The Natural History Museum North Campus

The North Campus is an urban nature experience in the heart of Los Angeles. The 3.5 acre site, located in Exposition Park, is being designed as habitat for urban wildlife. Opening to the public in 2012/13, the North Campus will be home to a long-term urban biodiversity study, and provide our visitors with a whole new way to engage with urban nature. Although the site is currently under construction, surveying has already begun, and baseline data are being gathered on existing flora, fauna, and environmental conditions so we can monitor and document transformations as the space is planted and changes over time.

Community Science Program

Engaging the community in an effort to collect natural history data for our region, the Museum has begun a suite of Community Science (aka Citizen Science) programs, with plans for continuing expansion. Currently the Museum hosts four projects. Each of the projects to the right helps us to collect critical data on the urban biodiversity in our region and will augment our species list for the North Campus. As a major Natural History Museum, we are fortunate to have a baseline of voucher specimens and records of the fauna historically found in Exposition Park. One of our biggest assets is our bird observation data which have been consistently collected over the last 28 years. So far we’ve recorded 161 bird species for this highly urban field station!

L.A. Spider Survey: This is our first citizen science project, which started in 2002. From almost ten years of participation, we have an L.A. spider collection 6,000 specimens strong. We are currently focusing on collecting underrepresented families.

Lost Lizards of Los Angeles (LLOLA): This project began in April 2010. We want to find out where lizards occur in the Los Angeles Basin, and how likely it is for them to move into the North Campus. So far participants have discovered three new introduced species.

Lost Ladybug Project: In April 2010 we partnered with Cornell University, to encourage more local participation in this National project. Only a few nine spotted ladybugs have been found in Los Angeles to date.

L.A. Butterfly Survey: Our newest project is in partnership with Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA). Launching in conjunction with our Butterfly Pavilion, this project aims to extend the Museum experience beyond the exhibit.