

Post Event Summary



Event: WaterTalks Program Kick-Off

IRWM Region	Greater LA County	Date and Time	4/27/2019 9:00:00 AM
Community Engagement Partner	TreePeople	Location	Chelsey Park 6531 Albany Street Huntington Park, CA 90255
Event Facilitator Contact	Carlos Moran	Community Attendance	32
Event Facilitator Contact Email	cmoran@treepeople.org	Agency/Elected Attendance	Central Basin MWD

Description:

WaterTalks education was combined with a community tree-planting of 23 parkway trees; attendees were primarily late teens from the immediate area, of hispanic/latino background, with 5-10 adults. Day kicked off with welcome from the Huntington Park Mayor, and short remarks by TreePeople to introduce WaterTalks to participants. All participants went on 1 of 3 short eco-tours looking at local urban water infrastructure, sources of water for the HP area, groundwater recharge, potential for infiltration and impermeable surfaces and covering practical examples of stormwater flow from houses, nuisance flooding and storm drain litter. Finally, connection was made between the water topics and the value of urban trees (stormwater capture, groundwater recharge). Participants were then trained in tree planting and safety, broken into small groups led by trained supervisors, and spent 2 hours planting 23 trees along a residential sidewalk parkway. Tour leaders were also involved in supervising planting groups and were listening for examples of people connecting tree planting to urban water; most noted was participants realizing there is an aquifer under their city which they depend on for water. Two observers (graduate level candidates from USC School of Social Work) engaged participants in conversations during and after tree planting (notes attached). Overall, TreePeople was very pleased with the level of involvement and the impact of education for participants.

Questions / Comments:

Audience was at least moderately engaged during the tour, and especially noted evidence of water travel (drains, gutters, a local water tower) as well as trash and odor at storm drains. Engagement in water issues increased during the tree planting people made the physical connection between their actions and benefits to water in their community.

Photo:

