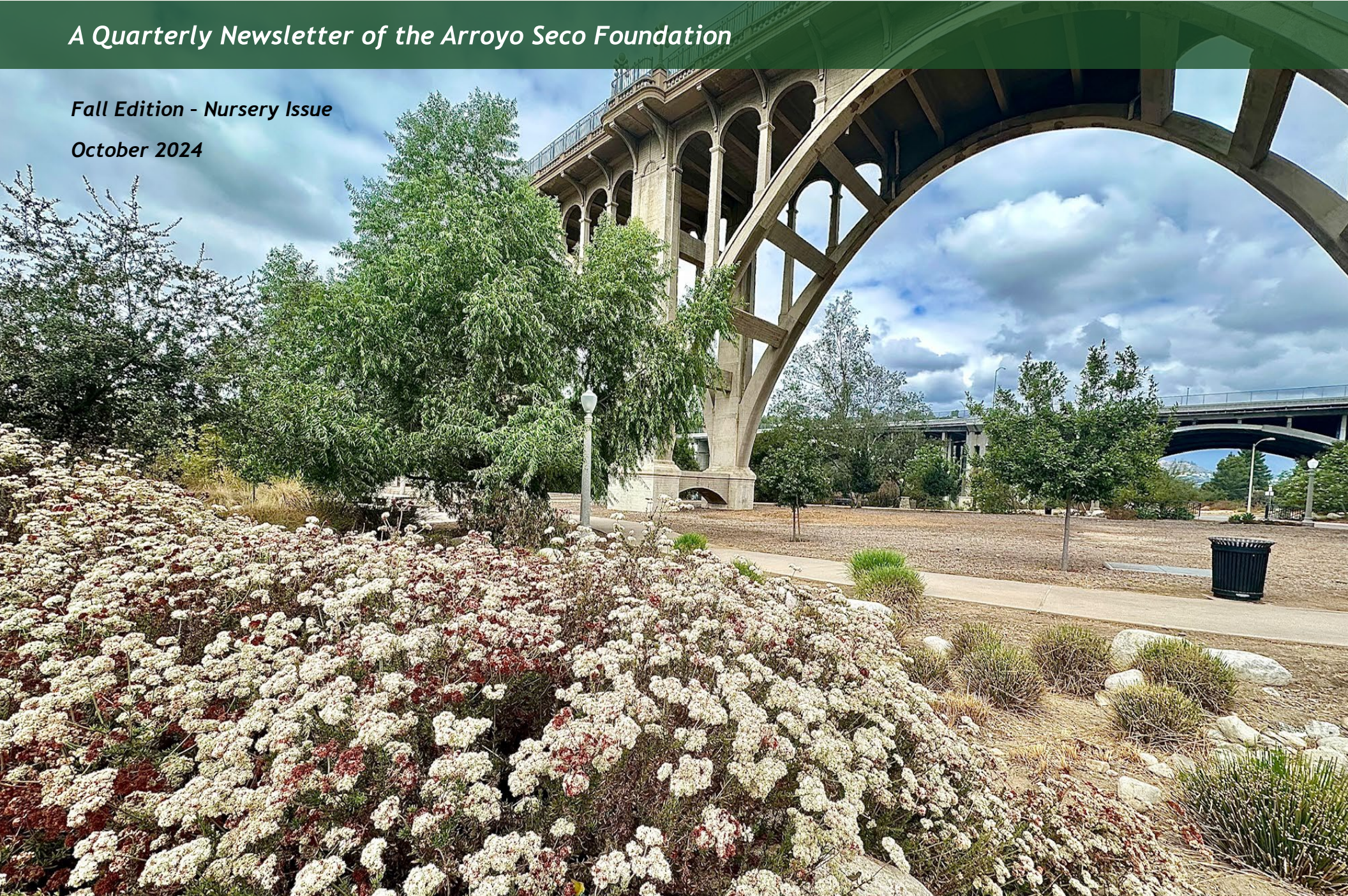


A Quarterly Newsletter of the Arroyo Seco Foundation

Fall Edition - Nursery Issue

October 2024



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share our Fall Edition of the Arroyo Currents. During the past quarter, we renovated and revitalized our native plant nursery, and sponsored many community events, some of which are highlighted in this issue. Thank you for your continued interest and support!

