Erik Jepson/UC San Diego



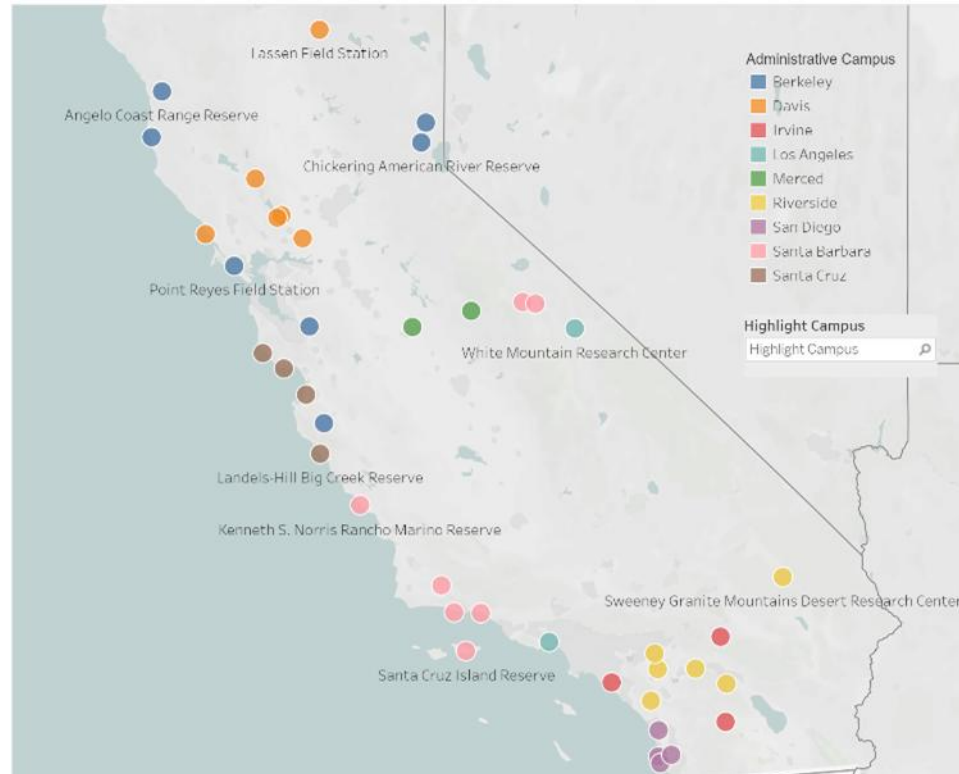
Kellie Uyeda | May 20, 2026



Nature



UC Nature Reserves + Field Stations



Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve



Figure 7. 1928 aerial photograph mosaic of Mission Bay and surroundings. Individual images courtesy of the County of San Diego.

Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve

Light-footed Ridgway's Rail
Rallus obsoletus levipes



Photo by iNat user: russnamitz



History of Love Your Wetlands Day

- Started in 2005
- UC San Diego NRS + City of San Diego Rangers
- Focus on trash pickup and Ridgway's rail raft repair
- Approx 50 people attended



Love Your Wetlands Day 2026

- 4 hosting orgs, broader UCSD support
- 50+ tabling orgs
- 1100+ participants
- 323 lbs of trash removed

UC San Diego
NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM



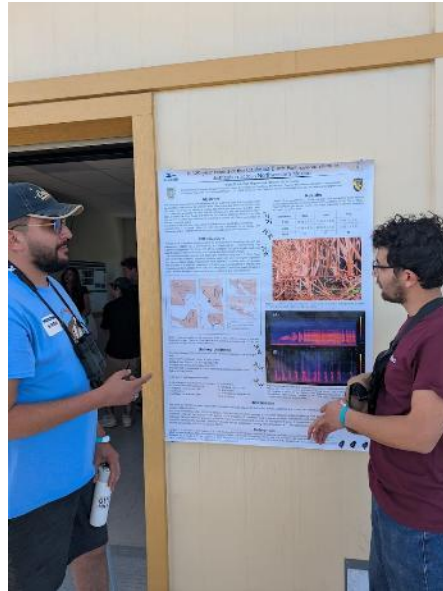
TIJUANA ESTUARY
TIJUANA RIVER
NATIONAL ESTUARINE
RESEARCH RESERVE

The City of
SAN DIEGO

Hosting organizations: UC San Diego NRS

UCSD NRS Mission: Supporting teaching, research, and stewardship across California's natural landscapes

- Highlighting the research of our reserves
- Educate the public about value of wetlands
- Remove trash



UC San Diego
NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Hosting organizations: San Diego Bird Alliance

SDBA Mission: Together we defend our region's birds, unique biodiversity, and threatened habitats through advocacy, education, and restoration.

- Interest in connecting public with the marsh to promote ReWild initiative
 - Advocating for restoration of wetlands adjacent to Kendall-Frost



De Anza Natural
De Anza Cove Amendment to the Mission Bay Park Master Plan
Figure 3: Site Plan

Hosting organizations: Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

TRNERR Mission: Connect people in conserving natural ecosystems in Southern California and Northern Baja California through access, research, stewardship, restoration, education, and science-based decision-making.

- Coordinate science speaker series
- Share boots for marsh walks



TIJUANA ESTUARY
TIJUANA RIVER
NATIONAL ESTUARINE
RESEARCH RESERVE

Hosting organizations: City of San Diego Parks and Recreation

Parks & Rec Mission: To provide healthy, sustainable, and enriching environments for all.

- City of SD owns about half of marsh
- UC San Diego manages access for research & education





Dignitary speeches

- Tribal leaders, elected officials, UC San Diego leadership
- Best to have in the middle of the day - allow crowd to accumulate



Marsh cleanup

- Approx 100 people on foot
- Trash pickup
- Recruit marsh walk leaders - students & volunteers
- Send groups of 10
- Provide boots
- Sort & weigh trash
- Popular activity, fills quickly



Photo by Erik Jepson/UC San Diego

Ha Kwaiyo: Tule boat building

- Led by Kumeyaay Community College
- Harvested on SDBA reserve and brought in a truck (does not grow at Kendall-Frost)
- Popular activity that easily accommodates large numbers of people throughout the day (although limited opportunities to test them)



Kayak cleanup

- Kayak rental donated - free for participants
- SDBA pays for another org to lead outings
- Nice way to experience the marsh, but not much trash actually collected from the water
- Very limited space, fills instantly



Science speakers

- About 10 speakers give 15 min talks throughout the day
- UC San Diego & nearby public and private schools, researchers
- No powerpoint, but microphone + any visuals they bring
- Spanish/bilingual speaker session



Wetland Critter Lab

UC San Diego



Love Your Wetlands Day activities



Tips

- Timing considerations
 - Early Feb, before official start of nesting season means we have nearly been rained out
 - Close to World Wetlands Day
- Every activity needs a coordinator - make life easier by limiting activities
- T-shirts are nice but consider waste, inventory concerns

lywd.ucsd.edu

