



SUFA E-News

Fall 2019



Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates

Welcome to the Fall 2019 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 Tree Tips

Now is the Perfect Time to Plant Trees



Fall is the perfect time to plant a tree. The soil is still warm but the air is cool and, hopefully, our winter rains are right around the corner. Trees provide us with so many benefits beyond removing CO2 from the air and giving us shade (see the many benefits at: www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/benefitsoftrees). If you are interested in helping to fight climate change and increasing the tree canopy in Sunnyvale, here are some suggestions.

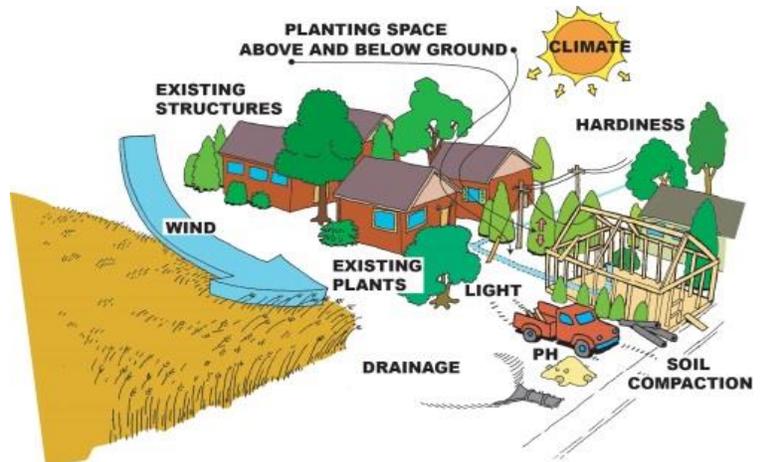
To plant a tree on the public right-of-way (including street trees): The City of Sunnyvale will plant a tree at no cost to you on the public right of-way of your home or building. Please call the Sunnyvale Parks Division at 408-730-7501 or visit sunnyvale.ca.gov/property/trees

To plant a tree on private property: The cost and responsibility for a tree on private property belongs to the property owner. If you'd like to plant a tree yourself on your property, here are links to pages that will provide information about choosing the right tree for the right place, as well as planting, watering, and pruning instructions. canopy.org/tree-info/planting-trees/, pge.com/righttreerightplace, treesaregood.org/treeowner, selectree.calpoly.edu

Also, for a fee, Our City Forest in San Jose will help you choose a tree from their nursery and teach you how to plant and care for it (ourcityforest.org).

Site Considerations for Tree Planting

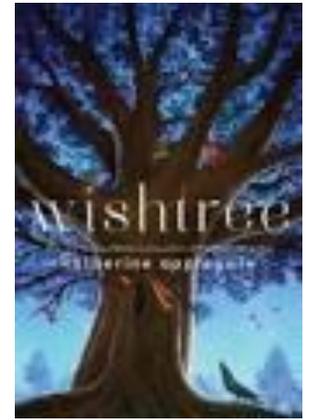
Selecting a tree that will thrive in a given set of site conditions is the key to long-term tree survival and reduced maintenance. Consider the following when selecting a tree: • soil conditions • exposure (sun and wind) • drainage • space constraints • hardiness zone • human activity • insect and disease susceptibility.



I recommend this book or audio book for family sharing, especially for kids aged 10-14. They will never take trees for granted again, will learn to revere old historical trees, and will understand more about the animals that inhabit them and people that love them.

Red is an oak tree that is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree"—people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with her crow friend, Bongo, and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this "wishtree" watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experiences as a wishtree are more important than ever.

Funny, deep, warm, and nuanced, this is Katherine Applegate at her very best—writing from the heart, and from a completely unexpected point of view.



The Wish Tree

by Katherine Applegate
Review by: Jenny Purushotma



Albino Redwood Trees - The Phantoms of the Forest

It turns out that there is a great deal happening in tree communities that remains unseen to us surface dwellers. Redwoods have the ability to graft their roots to other redwoods, becoming part of a vast interconnected, underground network. The trees use this immense root network to communicate, remain upright in a storm, and to share resources. A tree without chlorophyll and unable to photosynthesize can remain alive by grafting on to a "mother tree." The mother tree sends it the nutrients it requires to survive, but here is where it gets interesting. The albino seemingly reciprocates this kindness of the mother tree by acting as a detoxifying agent. Harmful toxins, including heavy metals like cadmium, copper, and nickel, are drawn up into the albino, essentially poisoning it. The albino locks in the toxins to their structures, removing them permanently from the environment. Yet it is kept alive by the mother tree in a glorious show of symbiosis. See examples of these amazing trees at Henry Cowell and Big Basin State Parks or Muir Woods National Monument.

Sunnyvale Trees of Distinction

Redwood Plaza Historic Redwood Grove

While every California Coast Redwood is a magnificent tree, why are the trees in Redwood Plaza considered special? Age, location, and community! The six redwood trees were donated by residents in the early 1900s and were planted around the first Sunnyvale City Hall on Murphy Avenue. When the city hall was demolished in 1975, the community rallied and the trees were saved. The trees are considered Sunnyvale heritage resources and are protected. When the Sunnyvale Town Center was built in 1978, the mall was built around the trees, which created a great focal point. .



After the mall closed in 2007 and was fenced off, the trees were hidden from view, but they were not forgotten. The City of Sunnyvale Downtown Specific Plan 2003 outlined the importance of this grove of trees and the requirement that any future development of this area would include a "Town Square" to create a public open area with the trees as the centerpiece.

Visit us at: sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org

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