



# Orient Land Trust

## Latest News

# Earth Day 2026

To celebrate Earth Day, we hosted a Tree Planting event at the Everson Ranch. We planned to plant 200 trees along the west and south sides of the Ranch. We set out to establish a windbreak along the south side to better protect the buildings and garden during the windy season and replace the dead trees along the west side. We had 36 volunteers arrive on April 19th and 20th! With such an amazing turnout, we planned to set up the drip line and cages for the trees on the 20th, then plant and cage them on the 21st.

Our Facilities Manager, Mica, conducted research and worked with the wonderful people at the Colorado State Forestry Service and local nurseries to select 8 tree species: Arborvitae, Black Jack Oak, Black Walnut, Bur Oak, Hackberry, Ponderosa Pine, Rocky Mountain Juniper, and Swamp White Oak. Each tree was chosen because it would make a great windbreak, have a varying lifespan, and grow at a different rate. This ensures the trees will be around for a long time and provide protection to the land, buildings, and garden for years to come.



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On April 20th, the Volunteers installed 3,000 feet of drip line and installed 199 emitters. They also cut and crafted 200 metal cages to protect the young trees from deer and rabbits. Volunteers worked in teams to measure, cut, and install driplines, couplings, fittings, adapters, and emitters to provide each tree with a stable water source during its vulnerable first years. 2,100 feet of welded wire was cut into 10-foot sections and secured into cages for each tree. The weather cooperated, and everyone worked seamlessly together to install all the drip lines and build all the cages.

On April 21st, the plan was to dig holes, add tree guards to each tree, plant them in the ground, install the cages, and add mulch. While the weather was enjoyable again, the tasks at hand were a little more challenging. Volunteers split into groups again and began to dig holes. Each spot was marked with the species of tree to be planted there. They had to put off installing the cages in order to plant the trees, but Bonita and Russ, our ranch manager, and Mica, our maintenance manager, spent two additional days installing them. Although the day presented some challenges, the volunteers adapted and made it all happen! Altogether, they planted 199 trees!



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We cannot thank our volunteers enough. We truly could not have accomplished this amount of work without their dedication and support. Each and every volunteer brought a cheerful attitude and high spirits, and was ready for all the hard work. The community fostered here at Orient Land Trust is undoubtedly remarkable and generous.

