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TreePeople, Fernandeano Tataviam Tribe, Theodore Payne Foundation, San Fernando community come together to restore historic Rudy Ortega, Sr. Park

(SAN FERNANDO) - With the help of the San Fernando community, TreePeople will partner with the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and the Theodore Payne Foundation to restore the historic Rudy Ortega, Sr. Park in the City of San Fernando by planting 100 native and drought-tolerant plants. The community volunteer event will be held on Dec. 11, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is open to the public. Volunteers can register [here](#).

“This is the beginning of the restoration of this community jewel and much-needed green space,” said TreePeople CEO Cindy Montañez. “Parks and open spaces like the Rudy Ortega, Sr. Park are essential to the health of our community and for maintaining biodiversity. TreePeople and our partners are committed to ensuring that green spaces are maintained and celebrated for the benefit of everyone in our community, especially in park-poor communities like San Fernando.”

The park was designed, built and landscaped in 2006, but the irrigation recently failed and many of the plants and trees died. Signage and monuments highlighting San Fernando’s indigenous roots, water independence and historical significance to the region were also vandalized. Ultimately, TreePeople, the Fernandeano Tataviam and its partners hope to repair the irrigation system, replant the park with native plants as well as replace signage and monuments and offer programming that provide indigenous, climate change and water education to the community.

“California native plants are not only drought tolerant and beautiful, but also connect us to nature and the place we live,” said Evan Meyer, CEO of Theodore Payne Foundation. “We are thrilled to help strengthen those connections for San Fernando residents.”

This project is part of a larger, long term investment by TreePeople in the City of San Fernando. The Calles Verdes project aims to plant at least 1,000 street trees across the city and distribute at least 500 residential fruit trees. About 500 street trees have already been planted by community volunteers and about 300 fruit trees have been distributed.

In addition, Calles Verdes will design and install nature-based stormwater capture features around the city’s downtown, including Parking Lot 4, Brand Blvd., Maclay Ave. and Carlisle St. These solutions are essential to address flooding, recapture water after

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rainstorms and repurpose it for public use. The projects are primarily funded by grants from the State Coastal Conservancy, CALFIRE, Arbor Day Foundation, and private foundations.

*Los Angeles-based TreePeople is the region's largest environmental movement, whose mission is to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment. Visit us at [treepeople.org](http://treepeople.org) and learn how you can join our cause.*