



# NATURE FOR ALL

## 2019 IMPACT REPORT



**PROTECT  
CREATE  
CONNECT**





Nature for All's mission is to build a diverse base of support to ensure that everyone in the Los Angeles area has equitable access to the wide range of benefits that nature provides. We're committed to building support to protect and create access to our forests, rivers, and parks, and developing a new diverse generation of environmental leaders and stewards who connect to, and care for, our public lands.

We advocate for policies, projects and programs that will:



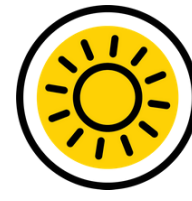
## Protect

the mountains and rivers in our area, to conserve habitat and water resources, and to 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 transit access programs and improved recreation facilities, which will lead to better public health.

## Nature for All Coalition Members



day one



# From the Executive Director and Chair

Nature for All experienced a banner year in 2019 across all four of our program areas. For the first time in five years, the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Rivers Protection Act has been heard in committee by the House—a major milestone that will help position the legislation to be voted on by the full House in early 2020. With the tremendous support from our local community members, elected officials, businesses and civic leaders, we are optimistic about the success of both of these bills.

This also marked our first full year of an expanded curriculum for the Leadership Academy, under the direction of our own Araceli Hernandez. We are extremely proud of the diversity of the students, as well as the experiences they bring to the program. We also launched our Leadership Development Program into South East LA and the San Gabriel Valley regions after our tremendous success in the San Fernando Valley. We're proud of the recognition the program has received from community and public agency leaders for our active focus on serving park-poor LA County communities and empowering community members with knowledge and skills to become environmental advocates and community leaders.

We gained significant traction on building equal access to nature with our All Aboard for Nature program, and hosted one of our biggest events to date. The All Aboard for Nature event featured five trips to destinations throughout LA County, which connected more than 400 people to nature -- many for the first time! Our work focusing on getting elected officials to prioritize this issue paid off with the adoption of the Metro Transit to Parks Strategic Plan in July 2019. With the release of \$8 million in grant funds for the Recreation Access Program in LA County, Nature for All is well-positioned to implement a comprehensive program to connect underserved communities with nature. We have so much to look forward to in the new year, including our transition to becoming a full-fledged independent nonprofit with 501c3 status. We're grateful to Community Partners for supporting our growth and development and are excited about what this next chapter will bring. Our new Board of Directors, Thomas Wong, Casey Schreiner, Vanessa Aramayo and Charles Thomas are well positioned to lead us into our next chapter. We invite you to join us on this journey as we grow and nurture our staff, Board of Directors, partners, students and community relationships. Let's go, 2020 will be our decade of major social and environmental change in our region, led by Nature for All!

**BELINDA FAUSTINOS**

Executive Director

**THOMAS WONG**

Chair, Board of Directors

**ROBERTO MORALES**

Coalition Chair

**Belinda Faustinos**  
Executive Director  
**Omar Gomez**  
Program Manager  
**Araceli Hernandez**  
Program Organizer  
**Bryan Matsumoto**  
Program Organizer  
**Kimberly Orbe**  
Coalition Coordinator



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Our 2019 Impact

Pushing legislation to protect our public lands

Nature for All made huge gains in advancing the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and Rivers Protection Act (HR 2215), legislation to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, designate wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and a National Recreation Area, which would increase access for our communities. In April, Congresswoman Judy Chu reintroduced the bill in the House followed by a companion bill by Senator Kamala Harris (S1009). The Act has progressed further than ever before, with two critical hearings in the House Natural Resources Committee in 2019. We secured 24 co-authors for HR 2215 and collected 9,207 from individuals (and counting!), 74 from elected officials/commissioners, 30 from business, and 57 from nonprofit organizations.



Contributing to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Management Plan

We played a significant role in drafting the US Forest Service’s Plan for the national monument, which was approved in May 2019.

Supporting access programs and improved visitor services

We are now actively engaged with the Community Collaborative on an Action Plan that gives prioritization to programs committed to providing access to nature for park-poor communities and improving visitor services.

