



SUFA E-News

Fall 2025



Welcome to the Fall 2025 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.

TREES FOR SUNNYVALE



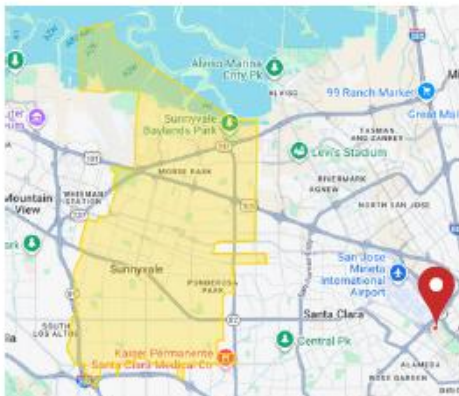
VTA has partnered with Our City Forest to offer **FREE TREES** to properties in the City of Sunnyvale. This partnership is designed to:

- restore and enhance greenery around specific project areas
- replace trees that were removed due to necessary construction, and
- support the reforestation of Sunnyvale

Whether you're interested in greening a residential yard space, school, or local business in Sunnyvale, this program is for you!

Scan the QR code below to learn more.

Let's work together to grow a greener, healthier city!



OUR CITY FOREST NURSERY
1000 Spring St, San Jose, CA 95110
Open Thurs-Sat 9 AM-12 PM



SCAN ME

CONTACT
trees@ourcityforest.org
(408) 256-0546

Free Trees for Sunnyvale Residents!

For more
information,
scan the QR code
or use this
address:

<https://www.ourcityforest.org/free-trees>





**On PBS, Starting in November,
You Can Watch: Giants Rising:
The Secrets and Superpowers
of the Redwoods**

Last June, Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates (SUFA) in conjunction with the Sunnyvale Library were privileged to present a screening of the remarkable documentary "**Giants Rising: The Secrets and Superpowers of the Redwoods**". If you missed the screening, or if you would like to watch it again, it is being streamed by PBS for the next twelve months and can be accessed at this link: <https://www.pbs.org/show/giants-rising/>. Also, Giants Rising may be shown on TV by some PBS stations but only during the month of November. Check your local listings for more information.

Synopsis: Journey into America's redwood forests and explore the secrets, superpowers and saga of the tallest and some of the oldest living beings on Earth. Living links to the past, redwoods hold powers that may shape our future, including their ability to withstand fire, capture carbon, and offer clues about longevity. Through the voices of biologists, artists, Native leaders and others, we explore the scientific wonders of redwoods, our deep cultural ties to them, and efforts to help these majestic forests overcome the legacy of logging that nearly wiped them out. It's a tale that offers lessons about resilience and the promise of solutions that will help us ALL rise up to face challenges that lay ahead.

Evergreen Tree Walk Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 12pm.

Join SUFA on January 17, 2026 for a tree walk that will focus on the beautiful evergreen trees that surround the Library and Civic Center. Learn about the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees and find out why evergreens are so special. We'll meet at the plaza in front of the library. The walk will be outdoors, so please dress appropriately. Check the [SUFA Website](#) for more details and any updated information.



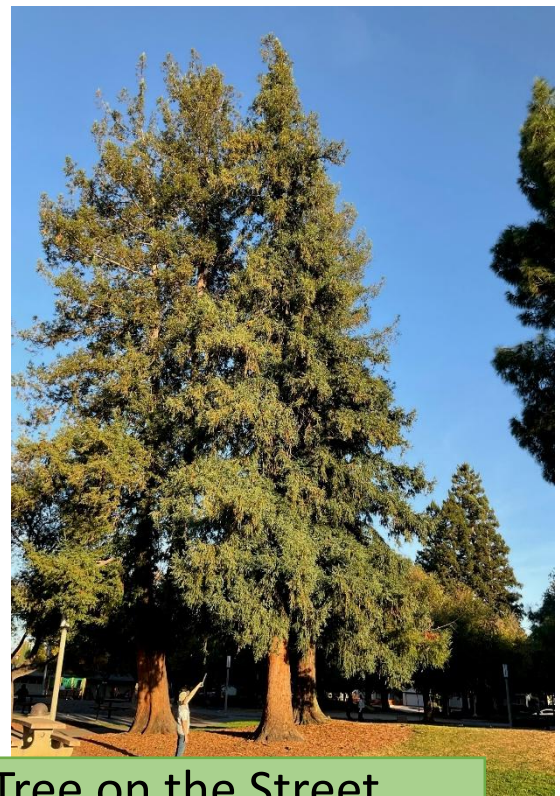
A few of the many evergreen trees that grace the Civic Center and Library. Come learn about them on our Evergreen Tree Walk.



We continue our series featuring common Sunnyvale street trees with information about the trees presented in an interview format. These are trees you'll see as you walk or bike through Sunnyvale neighborhoods or parks.

SUFA: Thank you for being willing to be interviewed by Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates. First, can I get your full name?

Coast Redwood: Absolutely. My Latin name is *Sequoia sempervirens*. The genus name *Sequoia* honors Sequoyah, the Cherokee linguist and developer of the Cherokee alphabet. The species name *sempervirens* comes from the Latin words *semper* ("always") and *virens* ("green"). But, commonly we're called the coast redwood..



