



2022 IMPACT REPORT

ALL ABOARD FOR NATURE!





NATURE FOR ALL

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.

A message from Our Executive Director and Board Chair

When we reflect back on 2022, we expressed gratitude for being able to spend time together outdoors. It is fitting that some of our biggest accomplishments this year are in making sure that community members have the access and connections to spend time in nature.

Our All Aboard for Nature trips were among the year's highlights. We are proud of our programs that bring much-needed time in nature, with wellness-focused trips, and training for community members to learn more about public land protection, how to recreate with respect, water and climate resilience, access to open parks, and how we can all take part in greening our communities.

This year, we expanded our programs, grew our staff, extended our reach to additional regions within Los Angeles County! We continued to enrich our relationships with partners and collaborators while working with community members daily. We are excited for even more growth in 2023!



Belén Bernal, Executive Director



Thomas Wong, Board Chair

Our Focus

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 historically underserved communities to nature through leadership development programs, advocacy, and transit-to-trails projects. We also connect and build LA County's next generation of diverse environmental stewards!

Our Actions

- Train community members and youth to become advocates in their communities, and environmental stewards and leaders
- Protect our public lands and natural resources, and fight climate change for this and future generations
- Work to connect more people, especially those from historically underserved communities, to our public lands and open spaces via transit-to-trails and park initiatives
- Create more opportunities for community members to learn more about nature, their local parks, trails and connections

THE CHALLENGE



OUR WORK

We need diverse community leaders and environmental stewards.

51% of Los Angeles residents do not have a public park or open space within walking distance of their home.

We need environmental justice.

51% of Los Angeles residents do not have a public park or open space within walking distance of their home.

We need to protect our natural resources and be climate-resilient.

70% of LA County's open space is in the Angeles National Forest/San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and 30% of water provided to San Gabriel Valley residents comes from our San Gabriel Mountains.

Leadership Development

- Leadership Academy
- Community Base-Building
- Nature for All Community Ambassadors and Stewards

Connections to Nature

- Advocacy for access to open spaces, and for regional Transit-to-Parks/Trails funding
- All Aboard for Nature trips

Protecting Nature and Our Public Lands

- Protect Local Public Lands
- Build community climate resilience
- Protect water quality

Team Members

Belén Bernal, Executive Director
Anakaren Andrade, Social Media Assistant
Omar Gomez, Senior Program Manager
Araceli Hernandez, Program Manager
Brenda Kyle, Program Manager
Azeneth Martinez, Coordinator
Bryan Matsumoto, Program Manager
Steven Ochoa, Program Manager
Julio Soria, Program Manager



Board of Directors

Vanessa Aramayo, Alliance for a Better Community
Casey Schreiner, Modern Hiker
Charles Thomas, Outward Bound Adventures
Thomas Wong, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

Leadership Academy

The Nature for All Leadership Academy completed its 11th year. A core component of the program is the community project, which is developed and produced by the participants.

The nine projects that were funded reached a base of more than 220 community members. Participants learned more about Nature for All through community education-based programs. Many hours of planting California native plants, clean-ups, bilingual interpretation programs, and connecting people directly to the outdoors, via public and shared transportation were achieved.



These amazing rising leaders created projects that impacted community members: sharing joyful outdoor experiences, connecting youth to nature, advocating to protect the San Gabriel Mountains, and more. I am proud and excited to see where they make an impact in their communities!

—Araceli Hernandez
Nature for All Program Manager

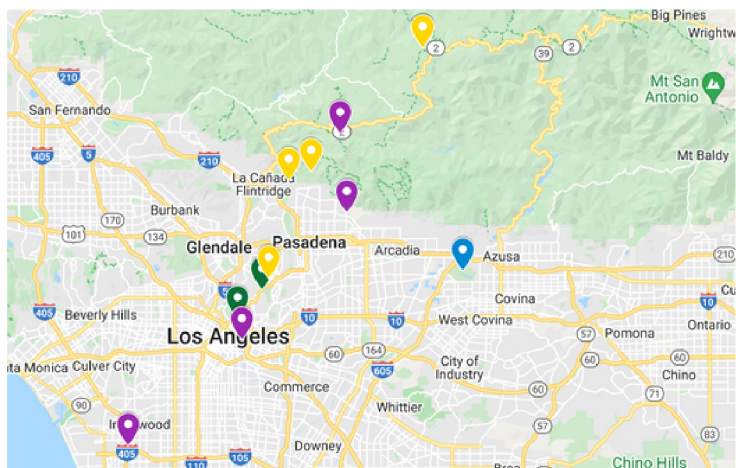
12 Graduates: Angel Arellano, Angela Hong, Ariel Dela Cruz, Azeneth Martinez, Brenda Yancor, Jordan Salcido, Kyle Cavazos, Lionel Mares, Melissa Diaz, Perla Iliana Lagunas Abundez, Sandra Ruiz, Zee Zetino

