

VPPLC partners with high school to promote conservation efforts

Students from Bill and Cindy Simon Technology High School in Watts traveled to White Point Nature Preserve in San Pedro on Saturday, Jan. 25, to launch a new partnership between the high school and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy that will engage the students in conservation action. Council member Joe Buscaino joined the students in the planting project and recognized the students' commitment to environmental stewardship.

The Land Conservancy created the partnership with support from a National Audubon Society grant program, Toyota TogetherGreen. Conservancy staff, with volunteers from the South Bay/Palos Verdes Audubon Society's Youth Environmental Stewards, are reaching out to these inner-city high school students and offering them outdoor experiences at White Point. As the partnership grows, students will also take part in conservation efforts such as tree plantings and urban gardening within their community.

Chris Carr, assistant principal at Simon Tech, along with Fredrick Carr, science teacher, and Kristi McLaughlin, social science teacher, were instrumental in developing the partnership, as were Andrea Vona, executive director of the Land Conservancy, and Adrienne Mohan, stewardship associate and recipient of TogetherGreen Grant funding project.

During the Jan. 25 program, students learned about the preserve's history and how they will leave their legacy on the landscape by helping to plant native shrubs, which serve as habitat for wildlife.