



TreePeople

2022 IMPACT REPORT

Executive Summary

In 2022 TreePeople continued to adapt to our changing times; we were able to center our purpose around the communities we serve through a return to connecting with people face-to-face, classroom-to-classroom, and volunteer-to-volunteer, in addition to providing online resources and education. Though COVID-19 and subsequent variants continued to permeate our daily lives across the globe, high vaccination rates and refined safety procedures in California have allowed TreePeople to bring people together in person and connect with communities in a way that was significantly stifled in the past two years.

The return to in person activities has influenced all of the programs discussed in this 2022 Impact Report. TreePeople's Coldwater Canyon Park is once again welcoming groups of excited schoolchildren to experience Eco Tours live, and connect with LA's natural environment. Our Generation Earth educators are visiting classrooms in campuses across the region, to create learning opportunities for older students in waste reduction, water conservation, and urban forestry. And our staff are working with thousands of volunteers to plant trees, restore our landscapes, and engage our communities.

2022 has also been a stark reminder of the immediate climate change impacts we face, especially in our underserved communities who are on the "front line" of climate-related effects. As we feel the impacts of an ever-evolving climate landscape, such as extreme heat, intense storms and flooding, and unpredictable wildfires, we are reminded of the importance of building resilient communities. Severe storms across California ended the year, creating major flooding, and emphasizing the importance of stormwater capture. Extreme heat continued to scorch densely-populated areas with triple-

digit temperatures for days at a time. In fact, California now holds the dubious distinction of hottest recorded September day on the planet (127 degrees on September 6, 2022 in Death Valley).

Amplifying the needs and effects of climate change on Los Angelenos, TreePeople brought our voice to the state Capitol, and our policy makers listened. We were able to make very significant progress to increase state funding for school greening, extreme heat, and urban forestry.

Through such a period of dynamic change, one aspect remains a constant across all programs: TreePeople continues to center our work on people and equity. TreePeople's team, funders, volunteers, and partners have been wonderfully supportive, helping us lead equitable natural solutions through transformative projects and opportunities in communities where opportunity has not historically existed. As this Impact Report demonstrates, TreePeople has made significant strides in supporting communities that suffer from pollution exposure and extreme heat, creating change to improve both environmental and human health.



These impacts are further explored by our program areas as follows:

Community Greening and Access to Nature — Utilizing nature-based solutions to support climate resilience in the region's most vulnerable communities, by planting trees in neighborhoods, schools, and homes; providing access to nature for children and adults; and distributing thousands of fruit trees to provide fresh food.

Education — Inspiring our youth with the knowledge and tools necessary to confront the environmental challenges of today, helping address mental health stressors with action-focused solutions to empower our future leaders.

Wildlands Restoration — Restoring fire-scarred lands through the planting of thousands of trees and native plants, with the establishment care needed to become thriving, resilient ecosystems that help protect biodiversity and people.

Water Resilience — Bringing critical community involvement in the development of a sustainable water future for California.

Public Policy and Research — Securing funding and legislation to promote green solutions that center equity, coupled with TreePeople's own research at the intersection of implementation to ensure our organization is supporting communities with relevant advancements that support their ability to become climate-resilient.



COMMUNITY GREENING AND FORESTRY

The vital community benefits of urban greening support outdoor recreation, improve human and ecological health, augment biodiversity, and enhance quality of life. Increasingly, climate change is accelerating the need for more trees and green space in response to the deadly effects of extreme heat. Low-income communities and communities of color often live in urban areas that are less able to resist extreme heat and least equipped to cope with extreme heat partly as a result of sparse green infrastructure. Consequently, disadvantaged or minority communities are disproportionately exposed to the risk of heat-related illnesses and death. TreePeople's own cutting-edge research completed through the LA Cooling Collaborative and supported by independent peer-reviewed data concludes that shade from trees can lower surface temperatures by up to 45 degrees fahrenheit and air temperatures up to 9 degrees.

TreePeople is proud to share these snapshots of our community forestry and green infrastructure work designed to increase canopy cover, expand access to nature and support community resiliency in the places we call our "Bright Spots."

