

**BALLONA WETLANDS
ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
Playa del Rey, CA**

A Rainy Year Serves to Remind Us

By Cindy Hardin, LA Audubon Director of Outdoor Education

**The historic salt
panne at
Ballona.
Standing water
covered the
entirety of the
salt panne for
most of the
winter.**



**Large ponds
below the
bluffs were
present for
weeks
after the final
rainfalls.
Meandering
streams
connected
some of these
ponds.**



This is the trail that school children use to access the wetlands for their field trips. More than a few trips had to be re-scheduled due to rainy conditions.



**Moisture loving
mushrooms
were popping
up everywhere!**



Although the water has diminished, the plants that are now present echo the shape of the standing water that was there most of the season. Note the curvilinear course of the vegetation, which traces the meandering path that water takes naturally.



