



SUFA E-News Spring 2020



Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates

Welcome to the Spring 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.

A Message from Our Board

SUFA Supporters,

We hope you are all safe and healthy as we continue to shelter in place. As with so many other organizations, we have put our spring and summer plans on hold. Initial plans for 2020 called for holding a number of tree walks including our popular Civic Center/Library walk and our first edible tree walk in the SNAIL neighborhood. In addition, we hoped to make presentations at the Lakewood and Cherry Hill neighborhood association meetings. We will be sure to notify you whenever we are able to safely hold these activities again.

In other news, we are very excited that the City Council is considering our proposal for a Sunnyvale Tree Challenge. If approved, the Challenge will encourage tree planting on both residential and commercial private property. Sunnyvale will contract with an outside organization to coordinate with property owners on appropriate tree types, locations, and planting schedules. Tree delivery and planting will be provided by the outside contractor. Property owners would pay a small portion of the cost and the City would cover the rest. In-lieu fees that are assessed by the City when trees are removed from private property will be used to fund this new program. The City staff will present the proposal to the City Council in the near future.

SUFA hopes that you will continue to care for your own trees and enjoy the trees in your neighborhoods and parks throughout this time of sheltering in place. Please visit the articles below for links to our self-guided tree walks and a new bike/car tree tour of the Trees of Distinction in Sunnyvale. You'll also find a list of suggested books and online articles about trees.

Mary Brunkhorst, President

Announcing SUFA's Sunnyvale Trees of Distinction Self-Guided Car or Bike Tour!

It is with great pride that Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates announces a new way to see the landmark trees that are found throughout Sunnyvale. We have created a self-guided tour that you may take either via car or bike to various sites throughout Sunnyvale, each featuring a tree of special beauty, size, or historical importance. Some, but not all of the trees, are currently designated as Heritage Trees.

SUFA would like to extend our deepest thanks to Kim Walter who conceived of the idea and spent many months finding the trees, establishing their histories, and creating the route. Kim, take a bough!

To access the **Self-Guided Car/Bike Tour of Sunnyvale Trees of Distinction** and the descriptive **Guide to the Trees of Distinction** found on the tour, go to our website at www.sunnyvaltetrees.org and use the pull-down menu: Events/Programs.

To the left, from top to bottom: *The Community Center oak, the Civic Center redwood grove, the Library cork oak, and the City Hall camphors.*

To the right, from top to bottom: *The Hollenbeck sycamores, the downtown redwood grove, the Washington Park camphors, and the Butcher's Corner oaks (Wolfe and El Camino).*



Online Tree Walk Maps Available

You, or you and your family can still enjoy SUFA's tree walks while our in-person walks are on hiatus. Just click on this link: sunnyvaletrees.org/tree-walk-maps and you'll find maps for our walks at the Civic Center/Library as well as Washington, Ponderosa, Murphy, and Ortega Parks. All parks are currently open with social distancing requirements. Enjoy a break outside the house and learn more about the wide variety of trees that comprise the urban forest in Sunnyvale.



Is your
tree
thirsty?



Don't Forget Your Trees this Summer

All trees, whether new or old, need some help with watering during the six-month period when we typically receive no rain in Sunnyvale. The City of Palo Alto's Canopy website has excellent guidelines on how to keep both new and established trees healthy and watered whether you are watering by hand, sprinkler, or drip.

Click on this link for Canopy's watering guidelines: <https://canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/trees-and-water/watering-guidelines/>

Sunnyvale Celebrates Arbor Day 2020

At the February 25th City Council meeting, Mayor Larry Klein officially proclaimed Saturday, March 7th as Arbor Day 2020 in Sunnyvale. To honor the occasion, City staff, SUFA, and friends planted a native valley oak on Civic Center property at the corner of El Camino and Mathilda.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska in 1872. Within 10 years school students all over the United States began to celebrate the holiday with the planting of trees. The City of Sunnyvale carries on that tradition every year with tree plantings at one or more of the City's elementary schools.



This year, students at Cumberland Elementary School, with the help of City staff, planted three valley oaks, two Shumard oaks, and a sycamore on their school grounds.

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