

## Riparian Oak Maintenance in Lower Topanga Creek State Park

Organization: Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Project Period: May 2018 – December 2020

Amount: \$44,858

Location: Topanga Creek State Park, Los Angeles County

Project Description: In collaboration with State Parks and Tree People, the Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) proposed to continue maintenance, monitoring, and planting of native riparian species with associated invasive species removal in the floodplain of lower Topanga State Park, supporting an ongoing effort to restore riparian habitat for endangered southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Restoration began in 2008 and has been ongoing to restore the bank and floodplain of Topanga Creek. This project proposed to sustain the 200 previously planted native trees and understory by providing supplemental water, removing competing invasive plants, and aiding the establishment of a mixed age riparian woodland. These project tasks will help provide shade to moderate creek temperatures, improve native tree cover for pollinators, increase stabilization of the creek bank, enhance fish passage, and create improved spawning and rearing habitat. Notably, this project will also allow local 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and community volunteers to participate in hands-on restoration events to help collect data, plant trees, and remove invasive species.

Progress: In 2018, the RCDSMM maintained over 150 plants with the help of 1,546 community volunteer hours and 50 student volunteer hours at 19 different events between March and October. RCDSMM is continuing to collect data on tree condition throughout the year found at different sites along the Rodeo Grounds (mostly coast live oaks).

### Summary of volunteer participants in Oak Care Restoration Events in 2018

| Month         | Event Type         | # of Events | # Student Volunteer Hours | # of Community Volunteer Hours |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| March         | Tree People        | 1           |                           | 63                             |
| April         | Tree People        | 2           |                           | 113                            |
| May           | Tree People        | 1           |                           | 64                             |
| June          | Tree People        | 3           |                           | 196                            |
| July          | RCDSMM/Tree People | 3           |                           | 281                            |
| August        | RCDSMM/Tree People | 2           |                           | 296                            |
| September     | RCDSMM/Tree People | 4           | 50                        | 489                            |
| October       | RCDSMM/Tree People | 3           |                           | 44                             |
| <b>Totals</b> |                    | <b>19</b>   | <b>50</b>                 | <b>1546</b>                    |



Community volunteers at an Oak Care Restoration Event in 2018.