



TREEPEOPLE

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Boeing Employees Pitch In to Care for Trees
Volunteer effort this summer part of tradition that spans three decades



LOS ANGELES, Calif. (AUGUST 20, 2016) - Even as fire and heat have claimed the lives of millions of California trees this summer, the actions of volunteers from The Boeing Company helped ensure that our region has a greener future.

On a hot Saturday morning in July, 30 Boeing employees showed up at the Betty Davis Picnic Area to water nearly 100 newly planted trees. These trees were planted by TreePeople as part of an effort to restore greenery in an expanse of Griffith Park that has been devastated by insect pests, water restrictions and historic drought; the park has lost over 200 trees in just the past two years. The supplemental watering by the Boeing volunteers will help to ensure the young trees make it to maturity.

This event was just one of many TreePeople tree planting and watering events that Boeing employees have participated in over more than three decades. Boeing's support of TreePeople began in 1987 when it merged with McDonnell Douglas, a corporation which had begun supporting the organization in 1984. To date, the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California, The Boeing Company and the Boeing Charitable Trust have invested close to \$3 million in building TreePeople's programs and facilities.

One specific project that has benefitted from Boeing's support is Forest Aid, an initiative that brought 12,000 volunteers to plant 80,000 seedlings in the San Bernardino and Angeles National Forests, reforesting fire-damaged areas. Boeing has also made possible TreePeople's [LA-Australia Exchange](#), which imports to Los Angeles valuable lessons and technologies from Australian cities that managed through that country's devastating 12-year drought.

This year marks Boeing's 100th birthday, which was noted by Mark Spiwak, Vice President of Boeing's Commercial Satellite Systems, who was present at the tree care event.

"This passion—and an enduring commitment to build something better throughout our next 100 years—extends to our local communities. We partner with like-minded organizations like TreePeople to drive positive, lasting change in the places we call home," Spiwak said.

Spiwak, who is a TreePeople Board Member, said this volunteering experience reminded him of Boeing's founder, Bill Boeing's, philosophy – to “build something better.”

As the young trees take root and spread their leafy canopies, this popular area of Griffith Park will certainly be better.

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About TreePeople

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow a more climate-resilient city as the Los Angeles region faces historic drought and a hotter, drier future. The organization inspires, engages and supports Angelenos to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among government agencies, and promotes leadership in grassroots volunteers, students and communities. In this way, TreePeople seeks to build a powerful and diverse coalition to grow a greener, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations. For more information, visit treepeople.org.

Caption:

Mark Spiwak, Vice President of Boeing's Commercial Satellite Systems and TreePeople board member, joined with 30 volunteers from the Boeing Company to care for and water more than 100 newly planted trees in Griffith Park this summer. Their actions helped ensure that the young trees will survive to replace groves that have been devastated by drought and insect pests. This year, Boeing's 100th birthday, marks more than three decades of partnership with TreePeople in growing a greener Los Angeles.