

Mapping Trees with Your Group

From school children to professionals, everyone can play a part in making TreeMapLA a vital resource. This is a big project – there are hundreds of thousands of trees in Greater Los Angeles! We invite groups to help contribute to the success of TreeMapLA by mapping trees, which will not only help raise awareness of our urban forest, but help manage the trees that shade, shelter, feed and provide clean air and water. Mapping trees as a group can be a fun and educational event.

Follow these simple steps to ensure a successful tree mapping event with your group:

STEP 1 Register on TreeMapLA.org

You can either have group members register individually or choose a User Name and Password for your group (each account can be used by an unlimited number of devices simultaneously).

- Do this either by downloading the free TreeMapLA mobile app for Android or iPhone OR by logging into www.TreeMapLA.org.

STEP 2 Choose an Area to Map

You can choose to map a street, block, neighborhood, school, park, or an entire community.

- **Check to see if any part of your chosen area has been mapped already.**
 - Go to www.TreeMapLA.org
 - Click “Explore the Map” at the top of the page
 - Zoom in to view the area your group wants to map
 - Each green dot indicates the location of a tree
 - If it appears that some or all of the area is mapped, either choose another area or work around the mapped trees.
- **Count the number of unmapped trees that can be seen to get a general idea of how many you will be mapping.**
 - This will help you to plan for how many people you need to help with the project.
- **Create a map of your chosen area.**
 - Depending on the size of the area you are mapping, you can make a simple sketch or create a map using Google Map.
 - If you are using a Data Collection Sheet, assign numbers to each tree to be mapped to correspond with the information on the data sheet.

STEP 3

Prepare and Practice How to Map Trees

Practicing the various data collection skills before mapping begins will ensure accuracy and efficiency when working with the group. It will also help answer any questions the group may have ahead of time and make the process more fun.

- **Collect data in one of three ways:**
 1. Use a computer tablet logged into www.TreeMapLA.org and enter data as you go.
 2. Use the TreeMapLA mobile app and enter the data as you go.
 3. Use the Data Collection Sheet and enter the information onto TreeMapLA at a later date.
- **Practice mapping trees in one of two ways:**
 1. Bring the group together at a date/time beforehand to learn and practice in preparation for mapping day.
 2. Assign leaders to learn and practice ahead of time, then lead their group on mapping day.
- **Learn the guidelines for measuring tree diameter and height by watching the following videos:**
 - How to Measure and Map a Tree: <http://bit.ly/1QjW0E>
 - How to Measure Tree Height: <http://bit.ly/1PBQjnA>
- **Learn how to determine tree species by familiarizing the group with the following website:**
 - urbantreekey.org
 - If the group is not familiar with the trees in the area to be mapped, identify the trees before the event and create a guide that gives a picture and key identification features. For a list of common LA trees, email treemapla@treepeople.org.
- **Learn how to indicate trees that need care or indicate a place that needs a tree:**
 - Some trees may need care (broken branches, watering, weeding) and some sites could use a tree (empty tree well or vacant spot on a parkway).
 - Using a tablet or the AP, under “Full Details” find “Tree Alert” to enter any tree care needs. Under “Planting Site Information” enter in the width and length of the potential site for a tree (no other tree information will be entered).
 - Using the Data Collection Sheet, add the information, as needed.

STEP 4

Plan Your Group’s Tree Mapping Event

Things to consider:

- **Make it fun:** Come up with a name for your group and use this as your User Name (multiple devices can be signed into the same account simultaneously). Create a group challenge.
- **Determine the size of the group:** It takes about 2 - 3 people to map a tree and about 5 minutes per tree to record/input data. Use the area you hope to cover and the number of trees you want to map to determine how many people you need. Do you want to work as one group or break into several groups to cover more area?
- **Create a route:** What route will you take to ensure all the trees will be mapped? Choose a meeting/starting location.

STEP 5

Pick a Date And Get Mapping!

- **Get publicity:** Who should know about the tree mapping event in your community? Consider businesses, community groups, local politicians, and more.
- **Bring refreshments:** It is important to drink water when out mapping trees. Depending on the amount of time spent, it is also nice to have snacks and/or celebrate afterwards with food.

- **Remember to document your efforts:** Before, during and after mapping, plan to share what the group has done on the TreeMapLA Facebook and Twitter pages.
 - Remember to tag @TreeMapLA or #TreeMapLA in your posts!

What's Next?

Now that the group has mapped trees, what's next? Consider some of these options to continue the support of our community forest!

- **Keep mapping!** Now that you know what to do, there is so much more of the urban forest that needs to be mapped. Choose another site and keep mapping.
 - If you need help, email treemapla@treepeople.org and ask for a variety of sites to map.
- **Consider tree care!** When you were mapping trees, did you log any tree care needs in "Alerts"?
 - If so, care for the trees! Once tree care is provided, go back and update the information under "Tree Stewardship."
 - Not sure how to provide tree care? Consider signing up for a TreePeople Community Tree Care Training to learn how to provide care for these community trees. Go to www.treepeople.org for training dates. Or, go to <http://bit.ly/1KpQpLN> for videos on tree care.
- **Consider planting trees!** When you were mapping trees, did you log any empty tree wells or places that could use trees?
 - If so, plant trees! Once trees are planted, go back and update the information.
 - Not sure how to plant a tree? Consider signing up for TreePeople Citizen Forester Training to learn how to plant trees in the community. Go to www.treepeople.org for training dates. Or, go to <http://bit.ly/1Sq79F6> for a video on planting trees
- **Consider another project to support sustainability in the community!** Consider using one of TreePeople's Community Project Toolkits to organize a rain barrel, shade tree or mulch distribution.
 - Go to www.treepeople.org and locate the Action Center Resources page for this and other Community Toolkits.

Questions?

For any questions about mapping trees with a group or TreeMapLA, send an email to: treemapla@treepeople.org

