

SUFA-News Summer 2021



Welcome to the Summer 2021 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.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.

Chinese proverb



Branch Out Sunnyvale is Coming to Your Neighborhood!



SUFA is proud to announce Branch Out Sunnyvale, a new program to increase our urban canopy by helping residents to plant trees on their private property.

Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates has been actively involved in creating this private tree planting opportunity and has worked closely with the City of Sunnyvale to develop the program. SUFA is excited about this partnership and is happy that the city is taking steps to increase our urban forest by providing both public and private trees. The City of Sunnyvale has allocated funds to subsidize 50 private trees and has contracted with Our City Forest of San Jose to implement the program.

To participate, the homeowner will visit the program website, fill out an application, and pay the \$50 fee. Our City Forest will communicate with the homeowner to discuss tree selection (based on location and size), provide the tree, plant the tree, and educate the homeowner on care of the tree. Sunnyvale will reimburse Our City Forest for the trees that have been planted.

The response to the program has been terrific. The first Branch Out Sunnyvale planting took place in May 2021, with several more trees planted in the Spring. The next plantings will be scheduled for Fall. There are a few slots still available for Fall planting, so apply now. A wait list will be developed for Spring planting.

Visit <http://www.sunnyvaletrees.org/branch-out-sunnyvale/> for more details on the program. Visit <http://www.ourcityforest.org/sunnyvale> for more information and the application.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

SUFA is planning to expand fundraising and outreach programs to ensure the continued success of our programs/activities including Branch Out Sunnyvale, community tree plantings, and park tree walks, as well as our education and advocacy efforts. It's a lot to do and we can use your help. Most of these opportunities can be performed on your own schedule.

Open positions include:

Board Member – Help manage the implementation of SUFA's goals.

Grant Writer – Research and submit grant proposals to provide funding for Branch Out Sunnyvale. The city will pay for 50 trees, but many more are needed.

Communications/Outreach Coordinator – Manage announcements via newsletter, website, and Next Door. Set up speaking and tabling opportunities.

Volunteer Coordinator - Recruit and organize volunteers for tree plantings, staffing tables at community events, and public speaking.

Development Researcher – Review upcoming development projects to determine their impact on existing large trees. Report findings to the Board and help develop a plan to potentially save the trees.

Public Speakers – Speak in support of SUFA and tree preservation at Planning Commission, City Council, and other relevant meetings.

Please email info@sunnyvaletrees.org for more information or to volunteer.

Sunnyvale Celebrates Arbor Day 2021

On April 30th of this year, the City of Sunnyvale celebrated Arbor Day with the planting of 10 Yoshino Flowering Cherry trees (*Prunus yedoensis* "Akebono") in Braly Park. The trees are a gift from the people of Iizuka, Japan, one of Sunnyvale's sister cities, and are a beautiful addition to this Japanese-themed city park.



The fragrant flowers of the Yoshino cherry trees emerge in the spring before their leaves ("akebono" means "daybreak" in Japanese) with a spectacular display of blooms. This cultivar makes up a small but beautiful percentage of the flowering cherry trees around the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C.

Participating in the planting were Mayor Larry Klein, Sister City Association President Mark Kato, City Arborist Joe Gonsalves, and Urban Landscape Manager Leonard Dunn.



Sunnyvale's Braly Park
704 Daffodil Court

The Importance of Watering Trees During a Drought and Why It's Good to Plant Trees Now.

Why bother watering trees in a drought? Why plant trees during a drought?

The answer to these important questions is that the long-term benefits of planting a tree far out weigh the immediate cost of the water used to maintain it. The benefits of a mature tree that is lost may take 20, 30 ,or 50 years to see again.

Here are a few of the major benefits of trees. For a complete list of the benefits that trees provide us (complete with an important example for each benefit, too) visit: <https://www.treepeople.org/22-benefits-of-trees/>

- Trees are long-term investments due to their ability to increase property value, reduce energy and water use, and capture carbon from the atmosphere.
- Tree cover saves water by reducing evaporation from water sources and the soil.
- Tree cover shades and cools and reduces the "heat island effect" found in urban areas.
- Trees add value -- sometimes thousands of dollars worth -- to both your home and your neighborhood.
- Trees have been shown through many studies to improve both the physical and mental health of people who either see or interact with them.

And here is advice from the Santa Clara County Valley Water District: (note: the links to graywater systems and drip irrigation will take you to information about the Water District's rebate programs for these installations).

During drought periods in California, please remember to water your landscape trees, even though other parts of your yard may go brown or dry during periods of water conservation. Many trees growing in lawns have shallow roots due to typical lawn watering schedules. When irrigation is reduced or stopped altogether, trees can quickly become stressed or die. Most trees benefit from deep, infrequent watering provided by [drip irrigation](#) or soaker hoses, or a [graywater system](#). Apply a few inches of mulch to help retain moisture but be sure to keep it at least 6" away from the trunk of the tree

Watering in the morning or evening is always better to allow the water to percolate into the root zone while temperatures are cooler. Drought-resistant trees, including many California natives, may need far less water during summer drought periods than other ornamental species.

For excellent information on how much and how often to water your trees, as well as how to save both water and trees during the drought, visit the website for Canopy (Palo Alto's urban forest group): <https://canopy.org/tree-info/caring-for-trees/trees-and-water/save-water-and-trees/>

