

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
GRANT APPLICATION

Proposition 1 Proposal Submission By: Tree People

Amount Requested: \$150,000



August 8, 2019

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
GRANT APPLICATION**

<b>Project Name:</b> STUDIO CITY GREENWAY RESTORATION PROJECT		<b>Amount of Request:</b> <b>\$150,000</b>	
<b>Applicant Name:</b> <b>TreePeople</b>		<b>Total Project Cost:</b> <b>\$150,000</b>	
<b>Applicant Address:</b> 12601 Mulholland Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210		<b>Matching Funds:</b> <b>Lat/Long: -</b> 38.251182,144.146451	
<b>Project Address:</b>		<b>County</b>	<b>Senate District</b>
		Los Angeles	26
		<b>Assembly District</b>	50
<b>Phone:</b> (818)753-4600	<b>Project Address:</b>	<b>Tax ID: 23-</b>	
<b>Email:</b> info@treepeople.org		7314838	
<b>Grantee's Authorized Representative:</b>			
<b>Cindy Montanez, CEO</b>		<b>(818)753-4600</b>	
<i>Name and Title</i>		<i>Phone</i>	
<b>Overhead Allocation Notice:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Any overhead costs will be identified as a separate line item in the budget and invoices. <input type="checkbox"/> The Conservancy encourages grantees to reduce overhead costs including vehicle and phone expenses. <input type="checkbox"/> The overhead allocation policy has been submitted prior to, or with, the grant application.			
<b>Outreach and Advertising Requirement:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has read the staff report and board resolution regarding contract policies. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant has adopted contract policies for the purpose of increasing outreach and advertising to disadvantaged businesses and individuals.			
<i>All check boxes must be checked</i>			
<b>Brief Project Description:</b>			
See attachment.		*attach additional pages with project detail	
<b>Tasks / Milestones:</b>	<b>Budget:</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	
** See attached scope/schedule	**See attached budget		

**For Acquisition Projects:**      **APN(s):** N/A  
   **Acreage:** N/A

I certify that the information contained in this Grant Application form, including required attachments, is accurate.

*Cindy Montanez*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Authorized Representative*

August 9, 2019  
*Date*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ♦ THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

## **Brief Project Description**

TreePeople is requesting grant funds to restore the Studio City Greenway (Project), a greenway with an immediate implementation need to reach near and long term water conservation, carbon reduction, and climate adaptation targets. The Project will effectively and substantially restore the site by effective reestablishment of native species, which will reduce wildfire risk and promote watershed health. Pursuant to California's Water Action Plan, the Project effectively restores important species and habitats to create a more resilient and sustainable greenway.

The restoration of the Studio City Greenway achieves the following purposes of Proposition 1 per Water Code Section 79732(a):

- (2) Implement watershed adaptation projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California's communities and ecosystems.
- (3) Restore river parkways throughout the state, including, but not limited to, projects pursuant to the California River Parkway Act of 2004 (Chapter 3.8 (commencing with Section 5750) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code), in the Urban Streams Restoration Program established pursuant to Section 7048, and urban river greenways.
- (8) Implement fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, and promote watershed health.
- (9) Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.
- (11) Reduce pollution or contamination of rivers, lakes, streams, or coastal waters, prevent and remediate mercury contamination from legacy mines, and protect or restore natural system functions that contribute to water supply, water quality, or flood management.

The restoration of this land is a valuable upgrade to an existing regional trail to protect its continued use and enjoyment by the public. Contributing to tree canopy cover and the improvement of this greenway, located in an urban area, the benefit of mitigating the heat island effect and promoting public health and recreation are substantial.

The Project will address land areas above and adjacent to the channelized Tujunga Wash, which is a major feeder into the Los Angeles River and part of the LA River watershed. TreePeople will conduct restoration on this area repeatedly over 24 months, and use best practices for effective invasive plant management, revegetate landscapes to restore resilient native plant communities and support wildlife habitat. TreePeople proposes to use the following activities:

- **Invasive plant treatment:** Use manual/mechanical methods, primarily conducted by a volunteer force with professional supervision.
- **Native plant restoration:** Use the restoration strategy of "encouraging competition" by encouraging desired native species through seeding and planting and discouraging invasive plant species through repeated treatment.

