



TreePeople Summer Report



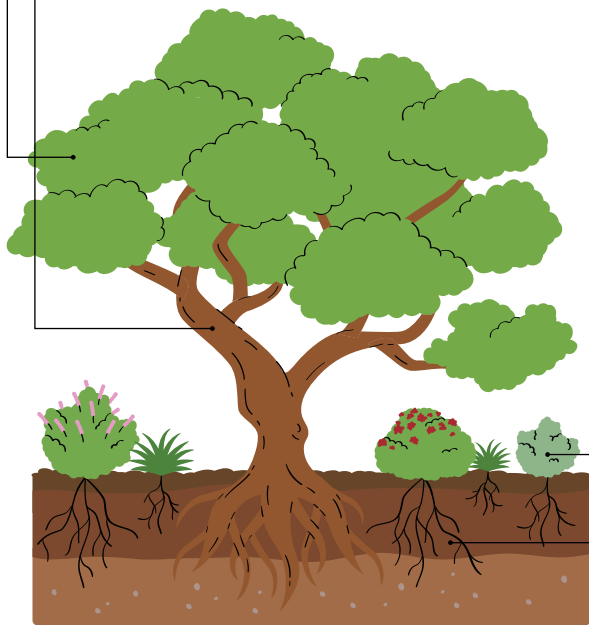
Anatomy of a Fire-Resilient Landscape

Hydrated and Healthy Canopy

Your support grows a living shield! The dense, evergreen canopy provides shade while suppressing ground fuels and moderating temperature to maintain moisture in the landscape.

Strong Trunk

Built to protect! Nourished by our teams, these thick, water-packed trunks act as natural heat shields with fire-resistant bark that stands strong against the heat.



Fire-Resistant Shrubs

Nature's speed bumps! We strategically plant native shrubs that are naturally hard to ignite.

By spacing them out safely, we ensure a fire can't jump from bush to bush.

Native Understory and Soil

With your help, our teams clear away dry, dangerous brush and plant deep-rooted native ground covers. They act like a sponge, locking in moisture to improve soil moisture retention while supporting healthy ecosystem processes.



A Note from Cassie

Summer reminds us that resilience isn't built in a single season. It grows through consistent care—for trees, landscapes, and one another. Every healthy neighborhood and recovering forest reflects years of thoughtful stewardship and a community willing to invest in the future. Thank you for making this work possible.



Cassie Rauser

The Fielding Family CEO, TreePeople

A Dispatch From The Ground: Facing The Summer Together

By Alyssa Walker, Associate Director of Conservation and Bryan Vejar, Associate Director of Community Forestry

Alyssa: Out at our oak restoration site—an area that was heavily burned in the Hughes Fire—the landscape is giving us signs of hope. Some seedlings have already reached 4 to 5 feet tall—surpassing their pre-fire growth. Even in the burn scars, we are witnessing the remarkable capacity of ecosystems to heal.

Bryan: Our Community Forestry teams are well aware that resilience begins long before disaster. We think less about individual trees and instead focus on the health of the whole landscape—how soil, plants, infrastructure, and people work together as one living system. Every wildfire teaches us why some landscapes recover more quickly—and those lessons shape how we help communities prepare and heal.

That is what gives us hope. At TreePeople, we believe resilient landscapes are intentionally designed, carefully restored, and consistently cared for—and we invite you to help make that vision a reality.

Where Hope is Growing: Your Support in Action

Every project we design strengthens Southern California's resilience. Thanks to your generosity, our teams are bringing expertise and long-term care to the places that need us most this summer.

Healing in Altadena and the Pacific Palisades

"The January 2025 wildfires changed how many of us see the landscapes around us. In the weeks that followed, I walked through Altadena evaluating burned trees in neighborhoods reduced to ash.

Yet, I found reasons for hope. Mature trees, blackened and scarred, were still alive. For many homeowners, they became the last familiar connection to the place they once called home.

Planting memorial trees alongside residents in the Pacific Palisades one year later reminded me that restoration begins with hope—and continues through long-term care. Healthy landscapes grow through good science, careful planning, and people invested in the places they love."



Bryan Vejar

Associate Director of Community Forestry



Lanark Park tree care



TreePeople's Southern California project site map

Conservation Grid

① Healing the Hughes Burn Scar

78.8% post-fire survival, with 1,252 oak seedlings thriving from our 2022-2024 plantings.