77% Participants identified as low-income

68% Participants identified as women

57% Participants identified as Latinx

90% Participants identified as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color)



Leadership Academy projects map.

Leadership Academy: Project Spotlights



"As Above, So Below: Black Workers Deserve Wellness," by Project Leader Zee Zetino. This ongoing community-centered programming explores nature-based learning opportunities to expand how Black folks experience/understand wellness/healing justice. Through this partnership with the LA Black Worker Center Wellness Committee, we coordinated a public program, a transit-to-trails program, and two outdoor nature-based programs. LA Black Worker Center members and staff visited local state parks in the Baldwin Hills area and a park within the San Gabriel Mountains. (April and May 2022)



"Naturalist Hike and Community Clean-Up," by Project Leader Melissa Diaz. The Spanish in the Wild event for 16 guests and 8 families, all native Spanish speakers from the Santa Clarita Area. Participants were given an introduction to the Nature for All organization and an awareness of our local San Gabriel Monument for the first time. Children engaged in a bilingual nature study course, learned about nature journaling and how to create a campaign by making posters and badges supporting the San Gabriel Mountains. (February 2022)



"WaterSheds Down to LB," by Project Leader: Ariel Dela Cruz. Edison's 5th grade class was taught a lesson on keeping our oceans clean by protecting the mountains and the watershed, as well as the importance of environmental justice and how living next to the end of the LA River can affect their communities with the incoming water pollution. Outdoor guides were provided for those on trips to Golden Shore Marine Reserve for the students and one to White Point Nature Preserve + Royal Palms for the students and their families.



"Family Friendly Ecology Bike Ride," by Project Leader Brenda Yancor. This 6.5 mile bike ride began at Santa Fe Dam for 30 students from the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition's middle school after-school bike club, and their family members. Lunch and Spanish and English educational content on the area's fire ecology and indigenous history was provided. Being able to ride bikes with their siblings and parents was a first time for a lot of the families.

More projects: lanatureforall.org

Community Base-Building and Leadership Development

Part of our mission is to build a legacy of diverse environmental leaders and stewards to help increase the equitable distribution of public funds to communities in need of parks, access to public lands, and water and climate resiliency. With education and training, our leadership program empowers community members, providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead the way for decision-makers to make better investments in their communities.

Our Ambassadors are mobilizing and engaging the families that are facing the harshest impacts of climate change, and getting them organized to be agents of change.

—Omar Gomez
Senior Program Manager



919 Attendees at our classes, courses and workshops

300 Participants at our tours, events and projects

Nature For All Ambassadors: Spotlights

Nature For All community ambassadors organized 53 workshops and classes and helped coordinate 14 community events for hundreds of participants to learn about our work and get involved.

In addition to our traditional base-building training, we partnered with the Dashboard.Earth mobile app, which offers localized, personalized climate actions for home and community.

Community ambassadors installed low-flow faucets and shower heads in 150 homes, provided home gardening classes and composting to 80 residents living in an apartment setting, and organized 3 community clean-ups with more than 160 members.



Infrastructure Projects

Nature for All works on targeted transportation and outdoor recreation infrastructure projects to solve nature-access gaps in our region.

The Mt. Wilson Express bus route will provide equitable transit access for historically underserved communities, to the San Gabriel Mountains - the most urban National Forest/Monument in the country, and iconic backdrop to our region.

The Fish Canyon Trail project will rehabilitate the transit-accessible, triple-waterfall trail closed by fire.

