



Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates

Welcome to the summer issue of the Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates (SUFA) newsletter. This quarterly newsletter will keep you informed about SUFA's efforts to increase the tree canopy in Sunnyvale through education, tree plantings, advocacy, and options for how you can participate.

Upcoming Events



Fall Forest Festival Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 am - 2 pm Washington Park



Join the Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates on Saturday, September 16 for our Fall Forest Festival celebrating trees and the urban forest in our community. Here are some of the activities at the festival:

- Trees Walks through Washington Park for adults and children: 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.
- Library story time for kids: 11:00 a.m.
- "Anatomy of a Tree" presentation: 1:00 p.m.
- Tree climbing and truck lift demonstrations courtesy of City tree crews
- Arts/crafts and games for children
- Information about planting and caring for trees and how you can volunteer to help Sunnyvale's urban forest

Bring your family and spend the day at beautiful Washington Park. Reserved picnic tables will be available.

Volunteers needed! If you'd be willing to volunteer an hour or two to help in any way with the Festival, please contact SUFA at info@sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org.

News

Tree Mentors Needed!



SUFA, together with the City of Sunnyvale and other volunteers, recently planted young street trees in the San Miguel neighborhood near San Miguel Elementary School. We are looking for residents who would "mentor" these trees. Mentoring would involve a periodic survey of the health of the young trees and jotting down briefly anything of note. This could be done at your leisure in combination with a morning or afternoon walk. It would be a good way to better one's health and the health of our trees at the same time! Please let us know if you are interested by e-mailing: info@sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org

SUFA's Website

SUFA maintains a website with information about our organization and its activities. Take a look at the pictures of our Tree Walks and Arbor Day activities of the last three years. If you would like to volunteer to help our urban forest in Sunnyvale you can sign up at "Volunteer" or contact us. A list of arborists has been compiled so that the City and its residents can select qualified arborists to assess the health of trees and prune when necessary. We also have information as to how to obtain a free city tree adjacent to your property. Upcoming information will help residents to select the right tree for their needs and how to care for young trees and how to care for trees during a drought. Take a look at: www.sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org

Evening Tree Walk at the Civic Center

On June 29th an evening Tree Walk was held at the Civic Center on Olive Ave. The walk started at the library which was also a sponsor for the evening. About 50 Sunnyvale residents...young and "older"...came out to learn about some of the species of trees which can be found at the Civic Center. Altogether there are more than 700 trees at the site.



The camphor trees near the entrance to the Permit Department are especially noteworthy as their branches reach out amazingly across the sidewalk parallel to the ground. The 15 redwoods in the redwood grove define a peaceful and beautiful oasis for city employees hustling between the City Hall building and the annex.

The tree specialist leading the walk that evening was Sunnyvale's City Arborist, Joe Gonsalves. He explained interesting facts and kept the participants entertained with clever quips about the trees and their origins. We were happy to have him leading this walk and hope he's willing to lead future walks! Much was learned about our city trees that evening. The participants were given maps of the site with the trees numbered and named. They can return at any time to refresh their memory of the trees to be found at our Civic Center.

Interested in taking a future tree walk? Come to the Fall Forest Festival on, Saturday, September 16 at 10:00 and 11:30 for a Tree Walk in Washington Park or check out the SUFA website for other upcoming walks.



SUFA Joins California ReLeaf

SUFA has joined California ReLeaf (californiareleaf.org), an advocacy group supporting urban forests. California ReLeaf's mission is "to empower grassroots efforts and build strategic partnerships that preserve, protect, and enhance California's urban and community forests."

Many cities throughout the state have groups that promote urban forests, and California ReLeaf provides contacts, resources, and knowledge to further the goals of these groups. While each city group has its own structure, funding sources, and formal relationships with their cities, each of the groups works to increase their urban forests. As a new member, SUFA will certainly benefit from the support of California ReLeaf.

SUFA members attended the California ReLeaf Network conference in May and met with representatives from similar groups throughout the state. Organizations from cities large and small attended, including Los Angeles, Benicia, Oakland, Palo Alto, and Fresno. Topics included funding and engaging the community. Stories shared were both inspiring and humbling.

SUFA and our supporters have a lot of work to do, but the results can be amazing. SUFA will continue to engage with and learn from the members of California ReLeaf as we continue to increase Sunnyvale's urban forest.

Help Your Trees Thrive This Summer

It's heating up out there! Does your tree need a drink? **Trees' watering needs vary**, but a general rule of thumb during hot dry weather is to:

- Water **young trees** every two weeks
- Water **mature trees** once per month, or when soil is dry 12 inches below the surface.
- Use **10-15 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter** (measured at "breast height" or 4.5 feet above the ground).
- **Mature native oaks** are the exception! Once established (usually at age 5), native oaks fare better without summer watering, since the combination of heat and moisture can lead to root rot. [Learn more about caring for native oaks.](#)



You can check out Canopy's [trees and water FAQ](#) or download our [Save our Water and our Trees brochure](#) for more water-wise tree care tips. Information and graphic courtesy of Canopy (canopy.org).

Visit us at: sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org

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