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## **25 Volunteers Plant Trees at Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park for Nationwide Celebration of National Public Lands Day**

*TreePeople joins nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands*

LOS ANGELES (October 2, 2017) – On Saturday, September 30, 25 TreePeople volunteers planted 24 trees at Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park in the Santa Monica Mountains for National Public Lands Day. The volunteers joined hundreds of thousands of fellow volunteers at public land sites across the country to give back in honor of National Public Lands Day. The celebration is the country's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands.

Over the hot summer, volunteers worked alongside TreePeople's Wildland Restoration Manager, Cody Chappel, to care for 250 new park trees planted by the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority to ensure they had the best chance of survival. Saturday, 24 companion coast live oaks and black

walnuts joined the other park trees as part of a CALTRANS effort to mitigate the widening of Sepulveda Pass.

Chappel has worked in the Santa Monica Mountains for 13 years with TreePeople from Topanga Canyon, to Malibu State Park and beyond to restore depleted landscapes.

“We're putting 24 trees in the ground today,” stated Chappel as he unloaded the saplings from the bed of his work truck. “We're planting coast live oak and California black walnut. Black walnut woodlands are one of the most threatened ecosystems in the state.”

TreePeople volunteers turned out to nurture the woodlands atop the Santa Monica Mountains. Together, they restored the land to help further habitat connectivity, help the land capture more water and protect the air quality of LA County.

“It's hard work, but it's also beautiful work,” said TreePeople volunteer, Merrill Koss. “All this sweat is worth it at the end of the day!

From neighborhood parks to the nation's awe-inspiring national parks, public lands belong to everyone. NPLD is a unique opportunity to celebrate and give back to the places that are so important to our history, our health, and our enjoyment of the outdoors.

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### **About TreePeople**

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people and nature-based solutions to grow a healthy, green city in the face of climate change's increasing impacts. The organization inspires, engages and supports people to take responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among government agencies, and promotes leadership in volunteers, students and communities. Together, we are growing a greener, shadier, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations. For more information, visit [treepeople.org](http://treepeople.org).