Hahamongna: A Magical Place

The **Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery** is a project of the Arroyo Seco Foundation. Our team of community volunteers propagate native plants, offer community outreach, and sell native plants and merchandise.

Fall is a great time to add native plants in your garden, or to replace your grass lawn completely. Our all-volunteer staff is ready to help you get ready to plant native!

Why native plants? Native plants will help you save water, save money, and save the environment.

As much as 70 percent of household water consumption in the Pasadena area is used for landscape irrigation—mostly grass lawns. And grass turf uses 50 percent more water than any other plant. Get rid of your lawn and you can say goodbye to frequent irrigation, and you can get rid of the lawn mower.

Beyond saving water, however, native plants offer other benefits to our ecosystem by serving as pollinators and as habitats for butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees. And many of the plants that are native to Los Angeles are fragrant and colorful.

*California Buckwheat in bloom in Pasadena (cover photo);
Volunteers propagating plants at the Hahamongna Nursery (at right)*



Pasadena Water & Power can help you replace your grass lawn with their turf removal rebates.

<https://pwp.cityofpasadena.net/landscapingandpools/>

And our nursery can help you select native plants to replace your nonfunctional grass.

To learn more about native plants, or to make a purchase, visit our nursery at the Hahamongna Watershed Park, 4550 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, California. We are tucked-away in a quiet corner of the park. Follow the signs that direct you to our entrance.

***Hahamongna Nursery
Fall 2024 Retail Sales Hours
9 am till 1 pm on Saturdays***

Volunteers Help Keep Hahamongna Growing

During the scorching hot summer, our retail store was temporarily closed and most of our plants were dormant (sleeping) and awaiting cooler, damper days. But our nursery crew didn't take a break. They continued to propagate plants and maintain our inventory all summer long.

Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery is operated and maintained entirely by dedicated volunteers, and during the summer our teams of helpers worked to renovate and revitalize the nursery. Our volunteers trimmed and maintained the mature native plants in our gardens. They started work on reconstructing our growing cages and our compost bins. They developed plans for repairing and improving the structures that house our equipment.

Robert Kurkjian discusses our Streamflow Enhancement Program and ecology in the Upper Arroyo Seco during a community event at our nursery





And they irrigated and cared for the tiny native plants that we have been propagating, many of which are still in quart-sized pots. An important, but not too glamorous, part of this plant care: washing and disinfecting the pots in which we grow our plants!

Our nursery volunteers sometimes worked indoors, too. They updated our data base of plants, printed descriptive labels for our plants, and even undertook the herculean task of renovating our warehouse.

Our helpers are often individuals such as you, people from the community who want to help out occasionally and contribute to our efforts to restore the native habitat of the region.

But we have help from organized groups, too. This past quarter we received volunteer help from the **Langham Hotel** of Pasadena, from the **Pasadena Audubon Society**, and from the **National Forest Foundation**.

Two local **Boy Scout** and **Girl Scout** groups, from Troop 888 and Troop 555, also helped with cleanup of the grounds. Three Eagle Scout candidates from these Troops are working on important infrastructure projects at the Nursery this Fall.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please email us. We have an especially important need for assistance from garden-enthusiasts who are knowledgeable of native plants, and of gardening in general, and who can volunteer on a regular basis, preferably on two (or more!) Saturdays each month.

Email us at Nursery@ArroyoSecoFoundation.org to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer caring for plants in our propagation garden

Volunteers in Service to Hahamongna Nursery

Hours recorded by volunteers serving the Hahamongna Nursery.

July-September: 465.5 Hours

September: 192.5 Hours

Boy and Girl Scouts: 122 Hours

Native Plants for a Healthy Ecosystem

Adding native plants to your garden helps create a functioning ecosystem by attracting the native insects and wildlife that depend upon these plants. Native plants and animals have developed relationships with each other, and research shows that native wildlife prefers native plants over non-native plants.

