



Partners in Progress with



Community Services & Employment Training (CSET) is one of 17 organizations statewide selected to receive funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act administered by California ReLeaf. CSET’s mission is to strengthen youth, families, and communities and reduce the causes of poverty by envisioning healthy, prosperous, and safe communities - communities where children want to live when they grow up.



The \$200,000 grant for CSET’s Visalia/Porterville Tree Planting Project provided for a multi-faceted project in which members of the Sequoia Community Corps worked to build a better urban forest in these two Tulare County cities.

In Visalia, corps members assisted the City in its efforts to restore native Valley Oak riparian forests along creeks and ponding basins that were devoid of vegetation; as well as retrofitted downtown tree wells to better accommodate buttress root

growth while reducing hardscape damage.

In Porterville, corps members planted Valley Oaks, installed irrigation and resurfaced about 2,500 feet of trail along Porter Slough; as well as planted Valley Oaks and installed irrigation at the new Porterville Sports Complex in order to provide shade and screening.

Fast Facts for the CSET ARRA Grant

Jobs Created: 8

Jobs Retained: 55

Trees Planted: 589

Trees Maintained: 1114

Job Hours Contributed to California Work Force: 9,090

Lasting legacy: this project restored several elements of Tulare County’s Valley Oak riparian forests while also providing job training and educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged young people aged 18 to 24.

“We are taking youth that are on the fringe of being employable, at-risk youth, and giving them training while at the same time they are required to complete their diploma, which makes them competitive in the job market.” -- Nathan Higgins, CSET Project Manager.

