



COOL SOIL LA: PLANNING A CLEAN SOIL NETWORK FOR LOS ANGELES

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BACKGROUND

TreePeople is one of the largest environmental nonprofits in Southern California and while it is primarily known for its work with urban forestry, it is also involved in school greening, environmental education, and promoting ecological resilience. TreePeople’s mission is to create resilient urban environments by empowering communities to be active environmental stewards and pushing policymakers to support initiatives promoting healthy urban ecosystems.

OBJECTIVE

This project aims to address the issues identified in the “Healthy Soils for Healthy Communities” report, particularly the prevalence of soil contamination across LA and the lack of access to clean and healthy soils by community members.

METHODOLOGY

1. Literature review on soils (soil conditions, challenges, opportunities, initiatives, etc) in Los Angeles and other areas in the United States.
2. Stakeholder mapping and stakeholder conversations which led to the establishment of a soils advisory group with members from LA Recreation and Parks, LA Sanitation, TreePeople, LA Compost, and UCLA faculty.
3. Researching and discussing the feasibility of creating a clean soil network in Los Angeles using lessons learned from the successful New York City Clean Soil Bank.
4. Pursuing funding for the comprehensive planning of a clean soil network in Los Angeles and to support the implementation of a pilot project.

PROPOSAL

The proposed project will have *three* phases:

1. *Cool Soil Planning*: This is the feasibility planning phase and its core deliverable is the “Cool Soil LA Feasibility Plan.”
2. *Cool Soil Swap*: Pilot This phase will include pop-up events and a summary report with community input findings on distribution lessons learned.
3. *Cool Soil Scaling*: Assembles Phase 1 and 2 outcomes into design of future Cool Soil Network implementation at a regional scale.

This project sets the stage for a more resilient and sustainable future for Los Angeles, with implications that extend far beyond the duration of the grant period.



LA Sanitation and TreePeople at Lopez Canyon Environmental Education Center