② San Francisquito Canyon Chaparral Restoration

Partnering with CAL FIRE to restore native chaparral ecosystems damaged by the Copper Fire.

③ San Gabriel Mountains Conifer Restoration

Protecting conifer forests within the San Gabriel National Monument to preserve ecosystem services.

④ Tuna Canyon Oak Restoration

TreePeople Land Trust is restoring hundreds of Coast Live Oaks within the Pacific Palisades burn scar.

⑤ Will Rogers State Historic Park Restoration

Partnering with CA State Parks to heal habitat within this iconic Pacific Palisades parkland.

Community Forestry Grid

Our teams are collaborating with local community groups and volunteers to mulch, stake, water, prune, and care for our young trees so that they can survive the summer heat. Find us in:

⑥ El Monte

⑦ South Los Angeles/Southeast Los Angeles

⑧ West San Fernando Valley and the City of San Fernando

⑨ San Bernardino and Rialto

Ecosystem Engineering: The Plants and Design Protecting Our Land



San Francisquito Canyon before (2021) and after (2024)

At TreePeople, our work is rooted in a powerful philosophy: **Right Tree, Right Place**. True climate resilience is engineered through thoughtful planning, strategic landscape design, and curated plant palettes to maximize hydration, shade, and long-term health. This intentionality keeps our local environments cooler, anchors our mountainsides, and retains vital ground moisture right where our communities need it most.

“We have to zoom out and think about the whole landscape. Native ecosystems often take longer to ignite and many are naturally adapted to recover after fire versus landscapes dominated by invasive grasses. People talk about the removal of native chaparral because of potential fire risk; when, in reality, if you remove the chaparral, invasive forbs and grasses will take its place and are much more likely to burn. If we act out of fear, we can unintentionally replace resilient ecosystems with vegetation that burns even more readily. The more we understand about fire—the better decisions we make for our landscapes.”



Alyssa Walker

Associate Director of Conservation

One Mission, Two Palettes



The Conservation Palette (Wildlands Strength):

In our mountains, Alyssa’s team focuses on diversity and strength—managing up to 70+ species at a single site. By balancing watering maintenance with the active removal of fast-burning invasive grasses, TreePeople reduces flashy fuels. Common species include yerba santa, saltbush, and buckwheat.



The Community Forestry Palette (Living Infrastructure):

In our neighborhoods, Bryan’s team designs living infrastructure built to thrive alongside human constraints like utility lines and sidewalks. Species are selected to provide shade, reduce heat, improve air quality, support mental health, increase biodiversity, and protect critical infrastructure.

Species Spotlight

Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)

A keystone species in California that’s naturally built to endure. Wrapped in a thick, corky bark, its trunk acts as a natural heat shield. High above, its dense, evergreen canopy plays a critical structural role by casting deep shade—helping moderate ground temperatures and helping the soil retain moisture during peak summer heat.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT TODAY!

The Green Horizon: Scaling Solutions That Work

The environmental challenges facing our region are significant—but so are the solutions. Every investment in TreePeople helps grow living infrastructure that protects our communities today and for generations to come.

A Final Reflection From Our Directors



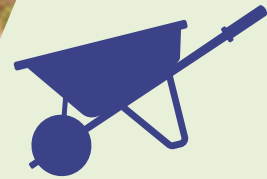
Bryan leading a tree risk assessment training

“Every neighborhood deserves shade, clean air, and healthier streets. Donor support ensures every tree we plant receives the care it needs to thrive.”



Alyssa at an Angeles National Forest planting

“We are sitting in the shade of trees planted decades ago. The work we do today is a gift to future generations. The land is calling us to step outside and become part of the landscape again.”



TreePeople
**Rooting
for LA**
28,000 TREES BY 2028

The steps we take today are shaping the vibrant, leafy shade of tomorrow.

Rooting for LA is our commitment to plant and care for 28,000 trees by 2028. Together, we’re expanding tree canopy where it’s needed most—cooling neighborhoods, restoring fire-impacted landscapes, and creating healthier communities.

Whether you volunteer, donate, or simply share our mission, you’re helping build a greener, more resilient Los Angeles. Join us at treepeople.org/rootingforla!