



TreePeople

Natural Carbon Sequestration - Implementation: Urban Forestry
The Climate Center Policy Summit, 2023



Mission

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

Our Mission is Centered on People



1970

- At a summer camp in the San Bernardino Mountains, 15-year-old camp counselor, Andy Lipkis, learns that air pollution from the city was killing Southern California's forests.

[Read more](#)

1974

- The California Conservation Project, which was unofficially renamed by the public as "the tree people," rallies multiple groups to prepare 10,000 trees for planting during the week of Arbor Day.



[Read more](#)

1977

- By the end of this fourth year, TreePeople plants 50,000 trees.

[Read more](#)

1978

- TreePeople is awarded its first education grant by the

1970

1973

1974

1976

1977

1978

1973

- The California Conservation Project, the predecessor to TreePeople, is incorporated.



[Read more](#)

1976

- TreePeople finds a home at what is now called Coldwater Canyon Park.



[Read more](#)



Fast Facts on the Urban Forest

- 95% of the state's population live in 5% of the state's land area. Approx 15% of that 5% has canopy cover (around 792,000 acres)
- The “stocking rate” of urban forests is estimated to be just over one-third (36.3%) of its potential statewide, meaning both tree density and canopy cover has room to grow
- Threats: pests, disease, drought, climate change, neglect



Source: 2018 Forest Carbon Plan



Urban Forest - Carbon Sequestration

- Approx. 28 Million MT of carbon stored in CA's UF
- 2 million MT of carbon sequestered annually
- .4 million MT of avoided carbon emissions annually (reductions to building energy use)
- Only NWL sector recognized by CARB in 2022 Scoping Plan to have significant near-term sequestration benefits.



Public Policy supporting sequestration goals (2022)

- AB 2251 (Calderon)
 - Sets a target of 10% increase of tree canopy cover in urban areas by 2035. Authorizes CAL FIRE to set regional canopy targets.
- AB 1757 (R. Rivas and C. Garcia)
 - Requires Natural Resources Agency to determine an ambitious range of targets for natural carbon sequestration, and for nature-based climate solutions, that reduce greenhouse gas emissions for 2030, 2038, and 2045 to support state goals to achieve carbon neutrality.



Administration Actions Supporting Sequestration Goals (2022)

- **\$50M investment in Urban Forestry (since proposed for reversion) and \$150M for school greening through expanded canopy cover and other nature-based solutions (not proposed for reversion)**
- **CARB Scoping Plan: *Increase urban forestry investment by 200% above current levels***
- **Extreme Heat Action Plan: *Utilize nature-based solutions as part of cooling strategies in public and private spaces, including through planting trees...***



TreePeople approach to Urban Forestry

- Authentic Community Engagement
- Hire from the Communities We Serve
- Environmental Education
- Right Tree Right Place



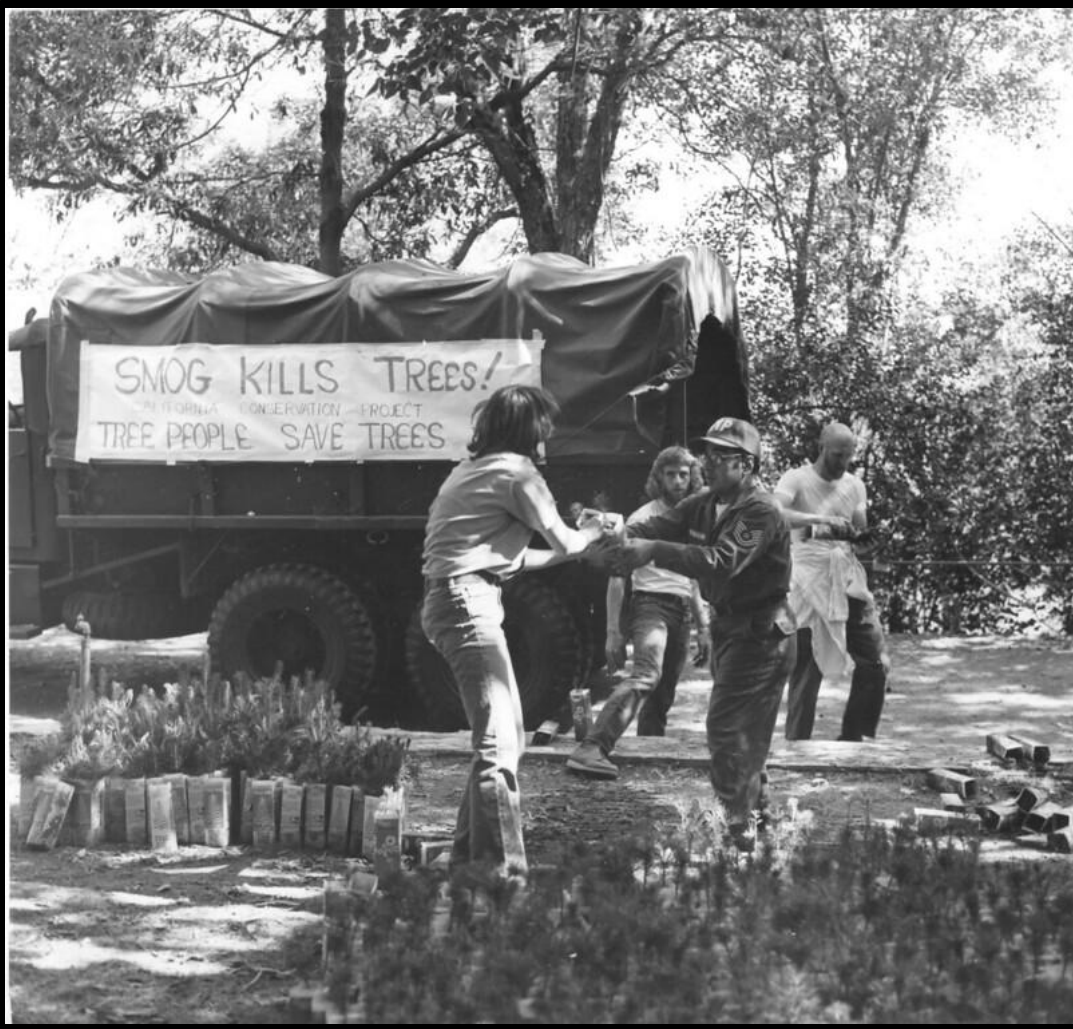
TreePeople approach to Urban Forestry

- Maximize carbon sequestration in UF by building community stewardship
- “Trees need People and People needs Trees”
- Our ability to create our own path through our holistic approach to UF; building teams and fostering community engagement and resilience













THANK YOU!

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