- **Native seed collection:** Work closely with Conservancy specialists to manage and run year-round native seed collection. Seeds will be collected, cleaned, and stored for current and future restoration activities.
- **Native plant propagation:** Propagate native seedlings in TreePeople's Nursery.
- **Volunteer engagement and education:** TreePeople will engage and train community volunteers to carry out site restoration, and raise awareness of the goals of the Project.

Planning for and restoring the area will allow proper, natural capture of stormwater through trees and vegetation; this stormwater can then infiltrate through the soil into the massive aquifer that sits below the San Fernando Valley, rather than flow into the channel below. This will reduce runoff of stormwater into the channel, and pollutants such as trash, debris and pet waste bacteria that could be carried into the channel with the runoff into the LA River watershed. By moving stormwater into the aquifer rather than the channel, the Project improves water supply, as the aquifer is used to supply water to the region. The plants and trees will also absorb fine particulate matter from the air, improving air quality. Shade from the trees will reduce the urban heat island effect, reducing the surface temperatures that continue to be affected by climate change. The establishment of plant communities can improve wildlife habitat, especially for birds, butterflies and other airborne animals that often follow the path of the LA River as part of their habitat.

As a result, the Project will provide:

- multiple benefits related to water quality, water supply, and/or watershed protection and restoration.
- The Project results in restoration and protection of important species and habitat resulting in a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure pursuant to the California Water Action Plan.
- Lastly, the Project will substantially improve the greenway by eliminating or significantly remediating water resource contamination or pollution from urban runoff.

TreePeople is pleased to note that completion of this project will address two of the broad objectives of the California Water Action Plan. First, it will aid in the restoration of important species and habitats. Secondly, successful completion of this project will create a more resilient, sustainably managed environment that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades.

### **Project Background and Need**

The Studio City River Greenway was originally planted in 2004 and is Los Angeles' first native landscape project along the river. However, over the years, the area has been overrun with exotic species, and in need of restoration. The plants in the area are considered highly invasive, unwelcomed and a fire hazard prone to take over wherever it is planted. Due to these facts, this current request for funding to be used for the greenway restoration is a part of the larger River Project approved by residents and funded by Prop 68 in 2018. The project is located in an area with an extremely low park space per 1,000 residents at only .86 acres.

The Project is in close proximity to areas adversely affected by pollution and housing burdens. CalEnviroScreen rates multiple census tracts surrounding the Greenway above 81% for burdens

including Particulate Matter 2.5, Diesel, Traffic and Housing. (Tracts: 6037123800, 6037123602, 6037124903, 6037124000, 6037124400, 6037123601.)

The Project is needed in order to maintain this heavily frequented multi-use trail corridor that connects communities, provides access to public resources and reduces vehicle miles traveled. Public transportation (busses) run regularly along both Coldwater Ave and Whitsett Ave.

TreePeople would like to restore the greenway while raising awareness through volunteer events. The project adds visitor-serving amenities, accessibility, and public safety improvements to public parkland with multiple ecosystem benefits of which the community deserves to be aware.

### **Project Plan & Scope of Work**

The land to be restored consists of a ½ mile stretch along the Tujunga Wash/Los Angeles River between Coldwater Canyon Ave. and Whitsett Ave. The goal of this project is to control exotic species, install locally sourced plants, and continue to provide care by watering and weeding plants for establishment. Additionally, the project will benefit specially protected species pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990. The project includes improvements that would support regeneration of important native vegetative cover on slopes near a stream or river, which if substantially disturbed may contribute to flood, erosion, water pollution, creek/river sedimentation, or reduced groundwater recharge.

The entire greenway restoration for this ½ mile stretch (>0.2 acres per Proposition 1 priority) is expected to take two years. Year one milestones include an assessment plan, volunteer recruitment and events, seed collection and processing, plant propagation, native plant installation, exotic species control and plant establishment. In year two, volunteer recruitment and events will continue to ensure exotic species control and plant establishment.

