

Urban Soil Best Practices

TreePeople**Date:** October 26, 2021
Time: 9:00 am-1:30 pm (PDT)
Location: Virtual (register here)**IT Support:** (818) 623-4868
Host: Yujuan Chen, Ph.D.
Moderator: Richard Pouyat, Ph.D.

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

9:00 AM: Opening Remarks

Cindy Montañez | Chief Executive Officer, TreePeople**Ben Allen** | California State Senator, 26th District**Adel Hagekhalil, P.E., BCEE** | Chief Executive and General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**Arima Kozina** | Special Assistant to the Office of the Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture**Paul Koretz** | Los Angeles City Councilmember, 5th District**Mas Dojiri, Ph.D., BCES** | Assistant General Manager, LA Sanitation and Environment

9:30 AM: Project Overview

An Overview of Urban Soil Best Management Practices

Lia Soorenian | Policy and Research Associate, TreePeople**Devon Campos** | Intern, TreePeople

Soil Contamination in the City: Approaches to Remediation and Reducing Exposure

Kirsten Schwartz, Ph.D. | Associate Professor, UCLA

Working Your Waste: Benefits of Residuals Based Soil Amendments for Urban Systems

Sally Brown, Ph.D. | Research Professor, University of Washington

Urban Soil BMPs: Tilling, Biochar, & Edible Forests

Naim Edwards | Director of MSU—Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation, Michigan State University Extension

Panel Discussion: Part One

Facilitator #1: Lynn Fang | Soil & Compost Specialist, LA Compost**Facilitator #2:** Jamie Quarfeld | Soil Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

11:15 AM: Coffee Break

11:30 AM: Presentation Session & Panel Discussion: Part Two

Restoring Environmental Services in Disturbed Compacted Urban Soils

Stu Schwartz, Ph.D. | Senior Research Scientist, University of Maryland Baltimore County

The Role of Structural Soil in Urban Green Infrastructure

Tom Whitlow, Ph.D. | Emeritus Professor, Cornell University

Water Conservation and Landscape Irrigation Management in Southern California

Amir Haghverdi, Ph.D. | Associate Professor, University of California, Riverside

Test Plot: An Experiment in Community-based Ecological Restoration of Our Public Lands

Jen Toy | Lecturer, USC Department of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism**Jenny Jones** | Partner, Terremoto

Panel Discussion: Part Two

Facilitator #1: Francisco Escobedo, Ph.D. | Research Social Scientist, U.S. Forest Service**Facilitator #2:** Callie Ham | Regenerate L.A. and International Policy

1:00 PM: Summary of the Day

Michelle Barton | Environmental Specialist, LA Sanitation and Environment

1:10 pm: Closing Remarks

Andy Lipkis | Project Executive, Accelerate Resilience L.A. (ARLA); Founder, TreePeople

1:20 pm: Final Remarks

Yujuan Chen, Ph.D. | Principal Scientist, TreePeople**Richard Pouyat, Ph.D.** | Scientist Emeritus, U.S. Forest Service

SPEAKERS

**Ben Allen** | California State Senator, 26th District

California State Senator Ben Allen was elected in 2014 and reelected in 2018 to represent the 26th District covering the Westside, Hollywood and coastal South Bay communities of Los Angeles County. Ben's work in government focuses on prudent decision-making and reforms that address systemic inadequacies in our state. An attorney and former school board member, he has authored crucial legislation in the areas of environmental protection, green transit, educational equity, and electoral reform. Born and raised in Santa Monica, Ben is a son of teachers and holds degrees from Harvard, University of Cambridge, and UC Berkeley. He and his wife, Melanie, have one young son, Ezra.

**Michelle Barton** | Environmental Specialist, LA Sanitation and Environment

Michelle Barton is an Environmental Specialist with LA Sanitation and Environment. Michelle serves as the staff lead for the department's biodiversity and healthy soils programs. Michelle earned her B.S. from UCLA and her M.S. from CSULB.

**Sally Brown, Ph.D.** | Research Professor, University of Washington

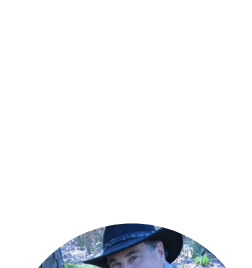
Born and raised in New York, Dr. Brown became interested in soils after working with local farmers to deliver vegetables to stores and restaurants. Her research focuses on benefits and potential risks of residuals (waste) based soil amendments including food scrap composts and municipal biosolids in urban soils and systems.

**Devon Campos** | Policy and Research Intern, TreePeople

Devon Campos has been an intern at TreePeople for 2 months now. He has worked on researching the best management practices for soil as well as testing soils in Los Angeles County as part of an ongoing study with the U.S. Forest Service. At the University of Southern California, Devon obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in environmental studies and a minor in marine biology. Now, he is in the process of receiving a Master's of Arts in environmental studies from USC.