Community Forestry

SOUTHEAST LOS ANGELES COUNTY

TreePeople began taking community-based action in Southeast Los Angeles in 2014 with a widespread tree planting project to green Huntington Park, led by community members. Since that time, TreePeople has conducted and planned tree planting efforts in Huntington Park, South Gate, Cudahy, Lynwood, Paramount, and Commerce.

The efforts in Lynwood reflect the years of relationship building and serving the SELA region. Our 1,000-tree planting campaign concluded in 2022 with the overwhelming support of volunteers, local community members, and youth. Over 900 people supported the tree

planting efforts with great momentum from the project's kick-off volunteer event that hosted approximately 100 individuals, many of which were community members. The project's success in volunteer support is a reflection of the community engagement and organizing efforts built in the community over several years.



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

The San Fernando Valley faces a myriad of environmental issues, but extreme heat is by far the most dire challenge in the region currently. Cognizant of the issues and demand from the community for a healthier environment, TreePeople has been working with the San Fernando community to adapt to a changing climate. The cost-effective, transformative solution? Trees.

TreePeople planted over 225 trees in public spaces to green neighborhoods and distributed over 650 fruit trees in 2022. This effort included the ongoing care of over 350 trees already planted in the community. Through on-the-ground community organizing efforts, TreePeople



was able to bring out over 350 volunteers to support the various tree planting and care efforts. This effort has been successful because of the strong local partnerships TreePeople has with the City of San Fernando, Fernando Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, and local schools.

“With the aid of TreePeople, we were able to plant hundreds of trees in our homelands, and more specifically, the park named after my late father Rudy Ortega Sr. We are moved by the partnership of TreePeople in the healing process of our homelands.”

– Rudy Ortega Jr., Tribal President, Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians.

WATTS

TreePeople is leading an effort to significantly expand tree canopy in Watts as a part of a larger effort to bring climate resilience to the community. To date, TreePeople has planted 700 trees and distributed over 400 trees through dozens of community and volunteer events. As a part of the larger climate resilience effort, TreePeople is strategically planting trees to promote active transportation, build resilience in key pedestrian corridors, and provide shade in areas prioritized by the community. To organize community support and participation TreePeople has conducted door-to-door canvassing, created partnerships with local stakeholders and CBOs, hosted and participated in community events, and numerous one-on-one conversations.

RIVERSIDE

Last year marked TreePeople’s return to the Inland Empire. TreePeople’s very first endeavor took place in the San Bernardino Mountains in 1973. Now, TreePeople has fully begun implementing a planting and care project of 2,000 trees in Eastside Riverside as a part of a larger effort to transform the region into a climate-resilient community. To date, this project has included the planting and distribution of over 330 trees. Through authentic community engagement, TreePeople has experienced great support for neighborhood plantings and attendance of over 580 volunteers across 34 volunteer events.

Green Infrastructure

SCHOOL GREENING

TreePeople is leading the way on greening schoolyards, and efforts have grown tremendously in 2022. TreePeople has greening projects that are now underway or have been completed at Carlos Santana School, 96th Elementary School, 112th Elementary School, Weigand Avenue Elementary School, and Compton Ave Elementary School. TreePeople has also secured partnerships to plant trees at multiple schools in the San Fernando Valley, plant 300 trees across campuses at Rialto Unified School District, and support the development of greening projects at five schools within Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District.

Further, TreePeople endeavors to create “model” school greening projects whenever possible. One such example is Pacoima Middle School—a campus choked by freeways and acres of asphalt that capture and intensify extreme heat, contribute to poor air and poor health, and damage both the physical, emotional and academic health of our children. Once completed, this project will transform the school into a drought-resistant landscape, with two gardens, 150 trees in nearly 10 acres of open space and more than 6 acres of green space.

