

TEST PLOT

COMMUNITY-BASED LANDCARE



CAL-IPC
OCTOBER 15 2024
LIGHTING TALK

JEN TOY
@TEST_PLOT

first Test Plots at Elysian Park in Los Angeles started by TERREMOTO (2019)

WHAT ARE TEST PLOTS?



Elephant Hill Test Plot in El Sereno, Los Angeles (2022)



Community workday, April 2024

PLOT EXAMPLE: ELEPHANT HILL



PLOTS:
BALDWIN HILLS



PLOTS:
RIO DE LOS ANGELES STATE PARK



"Just planted" Spring 2021

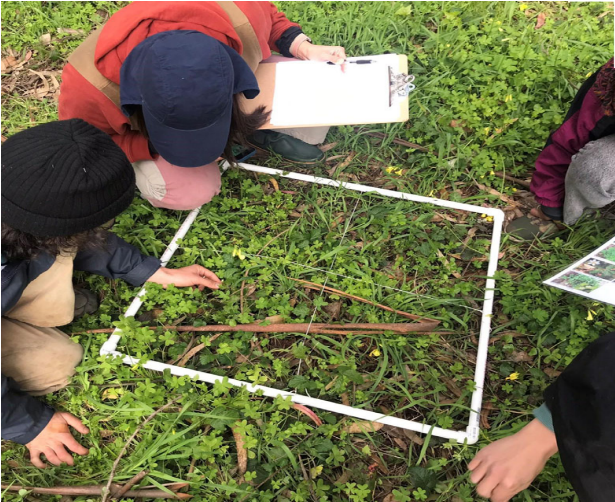


Winter 2023

NOVEL ECOSYSTEMS ARE INCREASINGLY THE NORM



TEST PLOT AS LIVING LABORATORY



LANDCARE TESTS



PLANTING
TESTS



STEWARDSHIP TESTS



Annual Test Plot potluck + sharing session

[Home](#) [People](#) [Website](#) [Insta](#)

TEST PLOT log

SUMMER 2023

FIELD MOMENTS
by Hannah Pae

IT'S RAINING OAKS
by Joey Farewell, Jen Toy

SPRING 2023

OUR SECRET SUPERBLOOM
by Jenny Jones

RAINBOW RIVER AT ELYSIAN
by Dani Vonlehe, Jenny Jones, Dante Inguinez

VERTICAL MULCH UPDATE
by Nina Weithorn

SPRING AT DEBS
by Adrian Tenney

WHAT'S IN BLOOM AT BALDWIN
by Arely Media Perez

WINTER 2022-23

ELEPHANT HILL RAINS
by Joey Farewell

VALENTINE'S DAY AT RIO
by Daniela Velazco

What is the update on your work?

- We have planted 4 sections
- Rabbits and other animals have eaten some things like the Buckwheat
- A few plants have been removed
- Overall everything is doing really well
- We planted lots of things in gopher cages that were handmade, so the cages go about 12" above ground
- March 3 we cut the wire away from some of the plants that had started growing through their cages

Did you sheet mulch?

One of our 4 sections was sheet mulched with cardboard and mulch. So far it has been really successful in

What are you learning?

- Test Plot became an extension to Audubon center's restoration work in Debs Park. It also provided a physical location for students (New Village Girls Academy) to experience hands-on learning by planting native plants and getting their hands in the soil.
- There's a lot of value in being invited into an existing community organization because we were able to connect with students we wouldn't have otherwise had a link to.
- Audubon had established resources including nursery/locally sourced seeds, tools, mulch and a volunteer list that we were able to access.
- Coordinating between multiple groups for the volunteer events

Establishing regular volunteer maintenance schedule

Successes & failures so far?

- Still pretty early to tell
- We planted some shade-tolerant plants under a SNAG (dead tree) that has since been removed to our surprise, so we will see if those understory plants can survive the summer
- The Elderberry is growing more slowly than expected
- The Toyons and Sages are growing fast
- Some of the nice labels installed have been kicked around by the public

Wildlife?

- Lots of birds!

[Elysian](#)

[Rio de Los Angeles](#)

[Baldwin Hills](#)

[USC](#)

[Debs](#)

[Elephant Hill](#)

[San Bruno Mtn](#)

[Kelp](#)



PLOTS



URBAN SUPERBLOOMS



ELYSIAN PARK / LOS ANGELES



RIO DE LOS ANGELES STATE PARK



DEBS PARK / LOS ANGELES



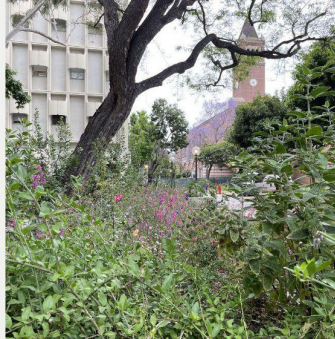
ELEPHANT HILL / LOS ANGELES



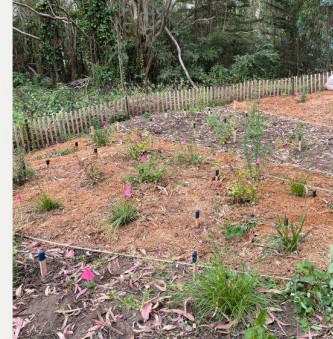
GREEN RAVINE / CATALINA / CHANNEL ISLANDS



BALDWIN HILLS / LOS ANGELES



USC CAMPUS / LOS ANGELES



EUCALYPTUS UNDERSTORY / SAN BRUNO MTN / DALY CITY



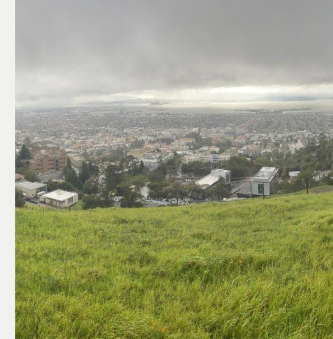
STARR KING / SAN FRANCISCO



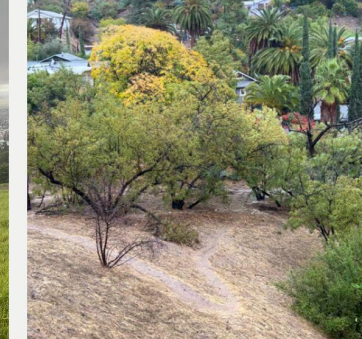
PUENTE HILLS / SAN GABRIEL VALLEY



ETHNOBOTANICAL / LOS ANGELES



OHLONE OTTOY HILLSIDE / BERKELEY



RAINBOW CANYON / LOS ANGELES

OUR GUIDING
PRINCIPLES

CULTIVATE BIODIVERSITY + BEAUTY
HANDS IN THE SOIL, THE LAND NEEDS LABORERS
LO-TECH, LOW BUDGET
CLIMATE-RESILIENT PLANTING
CLOSED LOOPS
EXPERIMENTATION IS GOOD, PERMISSION TO FAIL
DESIGN THROUGH MAINTENANCE
RESEARCH + LEARN, SHARED KNOWLEDGE
DIVERSE LAND ETHICS

@TEST_PLOT

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