



TREEPEOPLE

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How Google Earth Technology is Creating a Greener Street!

TreePeople's Citizen Foresters Use Modern Tech to Solve Tree Loss

LOS ANGELES, CA [January 25, 2019] — Kathryn Welch Howe and Marnie Bodek are L.A. County residents who were inspired by a TreePeople Citizen Forestry Workshop to address tree loss in their neighborhood of Holmby Westwood.

By partnering with the Geography Department of nearby UCLA, the students were able to help Kathryn and Marnie map and analyze the tree canopy coverage of their neighborhood using Google Earth technology. This unique approach allowed them to build a tree inventory for the area as well as identify how many trees have disappeared in the course of 100 years. The students determined that 300 trees were gone, over 15% of the parkway trees. The significant tree loss is attributed to the removal of dead trees.

Based on the data, Kathryn and Marnie formed a *Holmby Westwood Green Team*, which is focused on replenishing the neighborhood tree canopy and educating community members to appreciate the neighborhood trees and care for these precious resources, which provide shade and fresh air. In addition, the team is partnering with TreePeople to help plant the missing trees on their parkways - starting first on Malcolm and Manning Avenues. This Saturday, January 26, TreePeople and the *Holmby Westwood Green Team* in partnership with City Plants planted the first 13 trees; and wherever possible, TreePeople will be replacing missing trees with original heritage trees for the neighborhood parkways.

Additionally, TreePeople is working with the team to develop a master plan based on the Google Earth data to green the entire neighborhood parkway in order to create a space for future generations to enjoy.

About TreePeople

TreePeople unites the power of trees, people, and nature-based solutions to grow more climate-resilient and water-secure communities as the region faces extreme weather, historic drought and a hotter, drier future. The organization inspires, engages, and supports people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, facilitates collaboration among public agencies and business, and promotes leadership in grassroots volunteers, youth and communities. In this way, TreePeople seeks to build a powerful and diverse coalition to grow a greener, healthier and more water-secure Los Angeles for present and future generations.

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