PARKS

TreePeople is the manager of Coldwater Canyon Park through a lease from the City of Los Angeles. Coldwater Canyon Park is a 45 acre multi-use park space within the Santa Monica Mountains. Coldwater Canyon Park serves as a focal point for TreePeople’s environmental and educational programs. After a year closed to the public during the height of the pandemic, TreePeople has kept Coldwater Canyon Park open to the public since Earth Week of 2021, and fully reintegrated guided park activities in 2022 such as Eco-Tours, Family Tours, and Moonlight Hikes. TreePeople is pleased to report the park’s many users and events have increased to cusp pre-pandemic levels. Ongoing park improvements, such as the planting of more than 600 native trees over the next 3 to 5 years throughout TreePeople’s Coldwater Canyon Park and along the 2-mile Betty B. Dearing Trail (the most frequented trail in LA) ensure a rewarding experience, and are largely made possible through private contributions and volunteer efforts. Our new Cinader Grove signage allows donors to recognize loved ones and support this ambitious effort.

Smaller, community-driven park projects with big impacts also punctuated 2022. This included Salt Lake Park in the city of Huntington Park—a modest endeavor that planted twenty trees along the park’s walking trail to offer path shading and encourage physical activity. The project granted TreePeople an opportunity to work closely with the City of Huntington Park’s Public Works Department to meet the pressing requests from the City Council to increase tree canopy at Salt Lake Park.

TreePeople is also partnering with various public, private, and local entities to upgrade the former Baldwin Hills Reservoir of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

(“The Bowl”). This effort at Kenneth Hahn Park is focused on creating an updated design for the Bowl that better reflects community needs and improves the natural ecology. TreePeople engaged in the first phase of a multiphase planning and implementation project in 2022. This initial phase included a planning process that focused on connecting with community members and stakeholders to articulate how the Bowl is currently being used, what changes the community would like to see, and how it can best serve park users in the future. TreePeople’s outreach efforts reached approximately 4,500 people across 20 events, with direct contact and conversations with over 500 residents.





WILDLAND RESTORATION

Reduced winds, well-timed rain and increased fire-fighting capacity combined to reduce wildfire damage dramatically in 2022, dropping total acres burned to 15% of the state's five-year average—a welcome respite. However, 21st Century wildfires in Southern California continue to adversely affect native habitat, watershed health, recreation, and local air filtration. From the 6,600-acre Copper Fire on June 5, 2002 to 2020's Lake Fire which burned 31,089 acres near Lake Hughes, the extensive damage from these infernos will take many years to repair. Restoring and reforesting these lands is a TreePeople priority accomplished through the removal of extremely flammable invasive plants and the planting of thousands of trees and native plants with the establishment needed to become thriving, resilient ecosystems. In 2022, through 316 volunteer events and the assistance of partners and our AmeriCorps crew, TreePeople worked over 150 acres of wildland, planting a total of 21,500 native trees (14,823) and plants (6,729), and cared for over 106,000 plantings to ensure they survive and thrive.

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

TreePeople has expanded its restoration and reforestation activities to include the distressed Copper, Powerhouse, Lake and Bobcat fire scar areas of the Angeles National Forest.

TreePeople increased the acreage of restoration in the San Francisquito Canyon, which burned during the 2002 Copper Fire, reaching a total of 30 acres of chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian ecosystems. This effort included the installation of 6,990 native plants and trees in 2022, while also providing ongoing care and site maintenance for 60,000 native plants and trees to ensure their successful establishment.

Notably, TreePeople started the planting of 11,000 native oak seedlings of six different species in the Powerhouse Fire scar of the Sierra Pelona Mountains. 3,500 of these oaks were grown in TreePeople's nursery, the other 7,500 came from our partner, California Botanic Garden. In 2022, TreePeople planted 9,043 of these oaks seedlings. In May 2022, a regular maintenance plan was put in place to provide for supplemental watering and allow a high survival rate.

At the Shake Plantation, damaged in the 2013 Powerhouse Fire and later completely burned in the 2020 Lake Fire, TreePeople worked with the US Forest Service to reestablish the stand of conifers by planting 4,800 native Coulter Pines. A monthly watering effort is underway to help sustain these young trees during the dry and hot summer months.

