

# Training Event Summary

## Event: Open Space Restoration Tour

<b>Intended Audience</b>	Community organizations and leaders	<b>Date and Time</b>	2023.05.27 9:30-11:30am
<b>Producer / Facilitator</b>	TreePeople	<b>Event Format</b>	In person
<b>IRWM Region</b>	Upper Santa Clara River	<b>Number of Participants</b>	20

### Event Summary:

This tour was a companion event for the June 22 online workshop focused on Open Space Restoration, and its impact on watershed health, fire ecology, and climate (change). TreePeople’s Mountain Forestry Program Manager Alyssa Walker led participants on a tour through the San Francisquito Canyon restoration site to see areas restored after the 2002 Copper Fire. Several local partners joined us from the SCV Environmental Coalition, Sierra Club, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Transition Habitat. TreePeople’s Mountain Forestry team, with the help of volunteers, began restoring the site in 2018 with a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The site was once full of non-native grasses, clover, and mustard but now is home to native chaparral vegetation with shrubs close to 8 feet tall and 10 feet wide! Most of the plants have gone to seed and have multiplied to create hundreds of additional naturally regenerated plants. With the long, wet winter we had this past season, the native wildflowers were in full bloom and the riparian habitat was thriving with a creek full of running water and native amphibians.

Through the tour, participants learned that restoring this area was critical to the health of the watershed, as the creek feeds into the Santa Clara River and will recharge our groundwater. The group discussed how climate change caused severe weather patterns, such as heavy rains, but we can still expect a severe wildfire season because invasive plants also thrive in these conditions. Reinstalling native trees, shrubs, and grasses helped bring back a functioning watershed and made the area less fire-prone overall.

