



Cal Fire Green Schoolyards Grant Award Announcement

The Council for Watershed Health (Council), a 501(c)3 organization, in cooperation with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), applied for and was awarded a \$1.6 million dollar planning grant as part of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (Cal Fire) Green Schoolyards Program. Eight LAUSD schools were selected by Cal Fire to receive Green Schoolyard planning services: 118th, Holmes Avenue, Harmony, and Miramonte Elementary Schools, Edison Middle School, Primary Academy for Success, Diego Rivera Learning Complex, and Rosa Parks Learning Center.

What is the Project Title?

Designing Healthy Schoolyards for Los Angeles Unified School District

What is the Cal Fire Green Schoolyards Grant?

Trees, forests, and associated ecological elements play a vital role in achieving California's Greenhouse Gas emission reduction targets, climate resilience goals, and goals of climate action plans. Cal Fire's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program strives to increase the long-term benefits trees provide and improve the public's understanding and appreciation of urban trees. As a subset program, the Green Schoolyards grants aim at increasing nature and tree cover on K-12 public schools and nonprofit childcare facilities. The program is funded through the California General Fund. Additional information about the CAL FIRE Green Schoolyards Grant Program can be found at: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/urban-and-community-forestry-grants>

Will schoolyard greening projects be built as a result of this grant?

The Council was awarded planning grant and as such, projects will not be built under this grant award. However, Cal Fire hopes that the planning grants will result in community-based designs that are competitive for their implementation grants or other construction funding sources so that school communities will ultimately see their designs installed/built.

Who is leading the grant implementation?

The Council is the lead organization for the grant and along with their partners, which includes the LAUSD and community-based organizations, will solicit green schoolyard design input. The Council conducts planning, project development, monitoring, and education to improve and protect watershed health. Supporting empowerment of community-based groups is central to their mission. Learn more at <https://www.watershedhealth.org/>

What's the grant schedule?

This is a 1-year grant. The grant period commenced on January 4th 2024.

How will design input be solicited from the school community?

Design input from the school community is central to this grant. The Council's project team includes community-based organizations, academia, and consulting firms who will work directly with school communities including students and their families, teachers, facilities management, and administrators to develop green schoolyard designs. School community engagement methods will be tailored to each school. The Council will leverage effort with other urban and school greening efforts taking place in the District such as RedesignLA, <https://www.redesign.la/>, and the Collaborative for Healthy and Inclusive Learning Environments (CHILE) at Cal Poly Pomona, <https://www.cpp.edu/env/lyle/chile/about/index.shtml>.

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