Defending federal environmental protections

We engaged our constituents about these issues and added our voice to ensure that critical protections of our public lands and laws governing environmental matters are sustained. We engaged on several other federal policies, including the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act, Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act, and SB 307, which defends Mojave Trails National Monument’s springs, groundwater, and wildlife.

"Our territory stretched from Malibu into Newport Beach, the Channel Islands into San Bernardino.... we still hold our ceremonies up there [in the San Gabriel Mountains]. My family holds a water ceremony that goes back 250 years."

—Josh Andujo, The Gabriellino Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians Leadership Academy graduate



Our 2020 Focus

- Maintain education and outreach efforts in support of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and the San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Rivers Protection Act (Act) with community members, civic leaders, elected officials, and businesses.
- Secure passage of the Act and approval by the Administration.
- Advance efforts to implement the Management Plan with an emphasis on access and visitor services.
- Find funding to address recreational access, water conservation and quality, forest health, climate resilience, and habitat protection.
- Continue engagement with our community at large on the defense of public lands and environmental protections.

Nature for All is providing Angelenos with transit connections to nature by advocating for policies and programs to advance access to parks, trails, and open spaces.



## Our 2019 Impact

### Connecting park-poor communities to nature with Measure M funds

We led the stakeholder engagement committee as a subcontractor on the Transit to Parks Strategic Plan, which was adopted by the Metro Board in May of 2019. The plan provides a blueprint for investment in public transit to connect park-poor communities to public parks. Also secured: an allocation of \$1M for implementation projects.

### Ensuring equitable investments in park-poor communities with Measure A funds

We were major contributors to the final grant guidelines for all five competitive grant programs, to ensure equitable investments in park-poor communities, access to public lands, protection of open space, trails, and the repair of existing facilities.

### Protecting our communities and capturing and cleaning our water with Measure W funds

We played a vital role in the development of policy recommendations as a lead contributor to the OurWaterLA coalition. The measure's implementation program was adopted in the Summer of 2019 and we secured a 110% investment in disadvantaged communities, and evaluation criteria for nature-based solutions and community investments.

## Our 2020 Focus

- Advance Measure M Plan implementation by working with Metro, cities, and other stakeholders, and secure ongoing funding/resources from Metro.
- Continue engagement on Measure A implementation policies, such as the Technical Assistance Program, implementation of the competitive grant programs, particularly as they impact resources for local parks and the San Gabriel Mountains.
- Continue engagement on Measure W implementation policies, through our role on the Regional Oversight Committee and OurWaterLA, with a focus on tracking community investments in disadvantaged communities using nature-based solutions.
- Secure funds for Proposition 68, with an emphasis on implementation of capital access program funding for projects, including Fish Canyon Falls and the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.
- Advocate for funding allocations to promote our priority programs and policies with the 2020 State legislative and budget sessions. Our focus will be on securing state level funding for the programmatic non-capital elements of a proposed robust access program.

Nature for All is providing safe, affordable, accessible routes of transit from communities to the San Gabriel Mountains, regional parks, cultural centers, and beaches.

## Our 2019 Impact

### Increasing access to public lands, improving personal and family health

We provided civic engagement training, supported by a grant from the Kaiser Foundation, for four high-need communities in the County. On Public Lands Day, we launched the All Aboard for Nature Program with a county-wide event that provided access to five destinations, including the San Gabriel Mountains, state and regional parks, and the beach.

### Bringing underserved communities to the San Gabriel Mountains

We developed pilot Community Transit shuttles in each supervisorial District to the San Gabriel Mountains with culturally relevant programming for 500 Angelenos.

### Empowering community members to advocate for sustainable transportation

We led a community transit program in four of the LA County districts to educate and empower participants into becoming advocates for the health of their communities, as a result of reliable transportation options to connect them to nature and the outdoors.



"Gracias por la oportunidad que nos dan para este paseo. Es la primera vez que visito este lugar. Gracias, Gracias, Gracias!"