As part of a new study of two key conifer species of the Angeles National Forest, TreePeople and partner nursery California Botanic Garden propagated 2,000 Bigcone Douglas-fir and 1,200 Gray pine seedlings, while preparing the implementation sites where these young trees will be planted in 2023. Two other conifer reforestation efforts are also continuing in areas of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. At Alder Saddle, where bark beetle infestations and drought have damaged the conifer stands, TreePeople continues its maintenance of a few hundred Jeffrey and Coulter pines planted in 2021. Around the Guffy campground, where multiple fires have decimated the original mixed conifer forest, over 500 conifers were planted in 2022, and are now receiving monthly maintenance care.

watering of native oaks, walnuts, and willows will help ensure the restoration of these areas to their original conditions while mitigating the risk of future wildfires.



TREEPEOPLE LAND TRUST

TreePeople Land Trust (TPLT) is an accredited land trust that protects and preserves native habitats through land acquisition, restoration, and cooperative planning aligning with the missions and goals of TreePeople. Recently, the Land Trust revamped its management of public trails throughout the 3,000 acres of land managed and maintained by the Trust. New signage, erosion repairs, and vegetation management have opened our trails and made them safer for the public to enjoy their local mountains.

In addition to habitat preservation and trail improvements, TPLT advanced the design and planning of the wildfire resiliency center at Headwaters Corner in 2022. Once built, the center will serve as a regional hub for the community to learn about the latest recommendations for wildfire resilience, including topics on ecology, architecture, and community response.

The Land Trust also announced its Native Garden Kit Program will be launching in the Spring of 2023. For years TPLT has been sharing the myriad benefits that come with using native species in residential landscaping, but for many, taking the initial steps towards landscape conversion can be intimidating and difficult to initiate. In response, TreePeople will be offering affordable pre-designed kits containing native species and a plant-by-number map, alongside educational material to help homeowners with their landscape conversions.



SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

In the Santa Monica Mountains, TreePeople continued its restoration efforts at Paramount Ranch and Cheeseboro Canyon, providing much-needed care for the 3,660 native trees planted in 2021 in areas disturbed by the 2018 Woolsey Fire. This work attracted large numbers of volunteers recruited from park users, surrounding communities, schools, and colleges. The continued removal of fire-prone, non-native invasive plants, and

WATER RESILIENCE

Winter storms cascading across California in late 2022 have offered the first glimpse of hope the state has seen in some time regarding the chronic drought. The heavy rains have pulled California completely out of the Extreme and Exceptional Drought categories. However, one third of the state still remains in Severe Drought, which is disproportionately absorbed by southern California.

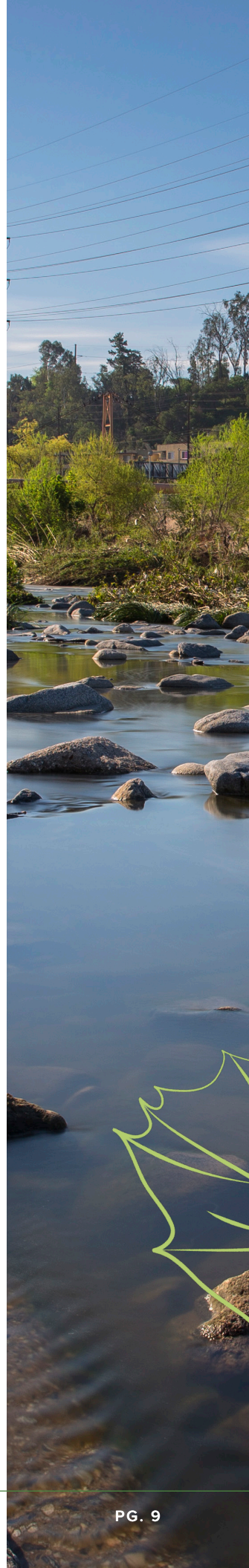
California's chronic drought affects nearly every aspect of our state's public health, economy and environment. Water is the lifeblood of California. The state's water crisis coupled with the intensifying effects of climate change demand that we collectively rethink our water policies, strategies and usage. Regionally, TreePeople is taking action to create water resilience.

