

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Soil Connects Us All**

### *Healthy Soils for Healthy Communities Initiative Phase One: Need Assessment*

**LOS ANGELES, CA** -- TreePeople completed the first phase of the “Healthy Soils for Healthy Communities” Initiative, a project funded by Accelerate Resilience L.A.—a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

The needs assessment’s goals were multi pronged:

- To determine the current status of Los Angeles County soils.
- To identify the most pressing urban soil issues and community needs through community consultation and outreach.
- And to provide a framework for future work regarding urban soil research, policy, public education, and community engagement in the region.

TreePeople conducted four online surveys (in both English and Spanish), seven virtual focus groups, various meetings and events, and a review of the literature. In collaboration with 14 partners from universities, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups, the needs assessment found:

- 85% of LA County residents currently maintain green space.
- 76% of LA County residents are very concerned about soil contaminants.
- 86% LA County said they have/had a garden.

Through focus groups, the assessment also found:

- A need for developing a holistic soil strategy.
- A need for accessible and transparent soil data and testing.
- A need for effective community engagement and building alliances among community, policy, and scientists.

To address the identified needs, TreePeople developed an overall framework for phase two of this initiative, which proposes to establish an overall strategy for a Los Angeles Urban Soil Collaborative. The strategy will be developed through community, government, non-profit organizations, academia, and the private sector participation. Under this framework, TreePeople proposes a set of core activities, demonstration projects, community outreach programs, and the scaling up of these activities through the development of local, regional, national, and international collaborations.

To learn more, go to:

<https://www.treepeople.org/healthy-soils-for-healthy-communities-initiative/>

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**About TreePeople**

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow a more climate-ready LA. 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](http://treepeople.org).