TreePeople's restoration approach includes removal of invasive species, seeding (with local native seed), planting (with seedlings propagated using locally collected native plant seed) and establishment watering. The process consists of the following techniques:

- **Invasive Removal:** To remove exotic plant species, TreePeople volunteers will utilize hand/tool pulling, clipping, cutting, and tarping, depending on the invasive plant, to achieve desired results. This approach to the manual/mechanical method removes perennial non-native vegetation by the roots, beginning in and around existing natives, to allow natives to spread; remove non-native vegetation to clear the ground for planting; cut back annual non-native vegetation before it goes to seed to alter the seedbank. TreePeople has found this method successful in their SoCal restoration programs, when applied multiple times a month and year.
- **Restoration planting:** TreePeople restoration efforts will include seeding (with local native weed-free seed) and planting (with seedlings propagated using locally collected native plant seed) and establishment watering. This method encourages competition of existing and established native species and includes repeated treatment of invasive plants species so that native species will eventually outcompete the invasive plant population. Each site will be treated in this way by volunteer crews twice a month where, depending

on the time of year, a variety of invasive treatment and restoration activities will take place.

- **Seed collection and propagation:** A variety of techniques may be used for hand-harvesting of seed, such as cutting, stripping, beating and shaking. These techniques include following practices to help ensure material collected is free from infection or external contamination by Phytophthora and other pathogens. Seeds will be dried, cleaned and stored in preparation for propagation. Nursery plant production will follow specific protocols to avoid soil-borne pathogens and use a systems approach that reflects good sanitation and practices for nurseries. Staff and volunteers are trained to maintain strict protocols in production practices, including sanitizing materials and heat treatments of potting media. Depending on the plant species, a variety of propagation/germination methods will be used, including stratification, scarification, and direct sowing.
- **Volunteer Engagement and Education:** Community engagement is at the core of TreePeople's work. Their award-winning programs engage and train volunteers in the use of best practices to support restoration of the Greenway. These activities will be provided through direct involvement of local volunteers, supported by paid staff and trained volunteer leaders.

Trained volunteers and volunteer supervisors will play a key role in the restoration *and* invasive treatment process. Work session events will be held on weekends throughout the year, where dozens of volunteers will be trained and guided to carry out detailed and repeated restoration efforts. No expertise is needed to volunteer, and while the work is primarily physical and performed out-of-doors, special needs can be accommodated on a case-by-case basis. TreePeople's volunteer management system makes it easy for individuals, families, and groups to sign-up for events through TreePeople's website. A Restoration Hotline is available for participants to receive up-to-date information on weather conditions and any changes to the event. Restoration events are generally small, with an average of 20-25 volunteers per event. Volunteer events are generally Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9am to noon, and are held year-round; planting events are typically slated for October to March, and April to September events focus on watering and continued removal of invasive plants. All volunteers are given training at the start of each event. Specialized 1-day training is available for experienced volunteers who would like to learn to lead others as a Volunteer Supervisor. These Supervisors are an integral part of the restoration success, taking on the responsibility at each event of leading groups of volunteers for a morning of work. Recruitment of volunteers includes online outreach, including social media, as well as reaching out to partners in areas near the fire scars. Through this process, TreePeople is also able to educate the public about the value and benefits of the Greenway and the Conservancy's efforts to restore urban waterways.

The funding requested in this grant will cover staff cost, supplies, tools and materials, outreach and administrative overhead (not to exceed 8.7% of total request). Please see attached project budget and scope of work.

## **Metrics & Reporting**

Metrics to be reported on at project close out will include the number of plants installed, number of events and volunteers involved, and post-assessment of the condition of the area, including photos.

To track and measure outcomes, TreePeople uses a relational database (Salesforce) to record and store all program data, such as planting events held, number and identity of volunteers, location, number and species of trees/plants planted. The data, which can be accessed by all employees, supports efficient reporting and project analysis. Progress toward goals is assessed in weekly staff meetings, and through regular meetings and written reporting with Conservancy staff representatives.

