



**NATURE  
FOR ALL**

PROTECT • CREATE • CONNECT

# 2017

## IMPACT REPORT





**Nature For All** builds a diverse base of support to ensure that everyone in the Los Angeles area —no matter where they live—has equitable access to nature and all its benefits.



We advocate for policies and programs that will:



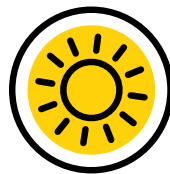
## PROTECT

the mountains and rivers in our area, to conserve habitat and water resources and be more climate-resilient.



## CREATE

more natural spaces, such as parks and bike paths, in our historically underserved neighborhoods.



## CONNECT

people to public lands through more trails and other outdoor recreational opportunities, to improve public health.

### Members of Nature For All



Nature For All, formerly San Gabriel Mountains Forever, is best known as the coalition which built support for the San Gabriel National Monument established by President Obama in 2014.

### From the Executive Director

**In 2008**, a group of national and statewide environmental organizations and smaller local community-based groups came together as San Gabriel Mountains Forever to fight to get federal legislation to protect the San Gabriel Mountains.

In 2014, we were successful: President Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. It was an amazing victory for our members and for everyone in the greater Los Angeles area.

It also gave us the momentum to broaden our efforts to connect more Angelenos with nature. To build on this momentum, we relaunched our coalition earlier this year with an expanded vision and a new name: Nature For All!

**Our mission is to build a diverse base of support for ensuring that everyone in the Los Angeles area - no matter where they live - has equitable access to the wide range of benefits that nature can provide.**

The San Gabriel Mountains Forever program will continue as part of Nature For All's work with a direct focus on federal legislation to protect the San Gabriel Mountains.

We're excited about what the next year holds for us – and invite you to join us!

**Belinda Faustinos**  
Executive Director | Nature For All



## What's New as Nature For All

### OUR STATUS

We are now a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Our fiscal sponsor is Community Partners.

### OUR LOCATION

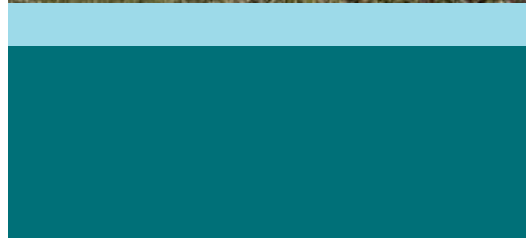
We opened a new – and green! – office at the Jeff Seymour Family Center, where we share office space with BikeSGV. Special thanks to Amigos de los Rios for leading the effort, which includes a bike pump track, beautiful native plants, cool surfaces, and bioswales.

### OUR TEAM

We've hired three full-time staff members, including Belinda Faustinos, Executive Director; Omar Gomez, Program Manager; and Amy J. Wong, Coalition Coordinator.



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# Transit to Parks and Trails

Through our Transit to Parks and Trails program, we work to provide Angelenos with public transit connections to parks and open spaces.

### Our efforts involve:

- Advocating for green transportation policy outcomes in Los Angeles through the EnviroMetro coalition.
- Working closely with key partners, stakeholders and community groups to find new ways to increase access to our parks and open spaces.

## 2017 Impact

### Implementing Measure A (parks) and Measure M (transportation)

In 2016, Los Angeles voters passed a transportation ballot measure (Measure M) and a parks ballot measure (Measure A). Nature For All members have been attending meetings to discuss Measure A implementation grant guidelines and strategies for community engagement and working with the EnviroMetro coalition on ways to advance sustainability and access plans.

### Supporting the Need for Community Transit in the San Gabriel Mountains

Nature For All members attended U.S. Forest Service Transportation Collaborative meeting to speak in support of community transit programs for the San Gabriel Mountains. Nature For All is providing consultant services to Metro on the Transit to Park Plan policy which we helped to secure through a board action.





# San Gabriel Mountains Forever

Through our San Gabriel Mountains Forever program, we advocate for and organize on behalf of federal legislation and policies that protect and improve access to the San Gabriel Mountains, foothills, and rivers.

## Our efforts involve:

- Enhancing, developing and restoring our forests, foothills, parks, watersheds and river parkways.
- Safeguarding our water supply.
- Keeping our air and water clean and defending them against climate change.
- Working with agencies and cities to improve access to traditionally underserved communities.

## 2017 Impact

### Protecting Our Backyard: the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

When President Trump directed Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to review national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act, including the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Nature For All jumped into action.

- We collected and submitted over 5000 public comments to the Department of Interior in support of our monument.
- We traveled to Sacramento and Washington, DC in June to rallies in support of protection for our public lands and national monuments.
- In late August, we hosted a rally that featured elected officials from our area who support the protection of the monument, including Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Adam Schiff, Congressman Jimmy Gomez, and El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero.