Community-Based Nursery

Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery is a community-based, all volunteer nursery. We operate within the Hahamongna Watershed Park on a parcel of land that is licensed to us from the City of Pasadena.



HAHAMONGNA
GARDENS

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

Volunteers learning about propagation in our garden

Hummingbirds, Butterflies, and Bees Love These Native Plants

Hummingbird Sage (*Salvia spathacea*) earns our praise as one of our favorite plants for the Fall because of its beautiful pink and red flowering spikes, and its ability to draw hummingbirds and butterflies to the garden. This plant is often difficult to find in nurseries and is a delight to discover growing in the wild.

This evergreen plant grows well in shade and part shade and is drought tolerant. It spreads by rhizomes and typically grows up one to three feet tall and three feet wide.

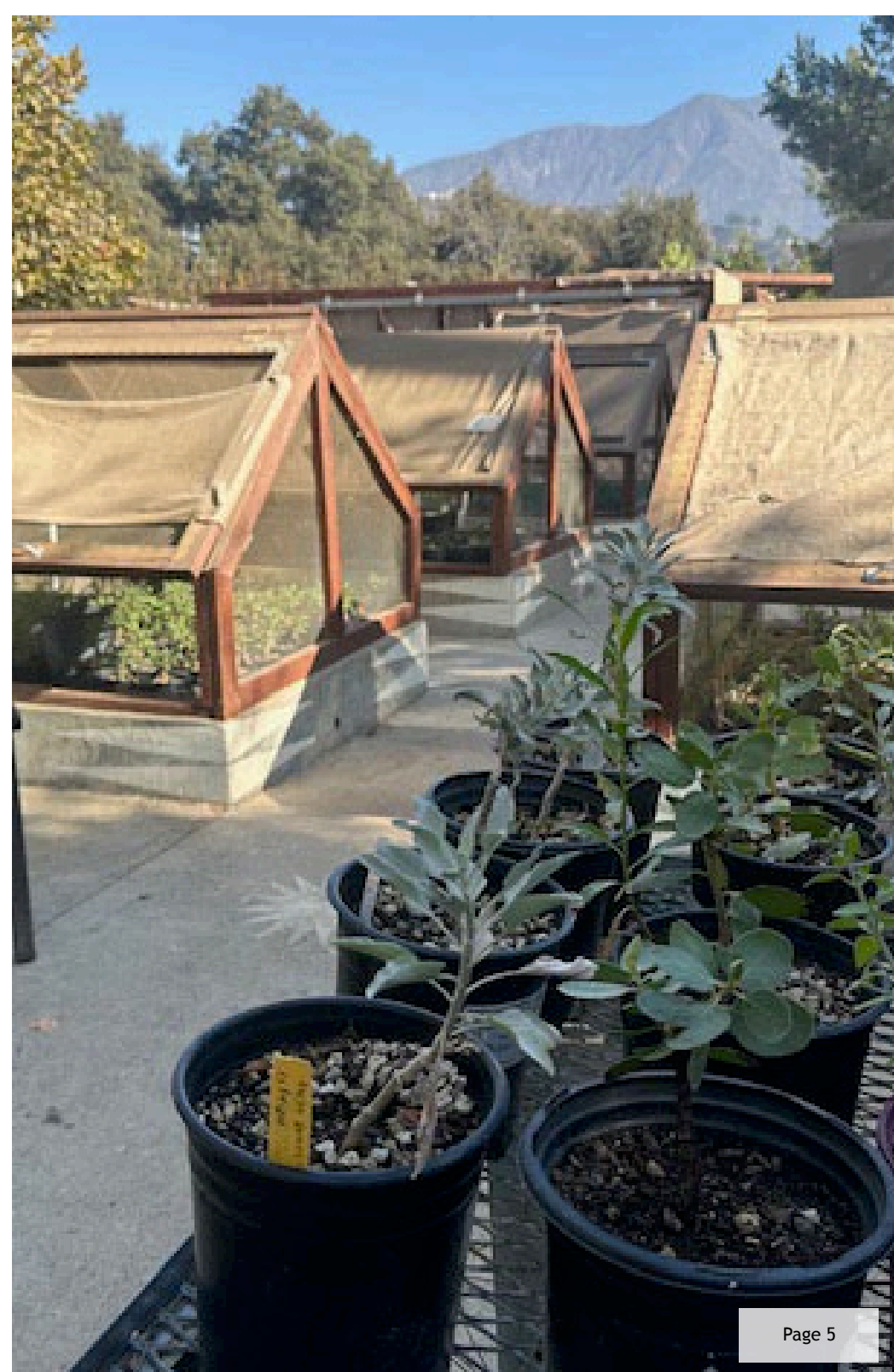
We are also fond of **California Buckwheat** (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) because it's an important source of nectar for bees, and also because of its attractive rust-colored blooms in Fall, and its white and pink-colored blooms in late Winter.