We are creating L.A.'s first public bus route to the Angeles National Forest - San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, with an incredible team of partners for community health and environmental justice.
—Bryan Matsumoto
Project Manager



Mt. Wilson Express Transit Planning

- Awarded \$995,000 Congressional funding from Rep. Judy Chu to develop operations plan, infrastructure
- Pilot launch planned for 2025
- Garnered press coverage for inaugural test shuttle celebration with Congresswoman Chu and coalition partners
- Partnered with Pasadena Transit to seek operations funding
- Convened working group at Metro Transit to Parks Summit
- Worked with partners including U.S. Forest Service, The Wilderness Society, San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative, SGV Council of Governments, Metro, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and L.A. County Board of Supervisors to advance project
- Developed route operations, tribal and community relations, visitor services, education and stewardship concepts

Fish Canyon Trail Restoration

- Assessed trail damage & determined restoration scope of work with project partners
- Managed ongoing project with City of Duarte with support from the Rivers & Mountains Conservancy

Recreate with Respect

- Developed concepts for “Recreate with Respect” Leave No Trace visitor education, trash collection, interpretive signage, watershed and wildfire protection in all projects

All Aboard for Nature

Our All Aboard for Nature program aims to diversify and expand access to nature by getting underserved communities outdoors to enjoy the benefits provided by our public lands and open, green spaces.

Our team, including trained California Naturalists, provides shuttle service to area parks and beaches for recreation, a fun time in community, lunch, and interpretative programming. We include the Leave No Trace principles as way to inform and instill the values of stewardship in those we enjoy time in nature with.

This year, we launched our program with youth from South Gate, in Southeast Los Angeles, and enjoyed the day at White Point Beach in San Pedro. We continued to connect community members with nature around the region. In total, we enjoyed time in nature with 469 community members through 20 trips this year!

This was a wonderful experience. Apart from spending time in nature it was nice to share space with other members of the community.

—event participant



Protecting Public Lands and Nature

In coalition with local and national nonprofits, we work to protect the public lands and green, open spaces around Los Angeles, and create opportunities for Angelenos to connect and care for nature.

This year, we worked closely to inform over 180 local representatives, community organizations, and businesses about our public land protection goals. We also engaged over 9,300 community members via grassroots orientations, tabling events, hikes, petitions and leadership training activities with coalition members.

Our public lands are one of our state's greatest gifts...It is incumbent upon us to be thoughtful stewards of these special places.
—Senator Alex Padilla



Honoring History and Cultural Heritage

Nature for All acknowledges the indigenous peoples of the ancestral homelands, where we live and deliver our mission.

We value the vibrant indigenous communities and honor the Gabrielino-Tongva, Kizh, and Shoshone Nations of Southern California, the Fernandeno Tataviam, Serrano, and Chumash, as the original caretakers of the lands and waterways of what is now Los Angeles County.

Public education about indigenous cultures and acknowledgement of ancestral homelands is critical. Nature for All strives to uplift the voices of the first peoples of our region. We believe that any action that demonstrates otherwise is disrespectful to the history, culture and living descendants of indigenous peoples.

Learn more: www.native-land.ca



Lower LA River Program

In partnership with the Lower LA River Ranger Pilot Program, we began interpretative public programs along the Lower LA River.

Fun bike rides and nature walks covered various topics, including how the parks and water along River form a support system for wildlife, climate resilience, watershed education, and flora of the region.



Nature for All Coalition

The Nature for All coalition, made up of local and national nonprofits, works to protect public lands, and green, open spaces around Los Angeles, and create opportunities for Angelenos to connect to nature.

Beginning in 2000, Nature for All- alongside many national and state environmental groups- began working to build an extraordinary collaboration between social justice, immigrant, religious, veteran, business, water entities, recreationist, environmental, civic and elected officials. Together, these organizations are helping to secure the protections and recreational access improvements necessary to meet the needs of more than 18 million people in the Los Angeles region.

San Gabriel Mountains Forever is an initiative of Nature for All, formed in 2008. The effort focuses on protecting the public lands and rivers of the San Gabriel Mountains to ensure equitable access to the outdoors for the region’s residents. Today, we want to ensure that an additional 109,000 acres are included in the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in order to permanently protect these sacred spaces in nature for the local community, visitors and for generations to come.

We are committed to connecting more people to public lands— including the 18 million+ Angelenos who live within one hour of the area—many who do not have easy access— and provide more equitable access to nature, to help improve our public health and wellbeing.
—Roberto Morales
Coalition Policy Chair



Coalition Member Organizations



California Naturalists on the Team

Team member Araceli Hernandez (second from right) presented at the California Naturalist Conference to highlight our work around public lands protection and equitable access to Nature. We are fortunate to have certified California Naturalist instructors on our team and look forward to continuing to support developing more stewards of our environment, whether it's pursuing an environmental career or simply seeking to learn more about how to enjoy and protect nature further.