“We cannot have decades of hard work signed away with a stroke of a pen.”  
**Hilda Solis**  
 Los Angeles County Supervisor

“These areas are some of the last remaining wild places in the region. These designations provide the highest form of protections in order for these areas to remain as they are for future generations.”  
**Daniel Rossman**  
 Nature For All member and senior regional representative for The Wilderness Society

## Introducing New Legislation to Protect Wilderness and Rivers

Congresswoman Judy Chu introduced the San Gabriel Mountains Forever Act. The legislation, cosponsored by Congressman Adam Schiff, will protect 31,069 acres of wilderness – including two new areas, the Yerba Buena and Condor Peak Wilderness – and will also designate 45.3 miles of wild rivers.

## Management Plan

Nature For All and many of our member organizations have provided significant input during the creation of San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan. We submitted independent comment letters and we were also involved in developing and submitting a letter on behalf of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative, a set of diverse set of stakeholders that includes some groups who were initially opposed to the monument designation. As a result, Congresswoman Chu recognized the work of the Community Collaborative with a Congressional Leadership Award.

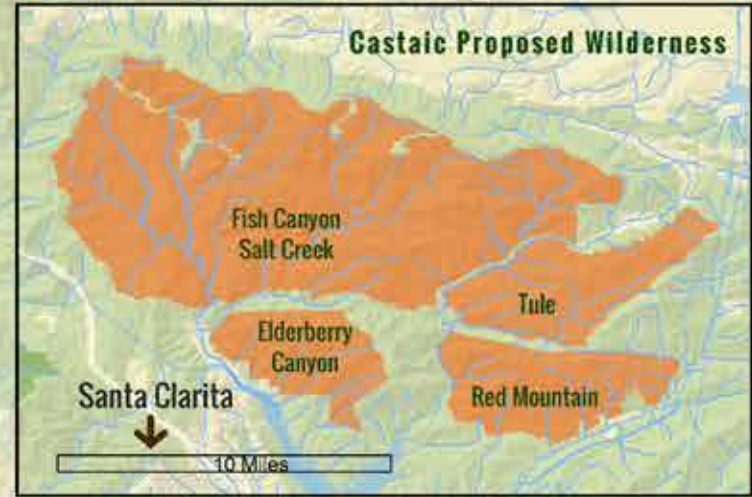
The plan was scheduled to be released in October 2017, but has not been issued to date. Nature For All will continue to mobilize our volunteers and members to provide feedback to the Forest Service to ensure that critical components of the Plan remain intact.



“We are here because our beloved San Gabriel Mountains National Monument is being threatened.”  
**Judy Chu**  
 Congresswoman



# NATURE FOR ALL VISION MAP



Data: USGS, USFS, CPAD, Wilderness Society, LA County



- Project Locations
- San Gabriel National Monument
- Wilderness
- Proposed Wilderness Additions
- Proposed Wild and Scenic River
- Proposed Natl. Mon. Expansion
- Proposed Natl. Rec. Area
- Parks and Protected Lands





# Community Base-Building & Leadership Development

Through this program, we are working to build a diverse legacy of stewardship by empowering supporters and volunteers in underserved communities to take action on parks, water and transit issues that impact their communities and families.

## Our efforts involve:

- Developing environmental leaders with our Leadership Academy which has more than 100 graduates.
- Connecting and engaging volunteers and activists who can help with our outreach and advocacy efforts in the community, especially on parks, water and transit policies.
- Building an emerging leaders program that is flexible for volunteers who are not able to commit to the Leadership Academy.



## The Nature For All Leadership Academy

The Leadership Academy was launched 6 years ago – and in that short time, we have graduated 12 classes and 121 environmental leaders. Academy graduates have successfully completed 54 community engagement projects around Los Angeles, in the San Gabriel Valley and in the San Fernando Valley.

### Congratulations to our 2017 graduates!

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Rebecca Contreras  | Christina Harrington |
| Edward Duong       | Joel Phillip Glen    |
| Liliana Griego     | Cristina Plemel      |
| Karen Gutierrez    | Melina Simonds       |
| Araceli Hernandez  | Adrienne Wade        |
| Angela Miramontes  | Alejandra Sandoval   |
| Jasmine Mowgood    | Sofia Aleman         |
| Art Moy            | Yuhki Fukusumi       |
| Jeanette Ramirez   | Alain Bourgault      |
| Daniel Ramli       | Erika Martinez       |
| Payton Robinson    | Michael C Gasbarro   |
| Maricela Rosales   | Kathy Ramos          |
| Brian Velez        | Sally Gee            |
| Dorothy "Dot" Wong | Krystle N. Ramos     |

### Leadership Academy Graduates



*"I was so excited from the momentum to make a difference... I took the opportunity to do so in my community and ran for Altadena Town Council — and much on the grounds of protecting open space and the environment. People rallied in support and I got out there to meet and speak to my neighbors about their concerns. I worked all the way up to the last minutes of the election and as a result got the highest votes!"*

**Dorothy Wong**  
2017 Leadership Academy graduate

*"I was surprised at the level of achievement I felt after completing my project and the Leadership Academy program. It felt so good to successfully complete both. And the impact it has made on my life was a surprise — it keeps on giving."*