**Yujuan Chen, Ph.D.** | Principal Scientist, TreePeople

Dr. Yujuan Chen is the Principal Scientist in the Department of Policy and Research at TreePeople. She is also a part-time lecturer in the School of Architecture at University of Southern California. Dr. Chen has a long-standing interest in urban forestry and urban soils. Currently, she is leading the "Healthy Soils for Healthy Communities Initiative" to study the potential of healthy soils in building climate resilience and healthy communities in Los Angeles. She holds a B.S. degree in horticulture from Beijing Forestry University, an M.S. degree in urban forestry from Chinese Academy of Forestry, and a Ph.D. in urban forestry from Virginia Tech.

**Mas Dojiri, Ph.D., BCES** | Assistant General Manager, LA Sanitation and Environment

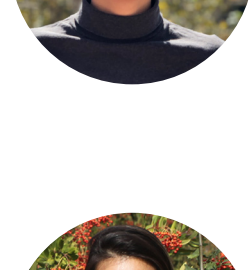
Mas Dojiri is currently the Assistant General Manager at LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN), who oversees five Technical Services Divisions. He is the Executive in charge of the Biodiversity, Healthy Soils, Environmental Justice, Clean Up Green Up, Risk Management, and the Los Angeles River Watershed Monitoring Programs. Mas serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's Technical Advisory Committee, the USC Sea Grant Advisory Council, and serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.

**Naim Edwards** | Director of MSU - Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation, Michigan State University Extension

Multiple forces are acting to separate people from nature and destroy the global ecosystem. Naim strives to reconnect his community to create and protect biodiversity through urban agriculture and transforming the food system. He works for Michigan State University Extension as director of the MSU - Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation.

**Jenny Jones** | Partner, Terremoto

Jenny Jones is a landscape architect and partner at Terremoto, a landscape design firm with offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco. She has worked in science and theory of the environment and her prior experience as a science teacher shapes her approach to landscape design, which considers integrating natural systems, encouragement of exploratory learning, and thinking at different scales of space and time. Since joining Terremoto, Jenny has worked on small and large residential projects, multifamily housing, restoration of public land, and educational gardens. One of her favorite projects, Test Plot, is a collaborative community garden experiment in Elysian Park and will be ongoing for years to come.

**Adel Hagekhalil, P.E., BCEE** | Chief Executive and General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Adel Hagekhalil is general manager and chief executive officer for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the largest wholesale drinking water agency in the country. As general manager, Hagekhalil is responsible for leading Metropolitan's daily and long-term operations and planning to provide safe, reliable water to Southern California. He oversees \$1.9 billion annual budget, 1,800 employees, and extensive system of conveyance, storage, treatment and delivery infrastructure. Hagekhalil is a national water and infrastructure leader and the recipient of several awards.

**Amir Haghverdi, Ph.D.** | Associate Professor, University of California, Riverside

Dr. Amir Haghverdi is an Associate Professor of urban and agricultural water management at the University of California Riverside. His research focuses on developing and disseminating scientific knowledge, practical recommendations, and tools for sustainable urban and agricultural water resources management. His approaches include field research trials, laboratory analyses, and computer modeling to identify opportunities for synergy between research and extension activities. His main research themes include irrigation water management, root zone soil hydrology, and precision agriculture. Dr. Haghverdi also is interested in applications of advanced data acquisition and mining techniques, including remote sensing, GIS, and machine learning.

**Paul Koretz** | Los Angeles City Councilmember, 5th District

Councilmember Paul Koretz represents the 5th District of Los Angeles. Environmentally, he is best known for: being the first Councilmember to call for LA to move beyond coal and natural gas power, banning plastic bags, closing down the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, establishing efforts to protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat connectivity, co-launching the effort to phase out neighborhood oil drilling, instituting the world's first Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, centered on environmental justice, and launching Regenerate LA, a healthy soils jobs program targeting carbon sequestration (the storage of carbon) as a means to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Arima Kozina | Special Assistant to the Office of the Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Arima Kozina represents CDFA as the lead for the Healthy Soils Initiative and other interagency climate efforts. The Healthy Soils Initiative is a collaboration of state agencies working to scale soil health practices across California's natural and working lands. Ms. Kozina brings nearly a decade of experience in agriculture, climate mitigation technology, and management consulting to these efforts. She received her MBA from UC Davis, BA in Environmental Policy from UNC-Chapel Hill, and a certificate in sustainable agriculture from Central Carolina Community College.