One key effort TreePeople leads is the WaterTalks program, focused on creating increased community involvement in the planning of a sustainable water future for California. TreePeople guides and supports a coalition of more than a dozen community-based environmental justice partners to implement community planning in over 100 under-resourced communities across Los Angeles County. With the engineering firm Stantec and other partners, TreePeople has created a model to transform how water infrastructure projects are planned, using a community-led design process. TreePeople has created and carried out extensive, in-depth education through a series of 9 virtual and live workshops for our partners, a series of 10 virtual Tribal Allyship workshops created by Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples, and 15 virtual and live workshops for public agencies and elected officials created by the Council for Watershed Health. Based on historic data from the

WaterTalks Strengths and Needs Assessment (2021), TreePeople and its partners brainstormed more than 35 project sketches; created 20 project concepts in collaboration with engineers, landscape architects, and community leaders; and developed 12 projects and programs that will be designed and submitted for funding. Overall, this will lead to tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure investment in under-represented communities across LA County. Projects selected represent a wide range such as regional tap water quality testing, spaces for tribal cultural practices, drinking water wellhead rehabilitation, hygiene and water stations pilot (unhoused community support), and green infrastructure.

In addition, TreePeople has carried out the role of Safe, Clean Water Program (LA County Measure W) Watershed Coordinator in the Upper Santa Clara River watershed through capacity building, coalition building, and providing technical support for organizations and public agencies in the region. Recent accomplishments included obtaining one million dollars in funding for two projects 1) to provide water relief to rural areas dependent on private wells that have gone dry during the drought, and 2) to conduct the removal of invasive plant species from the river corridor.

As Watershed Coordinators, TreePeople has leveraged resources from the WaterTalks program to focus on traditionally under-represented communities in the Santa Clara River including the Native American and rural communities who are off the water grid. Projects include a water resources inventory for land being repatriated to a local tribe, and education on managing private septic systems. Education and outreach is a major component, and in less than 2 years on the job, TreePeople has directly reached 4,600 local residents through 150 meetings and events with information about the program and local water issues.





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Learning, engagement, and empowerment through knowledge are infused in all of TreePeople's work. In addition to those efforts, TreePeople's Environmental Education team provides deeper, curriculum-based education for youth through a comprehensive program.

Generation Earth (GE) delivers environmental education to middle and high schoolers and their teachers, with a goal of reaching schools in every school district in Los Angeles County. The program focus includes working alongside teachers and students to explore waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, and urban forestry in a fun and engaging way. Implementing a new, hybrid model of programming coupled with desire to return to the live experience, TreePeople returned to conducting in-class presentations, interactive projects

and field trips to various locations on a weekly basis. In addition, TreePeople conducted in-person and virtual workshops for teachers that included Building a Water Resilient Los Angeles County; Building a Resourceful Los Angeles County; and Taking Action: The Intersection of Education, Climate Change and Health.

As a part of the GE program, TreePeople conducted a total of 416 environmental service learning projects, directly impacting 12,203 youth across 134 schools in Los Angeles County and provided 33 free buses to transport students on educational field trips around LA County.

The GE program also hosted a summer cohort of over 370 students from Centennial, Compton, and Dominguez High School to learn and engage in activities regarding waste, watershed health, and the benefits of trees through the lens of LA County. This summer programming was complemented by a two-day Summer Institute Workshop in-person at the Audubon Center at Debs Park. TreePeople was joined by 16 educators from all over Los Angeles County as we explored local environmental issues, sustainable waste and water management solutions and resources to facilitate meaningful environmental projects.

