

# Seedling news



TreePeople leads a planting at Patrick Henry Middle School. Grenada Hills, CA.  
Credit: Adam Corey Thomas

## Planting Hope:

### *Creating a healthier, greener future for LA children*

From our very first planting, youth activism has been central to our mission. Over the past 40 years, we've planted over 30,000 trees for regional campuses in LA's most under-funded and environmental justice-impacted schools. Today, we are thrilled to expand our work to green even more schoolyards throughout Los Angeles with significant funding received from our partners at CAL FIRE, and generous donations from individuals and foundations. TreePeople's School Greening Senior Project Manager, Michelle Bagnato, shares that she is "proud and energized to be a part of a skillfully diverse internal team that is able to leverage this funding and take these projects from pipedreams to permanent parts of our community." Greening our schools and creating living schoolyards allows us to accomplish our goals of:

- **Environmental Education:** Implementing curriculum to foster creative, forward-thinking solutions to environmental challenges
- **Cooling:** Increasing shade canopy which can help reduce surface temperatures by up to 40°F—critical as extreme heat events become even more frequent
- **Stormwater capture:** Replacing asphalt with permeable surfaces that allow for water absorption and keep critically needed water in soils and out of waterways
- **Habitat and Ecology:** Planting native and climate adapted plants to improve campus ecology, create habitat, and reduce water usage
- **Health:** Fostering opportunities for youth to improve physical and mental health, in an era of unprecedented mental health crises among youth
- **Community:** Bringing community together through outreach events and volunteer planting days
- **Equity:** Working in under-invested communities most vulnerable to extreme heat

TreePeople's advocacy and campaigning to increase awareness around the need for investments in school greening was instrumental in securing these funding sources. We are working on over 30 school greening projects across Southern California in 4 school districts: Lynwood, LAUSD, Hacienda La Puente, and Burbank. Emily Tyrer, TreePeople's Director of Green Infrastructure, explains that "this funding will enable TreePeople to plant over **1,000 trees and remove approximately 500,000 square feet of asphalt from over 35 schools** across Southern California over the next three years."

As we look toward the future of school greening, Tyrer's enthusiasm is palpable. "TreePeople is excited to work closely with the school communities to help them realize their visions for greener schools," she said. "Students in Southern California are on the front line of extreme heat. Temperatures on asphalt campuses can exceed **140 degrees** on hot days and many students are unable to play outside due to lack of shade and green space. TreePeople will be introducing nature-based solutions to protect students from extreme heat while also teaching students about nature."



## Growing Our Canopy

Say hello to our new monthly giving program: The Canopy! The Canopy represents the essence of TreePeople's community spirit, rooted in our history of uniting people through their shared love for the planet. This is why there is no member fee or monthly donation threshold to join! Canopy members will receive exclusive access to members-only events, special correspondences, and, most importantly, a powerful connection with a group of fellow inspiring environmentalists.



Josh, a Los Angeles native and nature lover, uses his workplace giving program to maximize his Canopy donation.

After being inspired on an Eco-Tour at our Coldwater Canyon Park, Josh joined The Canopy to "help keep LA green!" Josh's monthly gifts will stretch even further, because Canopy donations also help to fund mountain restoration efforts, urban greening projects, and educational programming.

*"I'm excited that the Canopy program will increase canopy coverage in the mountains and communities that need it the most. Also, it's nice getting exclusive access to future TreePeople experiences and events!"*

**Sign up today at [treepeople.org/canopy](https://treepeople.org/canopy)**

**Join us on November 14<sup>th</sup> at Boomtown Brewery for a special Canopy event!**

**Learn about this program and enjoy a drink with us! Please RSVP to [development@treepeople.org](mailto:development@treepeople.org) by 11/11!**

Here at TreePeople, we are eager to continue this meaningful work well into the future to create greener schools, so all students can learn and play in the environment they deserve. As Bagnato sums up, "we want to achieve a world in which this work becomes the norm and not the exception. All schools should look like this."

For more information on our school greening efforts, please visit [treepeople.org/green-our-schools/](https://treepeople.org/green-our-schools/).



**Support our Eco-Tour program by adopting a class today!**

**[treepeople.org/adoptaclass](https://treepeople.org/adoptaclass)**

## Delta: Our Valued Partner

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our corporate partner Delta for their dedication to TreePeople's mission. Delta's commitment helps to provide vital services such as volunteer tree planting events, community organizing, workforce development, long-term tree care, and fruit tree distributions. Delta's support is instrumental in driving our mission forward, making our communities greener, healthier, and more resilient.