Andy Lipkis | Project Executive, Accelerate Resilience L.A. (ARLA); Founder, TreePeople

Founder and former President of TreePeople. Andy started planting trees to rehabilitate smog and fire damaged forests as a teenager. By age 18, he founded TreePeople, and served as its president from 1973 to 2019. Lipkis is a pioneer of Urban and Community Forestry and Urban Watershed Management. The Society of American Foresters and the American Society of Landscape Architects have, respectively, granted Lipkis the honorary titles of Forester and Landscape Architect in recognition of his life's work.

Cindy Montañez | Chief Executive Officer, TreePeople

As CEO of TreePeople, Cindy Montañez has rapidly expanded the Los Angeles-based organization's impact across Southern California and turned it into the largest environmental movement and the fastest growing environmental nonprofit in the region. At the age of 25, Cindy was elected as the youngest councilmember of her hometown of San Fernando. She became mayor at 27 and at 28 years old, was elected the youngest woman ever to the California State Legislature. Upon leaving the legislature, Cindy was hired as Assistant General Manager at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, where she was a core part of the team transitioning the nation's largest publicly-owned utility to cleaner energy and a more sustainable local water supply. Cindy has been a longtime champion for bringing people together around the environment, sustainable urban planning and social justice. In addition to her role as CEO of TreePeople, Cindy was elected in November to the San Fernando City Council and is currently a Board Member for the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

Richard Pouyat, Ph.D. | Scientist Emeritus, U.S. Forest Service

Richard Pouyat received his Ph.D in ecology from Rutgers University in 1992 and an M.S. in forest soils and B.S. in forest biology at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1983 and 1980, respectively. Dr. Pouyat is retired from the USDA Forest Service where he was the National Program Lead for Air and Soil Quality Research for Research & Development at the Washington DC headquarters and is now Scientist Emeritus with the Northern Research Station and works with the Office of Sustainability and Climate on a part-time basis. He served at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) during the Obama Administration and as President of the Ecological Society of America (ESA). Dr. Pouyat is an original co-principal investigator of the Baltimore Ecosystem Study; a Long Term Ecological Research site funded by the National Science Foundation.

Kirsten Schwartz, Ph.D. | Associate Professor, UCLA

Dr. Kirsten Schwartz is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Urban Planning and Environmental Health Sciences at UCLA. Using a transdisciplinary systems approach her research aims to understand how the ways in which we build and shape cities affects environment, health, and justice. Her work on lead contaminated soils documents how biogeophysical and social variables relate to the spatial patterning of soil lead. Her research on urban tree canopy has revealed large scale patterns related to income and tree canopy. Dr. Schwartz's current interdisciplinary collaborations focus on community-engaged approaches to soil science and equity-centered flood and heat resilience planning.

Stu Schwartz, Ph.D. | Senior Research Scientist, University of Maryland Baltimore County

Stu received his PhD in water resource systems analysis from the Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering (DOGEE) at the Johns Hopkins University. Before joining CUERE, Dr. Schwartz served as director of the Center for Environmental Science, Technology, and Policy at Cleveland State University; associate director of the Water Resources Research Institute of the University of North Carolina; and director of the Section for Cooperative Water Supply Operations on the Potomac at the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin. Current research includes design and performance of pervious concrete, sustainable water resources management, and stormwater performance criteria for environmental site design.

Lia Soorenian | Policy and Research Associate, TreePeople

Lia Soorenian recently joined TreePeople as a Policy and Research Associate. She holds a Master's degree in Urban Planning with a focus on climate change. Her work includes mapping the impacts of sea level rise projections on transportation systems at Columbia's Earth Institute, managing resiliency-related construction projects at the NYC Parks Department, and conducting research around environmental justice issues. Outside of her professional work, Lia has been active in labor organizing, climate campaigns, and serving on the steering committee of Walk Bike Glendale.

Jen Toy | Lecturer, USC Department of Landscape Architecture + Urbanism

Jen Toy teaches landscape architecture at USC. Her research interests include community-based land care, models of reciprocity, novel landscapes, regenerative landscapes, projective ecologies, design activism, subversive stewardship, and alternative practice models. As a practitioner, she co-founded the international nonprofit Kounkuy Design Initiative and has experience at the firms OLIN and Reed Hilderbrand, although her favorite jobs have been as a park ranger in Yosemite and a groundskeeper at the Morton Arboretum in Chicago. She is a 1.5 generation Chinese American and grew up in the Bay Area where she developed her love of landscapes. She is a registered landscape architect in the state of California.

Tom Whitlow, Ph.D. | Emeritus Professor, Cornell University

Tom is a plant ecologist who has researched the role physiological stress plays in the growth and survival of urban trees and the ecosystem functions provided by these trees. After completing his BS at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, he worked for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission preparing environmental impact statements for hydroelectric projects, and subsequently an engineering consulting firm before embarking on his PhD at the University of California, Davis.