



The RIVER PROJECT

.....providing communities with the knowledge and tools they need to be watershed stewards

Our mission is to encourage responsible management of our watershed lands and revitalization of our rivers for the social, economic and environmental benefit of our communities. Through outreach, advocacy, scientific research and hands-on educational programs, we provide communities with the tools to reclaim their riverfront lands.

The River Project organized the Coalition for a State Park at Taylor Yard and led the successful fight to establish the first state park on the Los Angeles River. We have undertaken a comprehensive study of the Tujunga Wash subwatershed, and are actively engaged in the design and development of several river greenway parks in the San Fernando Valley. Our advocacy, studies, policy work, and educational efforts ideally lead to on-the-ground projects. Projects are the heart of our mission. We look for scientifically valid, multi-objective solutions to urban revitalization problems, projects that involve and empower neighborhoods, and solutions that will improve our communities. You are encouraged to join us in our efforts! Volunteers are needed and internships are available. Call us at 818.9809.9660.

TAYLOR YARD



For The River Project, the 200+ acre historic site known as Taylor Yard has always represented the brass ring. Located just north of downtown it provides a tremendous opportunity to create a meaningful watershed-based project that exemplifies the sustainable, multiple benefits approach to river revitalization. After a decade of controversy, lawsuits and community activism, the passage in 2000 of the statewide parks bond Prop 12 provided the means to realize a green vision of Taylor Yard. At our urging in June 2000, the Governor and the State Legislature approved \$45 Million to acquire lands at Taylor Yard to create the first new State Park in Los Angeles in a generation. The River Project organized the community to advocate for a 100-acre urban park along the Los Angeles River.

NATIVE RIVER GARDENERS



The River Project has found that communities are eager to participate in the upkeep of the river greenway, especially when they've played a role in their development. We created Native River Gardeners, a program designed to educate the public about the value of our native plant communities and build the capacity of local residents to participate in the ongoing maintenance and stewardship of the River Greenway. With funding from the California Native Plant Society and the local Neighborhood Council, we developed a program that partners with beautification groups and students to provide ongoing maintenance and expanding educational opportunities for communities. We are also creating a site-specific reference guide and maintenance manual for volunteers to use on work days.

SEPULVEDA BASIN



This project is improving the section of the Los Angeles River between Balboa Blvd and the new Orange Line Busway Bridge. The bridge is the dividing line between the concrete-lined river to the west and the living river in the Sepulveda Basin. The area was heavily infested with invasive exotic vegetation including Arundo, Castor Bean, Fountain Grass, Poison Hemlock, Mexican Fan Palm and many others, giving it one of the most diverse weed populations in the watershed. With a grant from the Wetlands Recovery Project, The River Project is removing these invasive species, restoring functionality to the river in this 1/2 mile stretch. When the Orange Line busway opens in October 2005 it will expose 10,000 commuters per day to the stark contrast of the transition between the living and concrete river.

STUDENT POETRY PROJECT



When a public art project containing poetry was proposed for the Studio City Greenway, the community wanted to use poets from our own backyard. We created an educational program focused on the Los Angeles River watershed for the local schools. Using in-class study, field trips and supportive curricula linking literacy, community and the environment, students discovered the river and came to understand its natural & cultural history in a way most Angelenos never experience. We encouraged the students to respond to what they learned through poetry, and to use the power of their words to help others come to understand the river and to see it as a place worth of our attention and stewardship. Their work was honored by City Council & will become an integral part of the project.

VALLEYHEART GREENWAY



As part of our Valleyheart Greenway Design and Educational Program, students at Carpenter Elementary School worked with us to create the landscape design, as well as conceptual designs for various amenities on the Greenway. The Coastal Conservancy funded design and the County funded implementation of the project, which was completed in June 2004. A design for the project's entrance gate on Laurel Canyon Blvd. was created by student Michael Harris. Other amenities include the Butterfly Bench, Snake Wall, Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardens and the Story Fence.

The River Project is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We rely on grants and contributions from individual donors like you. Your tax-deductible donation will help us to continue our work to make Los Angeles a better place for us all to live. Our mailing address is 11950 Ventura Blvd. #9, Studio City, CA 91604.



TUJUNGA WATERSHED



With funding from the CALFED Bay-Delta Watershed Program, The River Project is developing a stakeholder-driven Tujunga Watershed Management Plan with the goals of identifying opportunities to maximize water recharge, optimize water reuse, improve water quality & reduce dependence on imported water. In addition, we will look for other opportunities to benefit the watershed, such as improving wildlife habitat, and increasing local park space and recreational opportunities.

The River Project staff is working with scientists, engineers, modelers, cartographers, and curriculum developers. Cooperating partners include National Park Service, the Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, and UC Davis. This team will compile an inventory of existing data and identify data gaps, and conduct research and computer modeling to fill those gaps. Stakeholders including the National Forest Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, the County, City of Los Angeles, Elected Officials, Neighborhood Councils and local residents will identify goals and objectives and assist the team in completing a watershed assessment.

The Plan will provide a fundamental set of principles and a good roadmap to guide future projects and management efforts. An ongoing program of outreach and education, special workshops, and development of a K-12 curriculum will support continued community involvement.

WHAT WE INTEND FOR THE PLAN TO DO

- Bring together key agencies and other stakeholders to plan the financing and implementation of large-scale watershed retrofitting.
- Identify at least 20 specific neighborhood-scale projects for implementation.
- Develop a plan for citizen watershed monitoring.
- Produce technical studies to evaluate different alternatives.
- Quantify the potential reduction in demand for water from the Bay-Delta through the capture and conservation of 5,000 acre-feet of rainwater.
- Quantify the potential improvements in water quality from enhancement projects and demonstrate the potential to eliminate pollutant loading from runoff to the Los Angeles River.
- Inspire the creation of systems and policies that will facilitate similar efforts in the region.

The Stakeholder Steering Committee has created a list of Goals and Objectives for the Plan. These will provide a framework for our assessment and Plan development, and will assist us in identifying a detailed set of strategies for Plan Implementation.

The next column contains a list of the main goals.

For the complete list of the Goals & Objectives, please visit our Website at: www.tujungawash.org and download the document from the GET INVOLVED section.

THE PLANS' GOALS

Overarching goal: To revitalize the Tujunga Watershed, balancing water supply, water quality, community openspace needs, environmental protection and restoration, and public safety

- Optimize Local Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water
- Improve Surface Water & Groundwater Quality
- Restore Hydrologic Function to the Watershed while Maintaining Public Safety
- Enhance Quality, Quantity and Connectivity of Native Terrestrial and Riparian Habitats
- Improve and Increase a Network of Public Open Space
- Create Green Transit Linkages and Recreational Access
- Promote Watershed Awareness & Increase Stewardship through Public Outreach and Education
- Implement Watershed-based Planning and Projects
- Improve Collaboration among all Agencies, Organizations & Communities in the Watershed

GET INVOLVED!



Our Steering Committee meets on a monthly basis the first Tuesday of the month. Our calendar of meetings and workshops is posted on our website at: www.tujungawash.org.

If you live in the watershed we need your input, your vision and energy to help move this process forward successfully. We are also looking for historical information about the watershed. If you have stories, pictures or other information you can share we us, please let us know.