



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Riverside Celebrates Planting of 1,000th New Tree in Eastside Neighborhood

Partnership with the non-profit organization TreePeople and Eastside residents adds new shade and addresses air pollution in one of the City's oldest neighborhoods.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The City of Riverside in partnership with the California Strategic Growth Council, the urban greening non-profit TreePeople, and Eastside neighborhood residents, planted the 1,000th new tree today (5/11) in one of the City's oldest neighborhoods.

“What an incredible milestone for the Eastside neighborhood,” said Councilmember Clarissa Cervantes, who represents the area. “Trees help give shade to neighborhoods and make them more inviting to walk, play, and explore. The planting of 1,000 trees is also due to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers and TreePeople who are dedicated to making the Eastside community better. Eastside residents and volunteers have worked hard to meet this goal!”

Part of an ongoing collaboration with the State of California's Strategic Growth Council under its Transformative Climate Communities Implementation Grant Program, this 1,000th tree is an important milestone to meeting an overall goal of planting of 2,000 trees in the greater Eastside neighborhood. These trees are a combination of “street trees” in the public right-of-way and “shade trees” that are planted on private property.

The planting of 1,000 new trees in the Eastside is part of a series of urban greening and smart growth projects funded in 2021 under the California Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities Implementation Grant Program (TCC Grant).

The TCC grant, now in its final year of operation, also funded street traffic safety improvements, energy and water conservation, workforce development, and assisted in funding the 65-unit La Entrada affordable housing project located at the corner of 7th and Chicago Streets.

The Nature Conservancy notes that cities are losing approximately four million trees each year, mainly through disinvestment. But trees have great value to neighborhoods. The U.S. Forest Service

estimates that the value of a tree in shade, energy savings, reduced noise, increased property values and improved quality of life is almost \$4,000 annually.

“Cities need trees! They are important tools for combating heat and making our community more livable,” Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson said. “Riverside is reversing a nationwide trend by increasing the number of trees in our city, making our neighborhoods cooler, greener and more beautiful.”

The ceremonial 1,000th tree was planted at Riverside Faith Temple, 2355 Pennsylvania Avenue. The event also included a neighborhood resource fair and the ability to “adopt” a free fruit tree.

The City of Riverside is known as a “City of Trees” with an estimated 1.5 million trees and growing citywide, according to the City’s Urban Forester, Robert Filiar. In 2024, the City was awarded \$1 million from the U.S. Forest Service to inventory all trees in the City. During the past 20 years, Riverside Public Utilities Tree Power Program has helped plant 270,000 trees in Riverside.

Trees and urban forests beautify the landscape and enhance the quality of life for residents. The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Riverside as a “Tree City, USA” since 1987 in honor of the care provided for its trees.