**Megan Devine**  
2014 Leadership Academy graduate

*"I was given the opportunity to speak on a panel that brought different perspectives on how national monuments benefit different communities. Speakers addressed how beneficial monuments can be in terms of archeological preservation, growth of the local economy, and providing opportunities for urban youth to experience nature for the first time."*

**Liliana Griego**  
2017 Leadership Academy graduate

*"Even after the trip [to Washington, D.C.] ended, I continued thinking about the impact that our projects have on the communities that we live in. I am thinking about the incredible opportunity we were given to represent our communities and actually show Congress members how essential the San Gabriel Mountains are to the residents of the Los Angeles County."*

**Michelle Okawa**  
2016 Leadership Academy graduate



# A Commitment to Access & Environmental Justice for All

Access to the great outdoors – to wild, open and green space – should be available to all Angelenos, regardless of race, color, national origin, or socioeconomic levels, in accordance with environmental and health justice laws and principles.

**Along with our three core programs, Nature For All also supports efforts to:**

- Provide access for all Angelenos to nature.
- Create and improve urban parks, greenways and recreational visitor facilities.
- Engage diverse communities and stakeholders in all of our efforts.
- Secure funding and develop programs that promote equal access and environmental justice principles.



# Snapshots from our work in 2017 include



Celebrating the third anniversary of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument at Eaton Canyon with Cortada Elementary students and volunteers, friends and supporters.



Hosting two Convert-a-Can events where community members helped to paint trash receptacles at the West Fork trailhead and at the Azusa hub.



Taking a field trip to three potential sites for improving visitor access, including Fish Canyon, Piru Creek, and Sand Canyon.



Holding Earth Day celebrations all over Los Angeles, including a Spring Into Action event in Montebello with Congresswoman Hilda Solis; the grand opening of the Los Angeles State Historic Park; and U.S. Forest Service's Volunteer Day at the Chantry Flat Recreation Area.



Hosting an educational bike tour of the San Gabriel River which educated over 30 female riders on our watershed areas and highlighted the four dam systems along the San Gabriel River.



Setting up booths in Arcadia, Azusa and South Pasadena during the 626 Golden Streets event where 100,000 people came out to walk and bike through the streets of San Gabriel Valley.



Gathering comments for the State Water Resources Control Board about adopting protective regulations on harmful suction dredge mining that may return to the East Fork San Gabriel River.



# Community Engagement: By the Numbers

**135**

Number of community events we have attended

**702**

Community members brought to public meetings

**6,449**

Number of native plants/shrubs we planted

**100**

Kids taken to/guided in parks for Every Kid in a Park initiative

**27**

Leadership Academy graduates working in the environmental space

**2,955**

Number of community members we led on hikes

**5,065**

Number of letters of support  
**39** from elected officials and **55** were from businesses

**849**

Students we brought to the mountains for recreational/educational activities

**110**

Community members who attended FS meetings for the East Fork Project

**750**

Number of public comments collected for East Fork Project

**39**

Leadership Academy graduates

**18**

Leadership Academy projects

## Our Member Organizations at Work

**3,920**

Volunteers we brought to events

**3,800**

Volunteers at restoration events

**1,125**

Community members we led on bike rides

**926**

Number of trees planted

Total number of people impacted **27,064**

# Looking Ahead

As we head into 2018, Nature For All will continue our work to build a diverse base of support to ensure that everyone in the Los Angeles area —no matter where they live—has equitable access to nature and all its benefits.



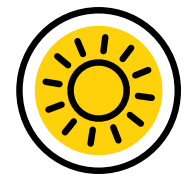
## PROTECT

- Developing a campaign plan to ensure strong support from the Greater LA region to protect public lands and open spaces for generations to come.
- Showing strong public support for permanently protecting the San Gabriel Mountains and River so that our elected officials will continue to make them a priority.
- Supporting projects and programs which will protect our natural resources including habitat and water which can help us achieve a climate resilient ecosystem.



## CREATE

- Developing a water campaign to educate and engage communities in efforts to ensure that Los Angeles County develops multi-benefit stormwater programs to ensure clean, safe and affordable drinking water, recreation and a strong water future for Los Angeles.
- Building strong and vocal community engagement programs to increase access to new and improved parks and greenways through private, local, state and federal funding programs.



## CONNECT

- Launching a pilot program to operate shuttle service from high need communities to open space.
- Developing a plan to increase the base of volunteers who support Nature For All's mission.
- Continuing efforts to expand opportunities to access nature and our river systems.
- Supporting improvement projects such as East Fork improvements in the SGM National Monument.
- Working with Metro, county and cities to develop transportation services that can connect riders from existing transportation stations to trails and open spaces.



**Nature For All is forever grateful to our funding partners:**

- California Community Foundation
- Resources Legacy Fund
- Water Foundation

We sincerely thank our individual and anonymous donors who have played such an important role over the years in helping to grow and inspire the conservation community of Southern California.



**NATURE FOR ALL**

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**For more information, please contact:**  
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**Support us by donating at:**  
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