Our History

2021 • Organized press conference to celebrate Senator Alex Padilla's introduction of the PUBLIC Lands Act, with Tongva leader Chief Anthony Morales, LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Congresswomen Judy Chu and Grace Napolitano, California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot, and other environmental and community leaders

2020 • Developed program vision to provide transit access to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument/Angeles National Forest for diverse, underserved communities

2019 • Launched our Leadership Development Program by adding a San Gabriel Valley component; assumed fiscal responsibility for the Leadership Academy; provided input on Prop 68 Access Programs, and Measure A, M & W implementation policies (parks, water, transportation)

2018 • Worked to cultivate grassroots and grassroots support for a potential Harris Senate companion bill; supported local and state measures for water and parks, including a leadership role in the OurWaterLA coalition

2017 • San Gabriel Mountains Forever (SGMF) re-branded as Nature for All (N4A), as we reflected on our expanded campaign plan to include policy objectives for parks equity, access, and water resilience

2016 • Leadership and engagement by (SGMF) contributed to policy successes in the development of two major funding measures for parks and transportation (that passed in 2017)

2015 • A3PCON, Amigos de los Rios, COFEM, the Wilderness Society, Community Hiking Club, the Sierra Club and SGMF were affirmed as members of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative

2014 • Introduction of San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area bill by Congresswoman Judy Chu; proclamation by President Obama establishing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

2013 • Supported the recommendations in the study by water agencies, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and a host of elected officials

2012 • 10,000+ comments generated for the San Gabriel Mountains and Watershed Special Resource Study by the National Park Service

2011 • Introduction of a Wilderness bill by Congressman David Dreier

2010 • David Dreier Wilderness Legislation organizing efforts expanded

2009 • SGMF mission continued to be refined in planning meetings to reflect social justice, resource protection, and legacy objectives

2008 • San Gabriel Mountains Forever launched a planning meeting including the Old-Timers Foundation, COFEM, the Project Amiga, LA Voice, the City Project, Sierra Club, TWS, FOR, Campaign for Americas Wilderness, Progressive Christians Uniting, and the California Wilderness Coalition



“This is an issue of social justice, because it’s not enough to have this awesome natural wonder within your sight — you have to be able to access it.”

—President Barack Obama, at the ceremony to designate the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

Connecting with Our Community



We remain a proud member of the San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative.



Executive Director Belén Bernal participated in a panel discussion, "A Conversation on Environmental Justice in Los Angeles."



CBS This Morning TV ran a segment on the news of funding for our transit-to-trails work.



Coalition member Sierra Club sponsored a wilderness first aid training session for team and community members.



Team member Anakaren Andrade's short film, "Closing the Gap: Los Angeles Nature for All" was in the Hispanic Access "Our Heritage, Our Planet Film" festival.



Our Latino Conservation Week event, "Fiesta y Comunidad," at LA State Historic Park.



Partaking in a workshop led by One Drumm, an inter-tribal drumming group.



Participating in a Wilderness Society-hosted meeting with coalition partners, local organizations and state leaders.



Teaming up with the community of Panorama City and North Hills for a clean-up.

Thank You for Your Support!

Our funders help support our community, and sustain our programs and growth.

We are thankful for the trust and support received from long-standing partners and funders who allow us to invest the time to work with community members—to build local capacity in their communities and help build a sustainable future for all!

Angeles Conservation Foundation
Annenberg Foundation
Anonymous Donors
Accelerated Resilience L.A. (ARLA)
Association of Science and
Technology Centers in support of
Nature for All Stewards
Best Start
California Department of Parks and
Recreation- Outdoor Equity Grants
Program
California Environmental
Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Council for Watershed Health
Edison International

El Nido Family Centers
Garfield Foundation
Hispanic Access Foundation
Justice Outside
LA2050
National Recreation Foundation
Parks California
REI Co-op
Resources Legacy Fund
Rivers and Mountains
Conservancy
San Gabriel Valley Municipal
Water District
Santa Monica Mountains
Conservancy

Santa Monica Mountains Fund
Sierra Club
State of California Coastal
Conservancy
The City of Duarte
The City Project
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Rose Foundation for
Communities and the
Environment
The Schmidt Family Foundation
The Water Foundation
The Wilderness Society
Trailmixer
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increase access to nature and help us develop
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