

SUFA ENews

Fall 2017

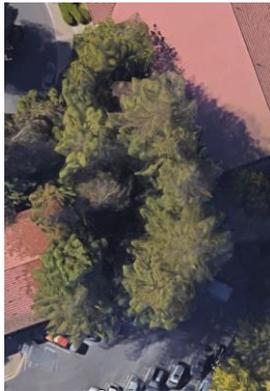
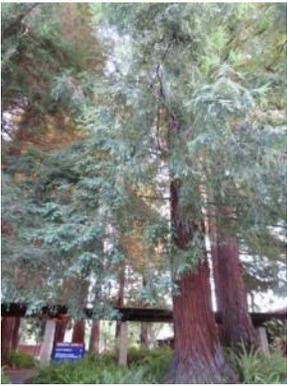


Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates

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

SUFA News

City Center Redwoods Saved -- Let's Help Save Additional Trees!



SUFA has been closely following the Civic Center Modernization Project. SUFA members, reflecting feedback from the community, have spoken to the City Manager, Project Manager, City Planner, City Arborist, and City Council on behalf of the trees in the redwood grove. SUFA's efforts have paid off! Both of the plans for the Civic Center modernization now definitely include the preservation of the seventeen redwood trees currently located between the council chambers and the annex. The new plans call for their incorporation into an amphitheater.

However, SUFA remains concerned about the preservation of many other beautiful, mature trees on the property including cork oaks, holly oaks, and camphor trees. The current plans do not indicate which trees are to be saved and which are to be removed. Let's keep the pressure on the City and the developer to save the trees and update the project plans to clearly indicate which trees will be spared. Check the SUFA website (www.sunnyvaletrees.org) for updates on outreach, Planning Commission, and City Council meetings.

Fall Festival Fun

Sunnyvale's first Fall Forest Festival, jointly sponsored by SUFA and the City, was a huge success! Hundreds of folks gathered at Washington Park on Saturday, September 16, to join in the activities while learning about trees and the urban forest in Sunnyvale.

Tree games and crafts were enjoyed by the children and their parents. Coloring books about trees were distributed and the face painting table was wildly popular. Children could be photographed as the Lorax -- a fictional character and defender of trees and the environment in a Dr. Seuss book of the same name.

The well-attended Library story time was held outside under the trees. Of course, it featured stories about trees! Tree Walks were led in the park by two city employees -- Arborist Joe Gonsalves and Leonard Dunn. Each toured a different section of the park so that one could enjoy both walks and learn about different tree varieties on each walk.

The City tree crew performed tree climbing demonstrations in one of the park's largest mature trees. Children could climb into the harness and do some tree "climbing" of their own with the help of the tree crew. The interest was so great that the crew wasn't able to take a break for lunch! We thank them greatly for their dedication to the children! A lift truck, showing how City tree crews can work at different heights of a tree without climbing was also demonstrated.

The Festival closed with a talk by Leonard Dunn, City Urban Landscape Manager, on the topic "What Makes a Strong, Healthy Tree?"

SUFA thanks the City tree crew, the arborists, and the library staff for making this a very successful event!



Butcher's Corner Oaks Saved!

SUFA successfully fought to save a number of oak trees endangered by the development at the Butcher's Corner property at the intersection of El Camino Real, Wolfe Road, and Fremont Avenue. Preserving trees was not a priority at all in the initial development proposal. While 70 of the 248 trees on the property were considered healthy enough for preservation, the plans called for keeping only one tree. SUFA stepped in to save the most visible and oldest trees on the property by working to have them declared Heritage Resources. For the rest of the article go to:

<http://sunnyvaletrees.org/article1>



Help SUFA Find “Sunnyvale’s Trees of Distinction”

Play a part in creating “Sunnyvale’s Trees of Distinction” program. Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates is looking to make a list of the most amazing trees in the city. To begin, we will include all trees that are already designated by the city as memorial or historic.

But, in addition, we are inviting Sunnyvale citizens to nominate other trees of significant age, size, or other unusual characteristics. We are hoping to locate lesser known, but nonetheless, distinctive trees in our community.

Our goal is to create a self-guided tree tour (either via car or bicycle) of these special trees. Flyers with the tour route and tree information will be available for downloading from the SUFA website in the coming months.

Submit your nomination to: info@sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org with the following information:

1. Your name and email address
2. The address of the tree you are nominating
3. A photo of the tree, if possible

Tree News

Protect Your Trees from Freeze

Temps below 32 degrees over a sustained period of time are cold enough to freeze your trees' buds/blossoms, fruit, & leaves.

Trees Most Susceptible to Damage:

Citrus, Jacaranda, Catalpa, Oleander, Eugenia, and other tropical/sub-tropical plants are most likely to sustain damage. Tender, new growth is also easily injured by freezing temperatures.

Action Before Freezing Weather to Protect Your Trees and Plants: Cover susceptible trees and plants with burlap, sheets, tarps, etc., that extend to the ground to trap in the earth's accumulated warmth. Use a frame or stakes to minimize contact between the cover and the foliage. Bring potted plants and trees to more protected locations.

Keep Plants Well-Watered: Moist soil will absorb more solar radiation than dry soil, and will re-radiate heat during the night. If you have a large tree that needs protection, running sprinklers at the coldest time of the day (usually between 4:00AM and 6:00AM) can give it a slight edge. The strategy makes use of latent heat released when water changes from liquid to a solid. When ice crystals form on the leaf surface they draw moisture from the leaf tissue. The damage from this dehydration will be less severe if the plant is not already drought-stressed.

Advanced Planning for Freeze: Remove turf/weeds from under trees' canopies—bare soil absorbs and reflects heat best. Wood chip mulch prevents soil moisture loss and insulates roots. Plant frost-sensitive plants near sources of reflective heat (like buildings, walls, etc).

Help Trees Recover after a Freeze: Do not prune anything off immediately. Wait to see what sprouts in the spring; the damage is often not nearly as bad as it initially looks, and new growth may come out of tissue that you thought was dead.

If dieback is severe enough and your tree has lost “shade,” protect the now-unshaded portions of the trunk/branches from the sun, with a physical cover or with whitewash (1:1 ratio of latex paint and water). Remove frosted/mushy fruit while still salvageable, for snacking on or juicing.

Information courtesy of Canopy (canopy.org)

Visit us at: sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org

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