—District 4 Participant,  
Community Transit Program

## Our 2020 Focus

- Continue our work with the County Board of Supervisors on developing this pilot program into a long-term sustainable access program based on community engagement with park-poor communities of color.
- Engage more community members to support and advocate making this a long-term program.
- Secure a Recreational Access Grant through Measure A competitive grant program funding.
- Tap the transportation and access funding from Measures M and A for shuttles from the Gold Line, community centers, and programming.
- Step up efforts to leverage collaboration with the private sector for implementation of these projects.







# NATURE FOR ALL VISION MAP



## Development

Nature For All is building a legacy of environmental leaders and stewardship by empowering underserved community members in the Los Angeles region to increase the equitable distribution of public funds to communities in need of parks, transit to parks, and water resiliency.

### Our 2019 Impact

#### Developing and empowering leaders across LA County

We expanded our Leadership Development Program and implemented it in three target regions: the San Fernando Valley, South East LA and the San Gabriel Valley. Nature for All has developed an educational curriculum to provide orientation presentations, Community Base-Building educational trainings, Leadership Development trainings, and Train of Trainers to offer community members a wide variety of engagement opportunities based on their time capacity, levels of interest, and knowledge of the issues.

In 2019, we offered:

- 18 community orientations, with 490 participants
- 12 Community Base Building trainings, with 177 participants
- 3 Leadership Development trainings, with 61 participants
- 1 Train of Trainers training, with 12 graduates

#### 2019-2020 Goals for Community Base- Building

9,000 community members to be informed on campaign

6,000 community members to sign petition at tabling events or online

600 community members to attend Nature For All orientation

150 community members to attend 4 weeks of community base-building training

90 community members to attend 6-week Leadership Development training

20 community members to attend Train of Trainers

### Our 2020 Focus

- Build on the success of our first year, with participants, leaders, and trainers achieving deeper levels of engagement and incorporate program adaptations for new participants in all three regions.
- Collaborate with other organizations and groups to synergize our efforts and share best practices for community engagement to improve our environment and community health.



# Leadership Academy

Nature For All is continuing to educate and empower environmental stewards with our leadership program.

## Our 2019 Impact

### Educating, developing and encouraging environmental stewards

We had 26 graduates in two cohorts of our Leadership Academy program.

### Caring for our public lands and connecting with community members

2019 community projects included Tania Romeros's "Rooted Together," Carly Curiel's "Mindfulness Campout," Miguel Ramos's "Hahamongna Bike Journey," and Josh Andujo's "Survival In the Wild."

### Advocating for the protection and enhancement of our mountains, forests, rivers, parks and urban open spaces

Leadership Academy participants joined us on a trip to Washington, D.C. and met with more than a dozen local elected officials.



## Our History

Since 2011, the Leadership Academy has graduated more than 195 participants from diverse backgrounds:

- 76% identify as low-income
- 68% identify as women
- 7% identify as Latino
- 89% identify as BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color)

Academy graduates have successfully executed 90+ community engagement projects around Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley, and in the San Fernando Valley, from educational bike tours of the watershed area to painting trash receptacles along the West and East forks of the San Gabriel River.

"The Nature for All Leadership Academy provided me with a great foundation from which to engage in community-based environmental advocacy work."

—Mika Perron,  
Leadership Academy graduate

## Our 2020 Focus

- Expand our curriculum and partnerships.
- Continue to lead the way!



# NATURE FOR ALL STEWARDS

Nature for All is supporting the Stewards, our diverse and active volunteer group, which includes alumni of our Leadership Academy.

## Our 2019 Impact

### Engaging the community in conservation efforts

We supported stewards Joel Glen and Reina Duran in the East Fork Golden Preservation Project, a bi-monthly River clean-up event that has collected more than 8,000 pounds (and counting!) of trash from Rivers in the San Gabriel Mountains.

### Educating the public on the issues of access to our open space, environmental justice and civic participation

We supported steward Brenda Kyle who hosted 'Paseo por la Naturaleza', a naturalist-led nature walk at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, which was presented in Spanish. We participated in the second annual Haramokngna Spring Festival to celebrate indigenous people, the Yucca whipplei, and the San Gabriel Mountains, with workshops, demonstrations, hikes, and music.

### Caring for our public lands

The stewards provided a yoga class with an advocacy component focused on learning how to protect the San Gabriel Mountains.

