

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE ANNOUNCES \$27 MILLION IN HISTORIC GREEN SCHOOLYARD GRANT FUNDING TO COMBAT EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CALIFORNIA YOUTH

Projects will offer nature-based solutions and expand tree canopy at nonprofit child care facilities

(Sacramento) - The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Urban and Community Forestry Program announces the award of \$27,047,419 in grants through the 2023 Green Schoolyards Grant initiative. This funding, which supports 20 projects across 41 nonprofit child care facilities, marks a significant step in enhancing green spaces for California's youngest residents.

"Children better learn, socialize, pay attention, and actively play under the shade of trees and surrounded by nature. That interaction with nature at an early age can form lifelong values for the future stewards of California" said Walter Passmore, CAL FIRE State Urban Forester.

The purpose of the Green Schoolyards grant program is to protect the health, well-being, and educational opportunity of children most vulnerable to increasing temperatures and extreme heat across California.

Project activities include planting trees and other vegetation, converting pavement to green spaces, and other efforts at California nonprofit child care facilities to help alleviate extreme heat and improve the immediate environment for students. These activities also aim to enhance accessibility to nature and nature-based learning for the youngest population in the state.

The \$27 Million for nonprofit and public child care facilities compliments the more than \$121 million in [Green Schoolyard Grant](#) funding that was awarded by CAL FIRE in 2023. This funding will provide healthier environments for California's children, who are disproportionately more impacted by extreme temperatures. By creating greener and cooler spaces for our youngest population, these grants will deliver a healthier environment that provide opportunities for nature-based, hands-on learning, improve environmental literacy and creativity, as well as social skills like collaboration, and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for California.

The Green Schoolyards Grant program aligns with CAL FIRE's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving urban forest health, and enhancing the quality of life in urban areas.

For information on the awarded Green Schoolyard projects, please click [here](#).

You can find more about CAL FIRE and the Urban and Community Forestry Department [here](#).

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