California Buckwheat are drought tolerant and grow best in full sun. They have a spreading habit and usually grow no taller than about three feet.

September's Top Selling Native Plants

Listed in Order of Number of Plants Sold

1. Black Sage
2. California Wild Rose
3. Scarlet Monkeyflower
4. Woodland Strawberry
5. California Sagebrush



Tour the Nursery

We invite groups of all ages to tour the Nursery, view its gardens, and learn a bit about native plants. Because we are an all-volunteer staff with limited resources, we request that tour groups schedule their events one month in advance. We do not charge a fee for tours, but we will gratefully accept your tax-deductible donation to help fund our operations.

Native Nights at Hahamongna

For the past 18 months, Pasadena Water and Power has partnered with Arroyo Seco Foundation to present “Native Nights,” an exciting and informative series of workshops about our native ecosystem. The workshops are presented in the gardens of the Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery.

*Photos (Below): A large crowd at Native Nights in October;
(Right): Matthew Karanian conducting field research in the Upper Arroyo Seco*



Trout Scouting in the Arroyo Seco

Our Trout Scouts were busy all summer collecting data about native fish in the Arroyo Seco (Dry Gulch) and documenting water conditions in the Upper Arroyo Seco.

Yes, there are fish in the Arroyo! In fact, this “Dry Gulch” has an abundance of native plant and aquatic life. Our Trout Scouts are surveying and monitoring the region’s population of native steelhead trout and rainbow trout as part of a years-long stream flow study. (Trout Scouts is the name we have affectionately bestowed upon our teams of enthusiasts who hike the Upper Arroyo Seco and document environmental conditions.)

We also sponsored a team of high school interns this summer who assisted with GIS mapping of the Upper Arroyo Seco. These high school interns participated as part of a program sponsored by the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). In September they were recognized for their achievement at an awards ceremony at the Rose Bowl.



Photos (Above): Our Trout Scout leader, Arev Markarian, photographed this 8-inch rainbow trout in the Upper Arroyo Seco in October;
(Left): Trout Scouts and scientists collect data and map the Upper Arroyo Seco

Arroyo Seco Foundation Partners with Orvis

The fly fishing and clothing store Orvis partnered with us in September to help raise operating funds for Arroyo Seco Foundation. As part of the partnership, we presented an illustrated lecture at the Orvis store in Pasadena. Our presentation featured a discussion about water and ecological conditions in the Arroyo Seco, and about our Streamflow Enhancement Program.

Orvis and its customers contributed \$12,681 in tax-deductible donations to Arroyo Seco Foundation through this partnership. Orvis customers donated \$7,681 and Orvis matched the first \$5,000 of those donations.

Gary Sikkens speaks about trout and their ecosystem in the Arroyo Seco during a community event at Orvis in Pasadena, California



Arroyo Seco in the LA Times

Arroyo Seco Foundation is managing a **Streamflow Enhancement Program** for the Upper Arroyo Seco, which is monitoring rainbow trout populations, collecting water quality data, studying streamflow, evaluating barriers to the streamflow, and making recommendations to improve the ecosystem.