"Being in a circle of like-minded individuals such as the Stewards allows me to contribute to the Nature for All mission of providing access to youth and families to the great outdoors."

—Remi Mateo,  
current steward and  
Leadership Academy graduate



## Our 2020 Focus

- Re-engagement of past Leadership Academy alumni to grow our ranks.
- Host more hikes and outings, including Snow Play in the San Gabriel Mountains, linked to policy actions and environmental education.
- Team up with Heal the Bay to engage the community in the first-ever Rio Hondo River Cleanup.



Left to right: Congresswoman Judy Chu at our Earth Day event, sharing news of the re-introduction of our San Gabriel Mountains Foothills and River Act; participating in Latino Conservation Week; our inaugural All Aboard for Nature event; National Trails Day hike and clean-up.



Left to right: Leadership Academy; Leadership Academy Project; Leadership Development Community Breakfast; 626 Golden Streets.



Left to right: Josh Andujo from Leadership Academy Cohort 16 with Congresswoman Chu during a Washington, D.C. lobby trip for our bill's mark-up hearing in the House of Natural Resources Committee; Nature for All staff, Coalition members and Forest Service partners at the San Gabriel Mountains Monument Anniversary; engaging community members at our 626 Golden Streets table for the open streets event.

# IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

## Nature for All

740 PARTICIPANTS  
IN ALL LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMS



163 VOLUNTEERS/STAFF  
TABLED AT COMMUNITY  
EVENTS



9,207 PETITIONS AND  
LETTERS COLLECTED



174 VOLUNTEERS/STAFF  
WHO ATTENDED MEETINGS  
WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS



400+ PARTICIPANTS  
ENGAGED AT ALL  
ABOARD FOR NATURE!  
MORNING FESTIVAL



26 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
GRADUATES



37 NATURE FOR ALL  
HIKES IN THE SAN  
GABRIEL MOUNTAINS



450+ RIDERS ON 5 GUIDED  
TRANSIT TO PARKS  
ADVENTURES, MANY FOR  
THEIR FIRST TIME



Nature for All cannot thank our supporters enough. We are committed to this work because we are passionate about people and the environment, and we could not accomplish what we do alone. Every day, we find inspiration from the encounters we have with the community, our promos, Leadership Academy students, stewards, colleagues, and funders.

We have an unprecedented opportunity in Los Angeles County to make a real difference in people’s daily lives. Together, we can improve the overall health of our communities socially, physically, and mentally. To continue to succeed, we must remain vigilant and ensure that the public’s trust in us, and our policy leaders, is upheld.

Our critical work is dependent on collaborating with our colleagues in the coalitions to which we belong: OurWaterLA, EnviroMetro, OurParks, ParksNow, Prop68, and Statewide Access Coalition. We draw inspiration from one another’s work and are boosted by the knowledge that our collective impact will result in lasting justice and social change to support park-poor communities of color.

We invite you to join us in the effort at whatever level you can participate. Join our member organizations at regular events, follow us on social media to learn how you can celebrate, and enjoy the wide range of Nature for All activities by visiting our website: [www.lanatureforall.org](http://www.lanatureforall.org). We are grateful to our funding partners:

- **Anonymous Donor**
- **Garfield Foundation**
- **Kaiser Foundation**
- **Resources Legacy Fund**
- **Water Foundation**



Contracts with Metro and Regional Park and Open Space District also provided the opportunity to work on matters of mutual interest, the Metro Transit to Parks Plan and Measure A community meetings. One of our major donors, who prefers to remain anonymous, must be acknowledged for playing a vital role over the years in helping to grow and inspire the conservation community of Southern California, particularly for all of us in the San Gabriel Mountains and watershed. Thank you all! 2019 was a banner year, and we expect 2020 to provide even more opportunities for positive impact.



# NATURE FOR ALL

PROTECT • CREATE • CONNECT



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For more information or to support our efforts, please email our Coalition Coordinator at [contact@lanatureforall.org](mailto:contact@lanatureforall.org) or visit our website, [www.lanatureforall.org](http://www.lanatureforall.org)