

What



TreePeople is:

A nonprofit organization that works with both communities and government to grow a climate-resilient Los Angeles, with enough tree canopy, local water and healthy soil for our sustainable future.



Mission:

To inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, making it safe, healthy, fun and sustainable and to share the process as a model for the world.

When



1970 The seed was planted by Andy Lipkis at age 15 at summer camp in the San Bernardino National Forest



1973 TreePeople incorporates



1977 Moves to Coldwater Canyon Park



1984 Leads the planting of **one million trees** in Los Angeles



1986 Citizen Forester program launches



2004 TreePeople's work instrumental in adoption of Sun Valley Watershed Plan



2008 Center for Community Forestry opens



2013 TreePeople celebrates its **40th anniversary**



2014 TreePeople leads expert delegation to learn from Australia's historic drought



TREEPEOPLE

Fact Sheet 2015

Where



Location:

45 acre Coldwater Canyon Park, a City of LA Park and site of TreePeople Center for Community Forestry.



Geographic Scope:

The County of Los Angeles, with over 4,000 square miles and a population of 10 million residents, or nearly 30% of the entire population of the state of California.



A Focused Approach:

With a concentration on areas with low canopy coverage and local water challenges.

Who

Andy Lipkis

Founder and President

9,412

Elementary students taking EcoTours in 2014

21

Board Members

7,012

Volunteers

49

Employees

26,144

Supporters

266

Schools involved in programs in 2014

13,699

Secondary school students participating in 2014

1,287

Trained Citizen Foresters

327,268

Park visitors per year

TreePeople works at both the grassroots and policy levels.

Grassroots accomplishments in 2014:

Grassroots programs: Citizen Forestry, Youth and Teacher Education, Sustainable Solutions, Mountain Restoration and programs at TreePeople Center for Community Forestry

\$661,180
Annual economic benefits from mapped trees

454*
Trees planted

96% First year survival rate of trees cared for by TreePeople

21,660 Trees mapped with volunteers using TreeMapLA www.treemapla.org

More than 2m
Trees planted since 1970

7,949*
Previously planted trees cared for

362
of TreePeople educational and volunteer events

1,913
Free fruit trees distributed to underserved communities

165,000
Gallons of rainwater captured in TreePeople's cistern

*-Reduction in tree planting and increase in tree care due to historic drought.

Policy level accomplishments in 2014:

Stormwater Capture Master Plan: In partnership with the LADWP, TreePeople helped create and steward the LA's first-ever master plan for stormwater and rainwater capture programs. This plan will guide city policies, plans and projects to collect between 30%-45% of our water demand from local rainfall if the required infrastructure, programs and policies are funded.

White House Recognition: The Multi-Agency Collaborative, a partnership created and facilitated by TreePeople of some of LA's largest water agencies was recognized by the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the EPA as an example of how increased collaboration among key agencies advances green infrastructure and community resilience.

TreePeople's Policy Delegation to Australia: Leaders from local, federal and state-level agencies joined TreePeople on a policy tour to Australia to learn about policies and programs that helped that country survive their 12-year drought and then apply appropriate solutions to California's ongoing water crisis.

Canopy cover: The City of LA currently has a tree canopy cover of 21%, with some areas well below 10%. TreePeople's vision is an LA with a minimum of 25% equitably-distributed tree canopy cover.¹

Water importation: The City of LA imports nearly 89% of its water from distant sources that are under strain². An estimated 50% of the LA area's drinking water is used for outdoor irrigation.³ Native and climate-appropriate trees and landscapes reduce water demand while capturing precious rainwater.

Air quality: According to the American Lung Association, LA is among the worst cities in the country for air pollution. Trees absorb pollutants and filter particulates out of the air.⁴

Public health: Areas lacking in greenery experience higher rates of diabetes, obesity, asthma, learning issues and depression.⁵ People living in neighborhoods with low tree canopy – including low-income communities of color in Los Angeles are also at higher risk of heat-related health problems that can lead to death.⁶

Wasted water, water pollution, flood risk:

Every time it rains an inch in LA, 3.8 billion gallons of runoff are sent to sea, sweeping trash, toxins and bacteria that pollute our beaches and ocean.⁷ Replacing paving with trees, mulch and rain gardens, and using rain barrels and cisterns captures rainwater, prevents polluted runoff, replenishes groundwater and protects against flooding.

Energy demand: Importing water from Northern to Southern California is the largest single use of energy in the state.⁸ As LA becomes more water-secure, we reduce our energy use. Trees shading buildings and streets that can cool the city by up to 10°F.⁹ Three trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50%.¹⁰

Climate change: Healthy soil retains the largest amount of carbon on the planet.¹¹ Over the course of its life, a tree can store 10,000 lbs of carbon dioxide.¹²

¹American Forests, Washington, DC / ²Los Angeles Department of Water and Power / ³Los Angeles Department of Water and Power / ⁴National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration / ⁵Kuo, F.E., Sullivan, W.C., Coley, R.L., & Brunson, L. (1998). Fertile ground for community: Inner-city neighborhood common spaces. / ⁶Vanos, J., L. Kalkstein, D. Sailor, K. Shickman, and S. Sheridan, 2014. Assessing the Health Impacts of Urban Heat Island Reduction Strategies in the Cities of Baltimore, Los Angeles, and New York. Global Cool Cities Alliance, Washington, DC. / ⁷City of Los Angeles Integrated Resource Plan for Water / ⁸Natural Resources Defense Council: A Clear Blue Future / ⁹Shade Trees as a Demand-Side Resource, Gregory McPherson and James R. Simpson, USFS / ¹⁰Alliance for Community Trees / ¹¹McPherson, Gregory, Capturing Carbon in Your Community / ¹²Nave, D. L. (2011). The Potential for Soil Carbon Sequestration. Forest and Grassland Carbon in North America. US Forest Service.