

Observation Deck Built for Wetlands

Los Angeles Times

Sep 11, 1998

Officials from the Playa Vista development gathered Thursday to mark the opening of a observation deck built by a local Eagle Scout in the Ballona Wetlands, part of a 1,087-acre site that is scheduled to contain thousands of residential units and commercial development as well as open space.

The redwood deck, whose materials were paid for by Playa Vista officials, was built over the last few months by 18-year-old Venice resident Marcus Clinco, his father and some fellow Scouts.

The deck, about 25 feet square, has a sweeping view of the saltwater flood channels and grassy fields that are visited by many species of birds. It is not open to the public, but will be used for activities sponsored by the Friends of Ballona Wetlands.

"The platform idea would be to keep people off the wetlands, but allow {them} to see the wetlands without intruding on it," Marcus said.

He has also been a volunteer for Friends of Ballona Wetlands, which supports Playa Vista's plans to restore some of the area's wetlands.