



SUFA E-News

Winter 2020



Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates

Welcome to the Winter 2020 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

The Benefits of Ortega Park's Amazing Trees



Fremont High School students Mila and Bess (above) and Annabel and Anna (below) measured and entered data on all 457 trees in Ortega Park to determine the benefits these trees provide to the Sunnyvale community.

To quantify the benefits of our local trees, four Fremont High School students volunteered to identify and measure all 457 trees in Ortega Park. Data was collected on the tree type, size, and location, which was then entered into the National Tree Benefit Calculator and the EPA Greenhouse Equivalencies Calculator. The 457 trees in Ortega Park provide environmental benefits in excess of \$39,146 per year!

Each year these trees:

- Intercept 688,253 gallons of stormwater runoff
- Recharge the aquifer, filter pollutants, and prevent pollution from reaching the Bay
- Conserve 63,980 kilowatt hours of electricity for cooling - equivalent to the electricity use of 5.4 homes
- Reduce atmospheric carbon by 141,042 pounds – equivalent to driving a car 156,419 miles (that's around the world 6 times)
- Improve air quality
- Filter pollutants and produce oxygen

To cap off their project, the students presented their findings to the Sunnyvale City Council at their December 3, 2019 meeting. Many thanks to our student volunteers!

Coming in 2020: An Edible Tree Walk

Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates have selected the SNAIL Neighborhood for our inaugural Edible Tree Walk. The walk will be led by Kris Jensen, a permaculturist and food historian and accompanied by a professional chef. Prior walks have been held in Palo Alto, Los Altos, Cupertino, and Redwood City.



According to Kris, "These walks focus on neighborhoods with a multitude of trees that have an edible component (fruits, nuts, leaves, sap, etc.). During the walk the leaders identify the trees, tell stories, share recipes, and generally have a great time."

SUFA will announce the date and time for the walk, once established, on our website (sunnyvaletrees.org), on Nextdoor and through our newsletter subscriber list.

VOLUNTEER Needed!

SUFA is Looking for a Communication/Publicity Coordinator

While many people think of tree plantings as the primary activity of an urban forest volunteer group, the focus of Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates (SUFA) includes much, much more. Our mission to preserve and increase the tree canopy in Sunnyvale also involves a great deal of work in both community education

and municipal advocacy. Crucial to these efforts is getting the word out to the Sunnyvale community about our upcoming events and activities. As such, we are in search of a committed volunteer to coordinate other volunteers in these efforts. Specific tasks would include:

- **Posting upcoming events on the SUFA website and Facebook page**
- **Coordinating with SUFA's volunteer team of Nextdoor posters to share upcoming events in their neighborhoods**
- **Communicating with the Sunnyvale Sun, the Library, the Senior Center, and City Hall to have SUFA events included in their calendars**

Because of the ongoing nature of this volunteer position, we would encourage participation in the SUFA monthly meetings. Meetings are held from 7pm – 9pm on the third Thursday of the month at the Sunnyvale Community Center (550 E. Remington Ave).

If you would like to make a difference in fighting climate change on the local level and preserving the Sunnyvale urban forest by volunteering to coordinate SUFA's communications and publicity we would love your help! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Mary Brunkhorst (SUFA President) at info@sunnyvaltetrees.org

Sunnyvale Trees of Distinction

The Hollenbeck Sycamores

Driving along Hollenbeck Ave. between Remington Ave. and El Camino Real, discerning residents can look briefly into Sunnyvale's history and its living legacy. As you pass 880 and 882 Hollenbeck, the line of ubiquitous southern magnolias breaks for two of Sunnyvale's official heritage trees, large and stately hybrid sycamores - London plane trees (*Platanus x acerfolia*).



These trees were originally planted in 1927 to mark the entrance to the Bocks' family farm and fruit orchard which was, at one time, the largest cherry orchard in the world. The family patriarch, C.O. Bocks, was even referred to as "The Cherry King". Today, they serve as a reminder of how the early residents of Sunnyvale used unique trees and other natural landmarks as directional guides in this large and primarily flat valley, as in "Drive north until you see the two large sycamore trees on either side of my driveway". These trees are a reminder that Sunnyvale, once known as "The Valley of Heart's Delight", still has many historic and cultural reminders of its former agricultural glory.



Oak wildlands in California are now a fraction of what once existed. In the past 70 years, more than 1 million acres of oak habitat have been lost to development, disease, and habitat decimation, including wildfires. People interested in helping to restore oaks to more of California can sign up at www.cnps.org/give/priority-initiatives/re-oak-california for instructions and information on ongoing events.

Re-Oak California

Visit us at: sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org

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