## **Applicant Capacity**

Since its founding in 1973, TreePeople has involved more than 2 million people in planting and caring for more than 3 million trees in the Greater Los Angeles area, from the mountains to the most over-paved urban streets.

Since the 1990s, TreePeople has also been a leader in watershed health, with a focus on distributed stormwater capture. TreePeople inspires and supports the people of Los Angeles to plant and care for trees, harvest the rain and spread climate-appropriate landscapes. TreePeople works with volunteer leaders using its unique Citizen Forester model, as well as with government agencies to promote innovative solutions for a healthy, thriving Los Angeles. Today, TreePeople has more than 70,000 followers and supporters, a staff of 60 professional foresters, educators, and policy facilitators, a dedicated Board of Directors, and 4,000 volunteers.

Significant publications include “The Simple Act of Planting a Tree” (1991) which launched a national Citizen Forester movement. “Second Nature” (1998) and studies through TreePeople’s LA-Australia Exchange (2012) have provided nature-based solutions to restore the health of urban watersheds. Most recently TreePeople completed the report “*Public Trees for Public Good: An Assessment of Urban Forestry Management and Practices in Los Angeles County.*”

TreePeople have facilitated numerous restoration projects since the organizations inception. This project has been determined to be feasible using limited resources and TreePeople has the financial capacity to perform the project on a reimbursable basis. With an annual budget of \$8,048,000, TreePeople has maintained its ability to complete projects on a reimbursement basis due to effective cash flow management.

This project funding request has been developed pursuant to Water Code Section 79731(h). TreePeople has identified funding for proper maintenance throughout the expected life of the improvements and for two years following project completion. Major funding sources include a multi-year, \$1M grant from The Boeing Company, intended to provide matching support for multiple initiatives in open-space and urban forestry. Because the completion of this project will include the implementation of sustainable measures, the maintenance necessary for the years to come should be minimal.



TreePeople has successfully completed multiple projects of similar size and scope including the following:

- **TreePeople Forest Aid - Angeles National Forest:** From the Fall of 2017 through June of 2019, TreePeople conducted active, successful restoration work on sites in San Francisquito Canyon in the Copper Fire Scar near Santa Clarita, CA, through generous support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Angeles National Forest - Wildfires Restoration Grant Program 2017. Through this grant program, TreePeople conducted thorough, hands-on restoration work on 2.5 acres, engaging and training volunteers in the process, and enhanced their nursery facility and protocols to grow native plants and prevent spread of *Phytophthora* and other soil-borne pathogens.
- **Huntington Park/Cudahy:** TreePeople is currently engaged in a CAL FIRE-funded project to plant 1,400 trees on parkways and commercial corridors in the cities of Huntington Park and Cudahy utilizing our volunteer engagement model. Community engagement includes distribution of 1,000 fruit trees, workshops in tree-care related issues, and a community-based social marketing campaign to inspire long-term tree stewardship. To date, the project has planted over 1,100 trees in 3.5 square miles.
- **City of San Fernando:** TreePeople is completing the planning phase of a project funded by the State Coastal Conservancy to design and implement stormwater capture BMPs throughout the City, including in parkways, alleys and parking lots. The project will also propose to plant 750 strategically located trees across the City. Project implementation began in Spring of 2019.

### **Long Term Maintenance and Care**

The program of engaging the community has at its core the goal of long-term tree care – training local residents to be part of the process of caring for trees through organized events and through their own initiative. This has always been a focus on young, newly planted trees during their first 3-5 years of establishment. For all tree planting and care events, TreePeople draws upon the experience and expertise of eight full time forestry staff, including degrees in forest biology, education and three Certified Arborists registered with the International Society of Arboriculture.