**Looking for the perfect team building activity? Dig in with TreePeople! For more information, reach out to [corporations@treepeople.org](mailto:corporations@treepeople.org) or visit our teams for trees website: [treepeople.org/teamsfortrees](https://treepeople.org/teamsfortrees)**

*TreePeople/Delta Teams for Trees Event, Lynwood CA. Credit: Adam Corey Thomas*



## Ask An Arborist

As the weather gets cooler and seasons start to change, our Tree Care Summer is turning into our Tree Planting Fall! We've spoken with Bryan Vejar, Community Forestry Foreman for TreePeople's operations in El Monte, to provide you with some TreePeople expertise for choosing suitable plants and caring for your garden into fall and beyond.

**Q: What types of Southern California native trees do you recommend planting at home?**



**A:** Great question! While California is a veritable hot-spot for biodiversity, we only have a handful of shade tree specimens that would thrive in urban environments. What is most important is to plant the right species

depending on your own home's site conditions. Have lots of space with full sun? Why not Coast Live or Engelmann Oak? Perhaps you only have a small yard, but you wish to attract pollinators? Western Redbud is a fantastic tree that gives a pop of color every spring. Live in the high desert? Palo Verde's, Mesquites, and Tecate Cypress will thrive! Live near the coast? Catalina Ironwood would be a gorgeous addition to your landscape.

**Q: How should I approach planting a tree in my yard?**

**A:** Planting a tree might be a brief endeavor, but how well it is done will have a lasting influence on future growth and vitality. There's a lot more to it than simply digging a hole and placing the tree! Luckily, TreePeople has got your back with step-by-step how to videos on their website. Most importantly, remember: Right Tree, Right Place.

**Q: I don't have space for a tree in my front yard. What other Southern California native plants and wildflowers would you recommend?**

**A:** There are hundreds of species of annual and perennial plants to choose from, all of which play an important role in our local ecology. It's so rewarding

to turn your bit of land into an oasis for native organisms, many of which may be threatened. If planting in full sun, you can't go wrong with Sages, Buckwheat's, and Ceanothus. If planting in a more shaded area, then Yarrow, Oregon Grape, and Monkey Flower will do just fine.

**Q: When are the conditions right for planting in my yard?**

**A:** The goal in timing generally is to avoid the extreme weather months, especially during the summer heat. The most optimal time to begin planting is during the Fall, when temperatures drop, and the plants can have as much time to establish and acclimate before the summer heat returns.



**Q: Where can I find these native plants for my home?**

**A:** Be sure to check in with your local nurseries for recommendations of native trees and plants that are suitable for your space. Our very own Native Garden Kit Program is also a great hassle-free option that gives you all you need to increase your home's native biodiversity in one place. Visit [treepeople.org/native-garden-kit/](https://treepeople.org/native-garden-kit/) to order yours today, and look out for our tree giveaways!

We hope that you will join us in adding native greenery to your community this fall. For more information on native trees, plants, and their respective care please visit [treepeople.org/trees/](https://treepeople.org/trees/) and [treepeople.org/plants/](https://treepeople.org/plants/).

# TreePeople

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*TreePeople's mission is to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, making it safe, healthy, fun and sustainable and to share our process as a model for the world.*

An illustration of three overlapping holiday tree dedication cards. The top card is dark blue with gold leaf patterns and the text "Seasons Greetings". The middle card is green with a yellow tree silhouette. The bottom card is brown with a colorful turkey illustration and the text "Happy Thanksgiving".

## Holiday Tree Dedication Cards are back!

Celebrate this holiday season by dedicating a tree in honor or memory of a loved one! Our revamped tree dedication program is a unique and lasting way to embody the spirit of giving while paying tribute to those who hold a special place in your heart.

For more information, visit us at [treepeople.org/tree-dedications/](https://treepeople.org/tree-dedications/), call **818-753-TREE (8733)**, or email [treegifts@treepeople.org](mailto:treegifts@treepeople.org).



**TreePeople**

Have questions? Please contact:  
[development@treepeople.org](mailto:development@treepeople.org)

Want to make a donation?  
[www.treepeople.org/supportus](https://www.treepeople.org/supportus)

Bequests and planned giving inquiries:  
[development@treepeople.org](mailto:development@treepeople.org)

We are making an effort to reduce our use of paper. If you would like to receive communications like these by email, please let us know at [development@treepeople.org](mailto:development@treepeople.org)!