Three technical reports about streamflow in the Upper Arroyo Seco have been prepared in collaboration with our subcontractor, **Stillwater Sciences**, and are available for download on our website. Check out these reports to learn more about how we are working to preserve the ecosystem of the Arroyo Seco. View at www.ArroyoSecoFoundation.org

Our streamflow work was featured in the Los Angeles Times in July, and has been covered in other regional publications, as well. The link to the Los Angeles Times story is available on our website www.ArroyoSecoFoundation.org

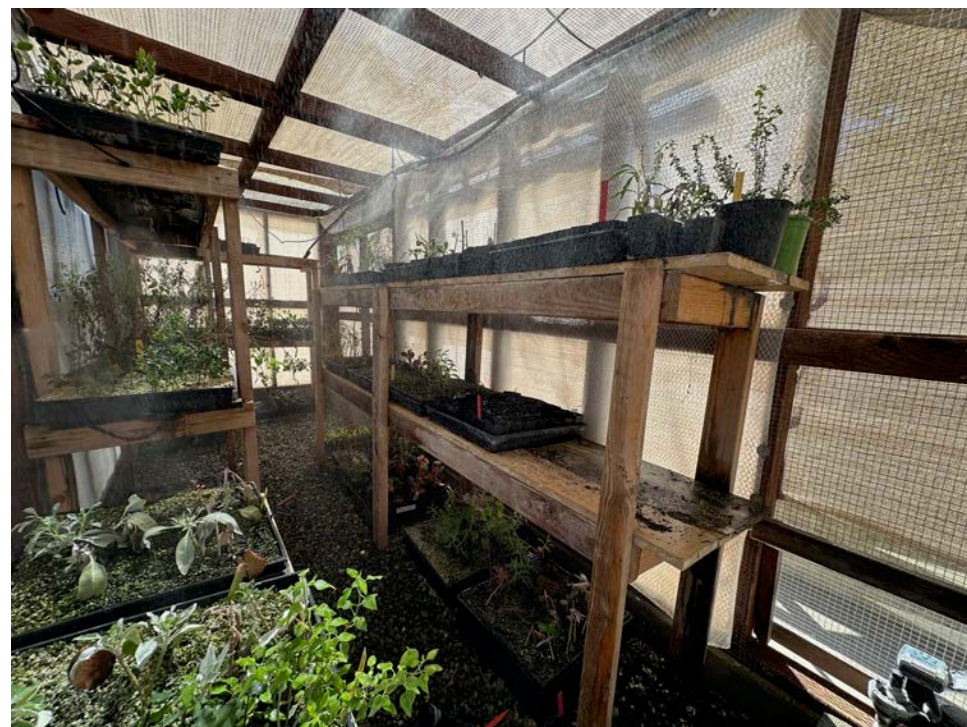
The Streamflow Enhancement Program is managed by the Arroyo Seco Foundation. The program is funded by grants from the **Wildlife Conservation Board**, the **Rose Foundation**, and from **Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles**.

Keep the Arroyo Seco Wild

Pasadena-area residents can help keep the Arroyo Seco wild by removing their lawns and planting native plants. This will greatly reduce water usage, help pollinators, reduce the burden of water diversion from the Arroyo Seco, and improve the ecosystem throughout Greater Pasadena.



A volunteer at the Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery



Propagating native plants in an irrigated growing cage at the nursery

About the Arroyo Seco Foundation

The Arroyo Seco Foundation has a century-long history as a community-based organization, and has been active in its current legal form as a non-profit corporation since 1991.

We advocate for the preservation of the Arroyo Seco watershed, as well as protecting its native flora and fauna. Our mission is to preserve our watershed and native species through advocacy, community involvement, and restoration.

Arroyo Seco Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please help support our mission by donating to Arroyo Seco Foundation, PO Box 91622, Pasadena, California 91109, or by donating online at www.ArroyoSecoFoundation.org



One of the many teams of volunteers who helped the nursery this past year

Arroyo Seco Foundation - Donations



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Mail Checks to:

Arroyo Seco Foundation
PO Box 91622
Pasadena, California 91109

or visit: www.ArroyoSecoFoundation.org to donate!

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

All major credit/debits cards
and Apple Pay accepted

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