TreePeople coordinates with local agencies to meet their standards of care and target areas of need. Agencies include (for City of Los Angeles) the Department of Recreation and Parks, City Plants and the Urban Forestry Division. Outside the City we work or have worked with City of Huntington Park, Cudahy, San Fernando, Compton, Inglewood as well as California State Parks, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Angeles National Forest and San Bernardino National Forest.

Countywide, TreePeople organizes over 200 events each year to care for trees we have planted in the past. Each year, we lead 4,000 volunteers in caring for more than 7,000 young trees and plants. We have also been a leader in developing education material and providing public information on tree care (including during drought conditions) through social media, outreach events and in the media.

**In Closing:**

TreePeople has developed this two year plan to assess and restore the Greenway in the most efficient way possible while paying close attention to administrative overhead costs. TreePeople's investment along with possible awarded funds from The Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy will produce multiple benefits. These benefits include carbon sequestration, water conservation, and active non-motorized transportation. This project will improve this open green space which will improve public health and boost the resilience of the community by providing respite from urban environments, enhancing air and water quality, and promoting low-cost recreation for communities of all socio-economic levels.

**STUDIO CITY GREENWAY RESTORATION PROJECT**  
**TreePeople**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Fall 2019</b>	<b>Win 2019</b>	<b>Spr 2020</b>	<b>Sum 2020</b>	<b>Fall 2020</b>	<b>Win 2020</b>	<b>Spr 2021</b>	<b>Sum 2021</b>
<b>Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the site to create a restoration plan.</li> <li>• Plan to be reviewed by MRCA.</li> <li>• Assess the site for volunteer event planning, including location for restrooms, parking, water source and any hazardous issues.</li> <li>• Re-assess the site for final report</li> </ul>	X							X
<b>Volunteer Recruitment &amp; Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit volunteers, including those from the local community, through community engagement including fliers, social media, and the TreePeople website.</li> <li>• Ongoing restoration events.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Seed Collection &amp; Processing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizing seed collection protocols, conduct on-site native seed collection.</li> </ul>	X	X						
<b>Native Plant Propagation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizing collected seeds and other locally sourced native species, conduct best management practices for pathogen-free propagation at TreePeople’s nursey.</li> </ul>	X	X	X					
<b>Native Plant Installation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizing current plant stock from the watershed, MRCA, or propagated from seed collected on site, conduct best</li> </ul>	X	X	X		X			

management practices for plant installation.								
<b>Exotic Species Control</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilizing manual, non-chemical methods, remove exotic perennial species and target exotic annual species before seed deposits.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Plant Establishment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing watering, weeding, mulching and appropriate strategies for herbivory prevention.</li> </ul>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## STUDIO CITY GREENWAY RESTORATION PROJECT

TreePeople

2019-2021 Project Budget

<b>Staff Expenses</b>	Year 1	Year 2	Total
Wildland Restoration Manager	\$ 19,906	\$ 19,906	\$ 39,811
Nursery Manager	\$ 4,992	\$ 4,992	\$ 9,984
Director of Forestry	\$ 3,016	\$ 3,016	\$ 6,032
Volunteer Manager	\$ 8,445	\$ 8,008	\$ 16,452
Community Engagment Coordinator	\$ 7,301	\$ 7,301	\$ 14,602
Director of Communications	\$ 3,120	\$ 3,120	\$ 6,240
<b>Staff Wages</b>	<b>\$ 46,779</b>	<b>\$ 46,342</b>	<b>\$ 93,121</b>
Fringe 25%	\$ 11,695	\$ 11,586	\$ 23,280
<b>Total Staff Cost</b>	<b>\$ 58,474</b>	<b>\$ 57,928</b>	<b>\$ 116,402</b>
<b>Program Expenses</b>			
Outreach Material (promotional items)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,093	\$ 6,593
Restoration Supplies/Tools/Materials/Plants	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000
<b>Total Non-Personnel Costs</b>	<b>\$ 11,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,593</b>	<b>\$ 21,593</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>\$ 137,995</b>
Indirect 8.7%			\$ 12,006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 69,474</b>	<b>\$ 68,521</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>
<b>Grant Funds Requested</b>			<b>\$ 150,000</b>