Since 2020, TreePeople has had the opportunity to engage in a ground-breaking STEM collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to implement environmental education in the classroom, both virtually and in person. TreePeople's efforts in the program reached a new peak in Spring 2022 with the implementation of a 8-week enrichment program that utilized curriculum-based practices and models of learning to help students connect to the environment and their communities. During the Spring semester, LAUSD expressed eagerness to permanently provide in-person enrichment opportunities to their students. As a result, TreePeople delivered environmental education presentations at school and recreation sites to enhance the learning of elementary and middle school students

throughout the Summer of 2022. In total, TreePeople served a total of 1,238 LAUSD students in 2022 as part of over 80 in-person enrichment lessons.

A cornerstone of the in-classroom presentations is the Travelling Dirt Doctor. The Travelling Dirt Doctor was born from TreePeople's efforts to address the needs of teachers as they shifted to a hybrid teaching model. TreePeople's Travelling Dirt Doctor is an interactive presentation, through which TreePeople's "Doctor Dirt" communicates the importance of healthy soil, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and care of a growing tree. To culminate this learning, TreePeople offers students a tree seedling and tree care instructions. During the 2022 semesters, TreePeople gave nearly over 140 Travelling Dirt Doctor presentations for 50 different schools.

This resulted in direct engagement with over 3,300 students, while prioritizing schools serving low-income and at-risk children.

A flagship of TreePeople's environmental education program has been the Eco-Tour field trips at Coldwater Canyon Park, offered to youth across Los Angeles County each year. TreePeople adapted during the pandemic by modifying the award-winning Eco-Tour and has now welcomed back students to the Park for the live experience (while still keeping the virtual tour available as needed). TreePeople also integrated California's Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and other STEM requirements that are at the core of the students' learning modules. In 2022, TreePeople hosted 441 Eco-Tours with 110 different schools to engage a total of 14,871 students.



POLICY AND RESEARCH

TreePeople solidified its position in Sacramento as a leader in equitable conservation and environmental justice in 2022. Our goal is to create transformative change through sound public policy. TreePeople's research is consistently at the intersection of implementation to ensure the organization is providing communities with relevant advancements that can support their ability to become more climate-resilient. Combined, these programs close critical gaps that allow the organization to take a thorough and holistic approach to equity and community resilience.

State Policy

TreePeople worked closely with the California Natural Resources Agency to elevate school greening as one of the recommendations included and uplifted in the State's Extreme Heat Action Plan. This paved the way for TreePeople to lead, develop and merge an ambitious funding proposal for school greening with critical legislation that now guides the expenditure of \$150 million secured in 2022 for these purposes - one of our biggest public funding wins to date.

Further, TreePeople led in connecting nature-based solutions to address extreme heat through urban forestry. Assembly Bill 2251, signed into law by Governor Newsom and authored by Assembly Member Lisa Calderon, will ensure the development of a strategic plan to meet the bold recommendations of increasing urban tree canopy by 10% and the development of a sustainable resiliency strategy to protect our existing urban forest. ACR 109 details the adverse effects to nature, human health, and underserved communities experienced from extreme heat and the value of creating community resiliency through nature-based solutions that capture carbon and help clean our air and water. TreePeople sponsored both measures while ensuring the prioritization of underserved communities.

Research

Research Initiatives also supported and intersected with these efforts. TreePeople is preparing and publishing two reports for the Cooler and Healthier: Reducing Heat-Health Risk Using Urban Forestry & Stakeholder Engagement project in partnership with the state. The respective reports demonstrate 1) the critical role engagement plays in motivating residents to care for tree plantings and 2) the reduction in heat-related emergency room visits due to different levels of urban cooling interventions.

TreePeople's Healthy Soils Initiative advanced to its second phase in 2022. The Urban Carbon Farm demonstration project at Griffith Park concluded, with results being finalized for publication in 2023. TreePeople is preparing to publish two additional reports on healthy soils and best management practices based on research performed with partners soil scientists in 2022. This work culminated with the 3rd Los Angeles Urban Soil Symposium hosted by TreePeople in October, where colleagues across the country came together to share science and stories reinforcing the importance of urban soil health as a foundation of nature-based solutions.

Additionally, TreePeople is partnering with researchers to understand Wildfire Impacts on Dynamic Soil Properties and Recovery in Steep Mountainous Regions. This will identify the risk of flooding and landslides concerning soils and wildfire management best practices.

