



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**TreePeople and 20<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School Team Up to Green South LA Campus**

*TreePeople, community and state partners along with more than 100 volunteers working to tear out 4,000 square feet of asphalt and plant 30 trees on school campus.*

Los Angeles, Calif.— TreePeople staff, partners and over 100 volunteers will join together Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, to transform 20<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School’s urban campus. With the help of community members and partners, more than 4,000 square feet of impermeable asphalt is has been removed to make way for a total of 30 Raywood Ash, Australian Willow and Crape Mertyle trees to grace the schoolyard and provide some needed shade and nature.

TreePeople helps and guides motivated principals, teachers, students and parents to form a campus Green Team at each partner school to identify and implement sustainable plans that can incorporated into the curriculum and project based learning. The Team ensures the planting is done properly and the installed trees have an ongoing maintenance plan. . Classrooms adopt the trees, along with The Green Team to stay involved in the trees’ care and instill stewardship for the environment in school children.

“These joint efforts are critical to the health of Los Angeles. Our city is reliant on trees and natural spaces to cool our city, collect precious rainwater, clean our air, create healthier soil and for an all around more sustainable city,” TreePeople’s Director of Engagement of Partnerships, Torin Dunnivant said.

“It is wonderful to see the community and local partners come together to make our neighborhoods more livable and green.”

The school sits in a low canopy coverage area of the city, so these planted trees are sure to provide much-needed shade, cleaner air and natural beauty to the school’s urban backdrop along with giving the students an opportunity to learn how to care for and value our urban forests.

TreePeople thanks the funding efforts of the school itself, Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).



Saldana Landscape and Irrigation also was a major contributor, donating their expertise and labor to prep the campus for the big day.

Additional key members in the effort include the Los Angeles Lakers and East West Bank. Thanks to East West Bank's sponsorship of the "Trees for Threes" program, TreePeople received a generous donation to support its tree planting efforts. Current and retired Lakers players will be on-site the day of the planting as well as a group of East West Bank employees to dig in and help.

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### **About TreePeople**

TreePeople is an environmental nonprofit that unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow a sustainable future for Los Angeles. For over 40 years, TreePeople has worked with communities to plant and care for trees and has provided environmental education for an estimated 2 million LA area children.