Our science and policy team has become a trusted source for technical advice and feedback to the state, and in 2022, we provided significant input grounded in science on several policy initiatives including the 2022 Scoping Plan Update, Natural and Working Lands sequestration modeling, and California's 30x30 Initiative.



Centering on People

TreePeople's work centers on people. We use an authentic organizing and engagement model to activate community members to take part in improving their environment through trees and other nature-based solutions. As climate change effects continues to worsen, it is imperative that we organize and mobilize communities around resiliency and provide life-saving information and services.

Central to our community engagement is messaging that is inclusive, understanding that everyone has a role to play in this climate crisis. TreePeople has taken a multi-pronged approach that includes accessible education through lectures and video content from experts, grassroots storytelling by people engaging with our movement, and future-facing dialogues with policymakers, governments, and other non-profits, and local leaders. TreePeople has created sharable content that encourages people of all walks of life to recognize their role in creating a better environment. These efforts have been well received, as TreePeople has seen consistent growth in its virtual following.

Tribal Engagement is also critical. As the historic stewards of the land, it is crucial to have tribal participation and voices for environmental projects. During 2022, TreePeople partnered to collaborate with peoples from the Tongva, Chumash, Tataviam, Acjachemen and Dakota nations. Outcomes include restoration and community events at Rudy Ortega Sr. Park, named after a tribal elder; and four Tribal Allyship Training sessions hosted by TreePeople in which we facilitated 2-hour workshops with over 200 attendees from public agencies and community-based organizations.



Community volunteer from the TreePeople x Anahuacalmecac school Indigenous Peoples' Day 2022 tree planting event

Workforce Development

TreePeople has taken steps in 2022 towards a promising Workforce Development Program to help cultivate and diversify the next generation of this sector's workforce by providing youth with multi-faceted opportunities and training to secure good jobs with fair wages to meet the growing demand for natural resources and wildland management professionals.

TreePeople's Pathway Placement Program will support small full-time youth crews similar to those employed by professional tree care companies, and supervised by our workforce development manager and other supervisory level TreePeople staff. The tree crew will conduct field work in tandem with educational training to include tree care, park maintenance, nursery work, brush clearance, tree management, machine operation and public relations. Field activities will be prefaced with training to provide

context, demonstration and importance of the activity. Time will be allocated for career exposure and professional development, including mock interviews, workplace etiquette, and communication skills.

TreePeople's Youth Exposure Summer Program offers a 5-week training for high school and college level youth—each participant employed part-time by the Program during the training period. This program focuses on exposing youth to careers through hands-on work and participation in a breadth of projects. All youth are selected from disadvantaged or low income communities that are experiencing economic recovery slower than the state average.

Over the summer of 2022, TreePeople launched the latter program and hired its first youth cohort of interns. All individuals that participated were college-level youth interested in an environmental career. Youth received training on environmentalism, environmental career sectors, arboriculture, young tree care, urban forest management, wildland restoration, community organizing, and other urban forestry skills.





TreePeople

Looking Forward at 50

TreePeople turns 50 this year, and we have ambitious plans for the next 50. Looking forward, TreePeople will accelerate and expand our efforts to serve more communities through urban greening, environmental education, mountain restoration, and other equity-based environmental programs.

2022 was a transformative year for TreePeople. Our team, which largely reflects the diversity of the communities we serve, has grown to over one hundred individuals—increasing organizational impact and expertise in virtually all program areas. This translated into on-the-grounds achievements at a scale we could have only imagined less than a decade ago.

TreePeople is committed to make our “next 50 years” a new era of growth and renewed commitment for the future, leveraging new public funding opportunities and increased private fundraising that will support critical projects in urban forestry, resource protection, and community resilience.

Together, with our partners, staff, donors, volunteers, and community members, we will further our mission to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, making it safe, healthy, fun and sustainable and to share our process as a model for the world. Thank you for being part of our vibrant and growing movement.