Tree on the Street
Interview:
The Coast Redwood

SUFA: Are you limited to growing on the coast?

Coast Redwood: Indeed. The only place in the entire world that we are found in nature is along the coast from Big Sur in California to southern Oregon. We like it wet – the rainier and foggier the better! We have adapted such that our leaves can both absorb moisture from fog right from the air and can also condense fog into drops and then rain them down to soak the soil around us.

SUFA: SUFA has never interviewed such an iconic species before! Coast redwoods are the tallest trees in the world. People travel from all over the world just to see the you. Oh, and you're the California state tree, as well.

Coast Redwood: Yes, to be completely honest, it's hard to be humble sometimes. Personally, I try to remember the humble beginnings from which I grew. Redwood cones are only about the size of your thumbnail and our seeds about the size of a tomato seed.

SUFA: Amazing! Coast redwoods can live a long time also. Right?

Coast Redwood: That's correct. Many of us live to be over 2000 years old.

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SUFA: To what can you attribute that?

Coast Redwood: Well, I'd have to say it would be our amazing bark. It can be up to one foot thick and contains lots of tannin, a chemical compound that makes us resistant to insects, fungus, disease, and also makes us resistant, but not impervious, to fire. Tannin also makes both our heartwood and our bark red in color, hence our common name...

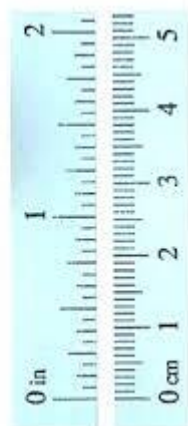
SUFA: Anything else to share?

Coast Redwood: Sigh. Well again, it's hard to be humble but we are known as climate change heroes because we capture more carbon dioxide (CO₂) from cars, trucks, and power plants than any other tree on Earth. Because we're big and long-lived we can pull in and hold three times more carbon dioxide than the average tree. It's our superpower!

SUFA: Thank you. You have every right to be proud! One last question, we always ask our tree interviewees what makes them a good tree for the urban forest. What would you say?

Coast Redwood: Well, coast redwoods obviously do not make good street trees because of our immense size. And, because of more hot days and less fog due to climate change, we may be struggling here in Santa Clara Valley in the future. However, currently you can find us all over Sunnyvale in parks and large landscapes like the Library and the Civic Center. We provide great beauty, reduction of the the urban heat island effect, and CO₂ capture and storage. In an effort to be humble, I haven't named all our superpowers (we have some secrets, too!). Watch "Giants Rising" streaming this year on PBS (see article above) to learn more about coast redwoods. You'll be amazed!

The tiny cones and seeds and the thick bark of the coast redwood.)





Four Winter Tree Care Tips

1. Time to prune

Trees go into dormancy during winter making it the ideal time for you to prune. We recommend pruning trees while they are young to establish good structure and to prevent damage in the future, such as limb failure.

Here are Canopy's five steps to pruning young trees:

- Remove dead, dying, damaged, diseased, and disoriented branches.
- Select and establish the central leader.
- Select the lowest permanent branch (LPB) based on tree location/purpose.
- Select and establish scaffold branches.
- Select temporary branches below the LPB and remove or head back others

2. Protect trees from freeze

Be prepared to provide protection for your most vulnerable trees when temperatures drop to freezing. Young trees and certain tropical/subtropical species cannot tolerate freezing temperatures below 32 degrees.

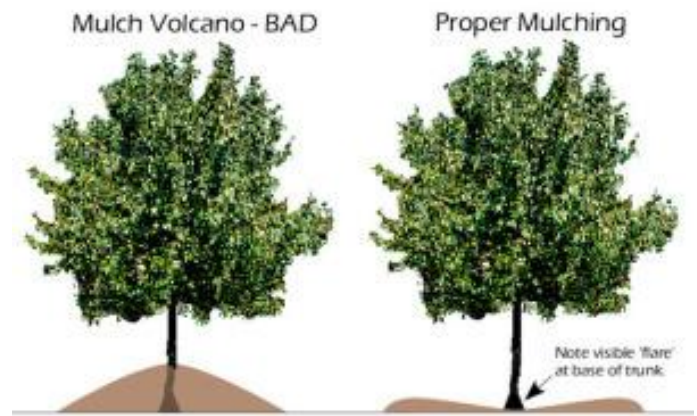
To protect your trees from freeze:

- 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. Remember to remove the tarps or sheets each morning so your trees can receive fresh nutrients.
- Bring potted plants and trees to more protected locations.
- Moist soil will absorb more solar radiation than dry soil, and will re-radiate heat during the night.

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3. Mulch to retain moisture and warmth
Cover the soil with a 3- to 5-inch layer of mulch starting a few inches from the base of the trunk and extending 2 or more feet from the tree in all directions (creating a circle around the tree).

- Use organic matter such as wood chips,
- with or without leaf matter. Trees actually prefer wood chip mulch and the “duff” created by their own leaves.
- [Say no to mulch volcanoes](#)! Mulch should have a “donut” distribution, not a “volcano” shape. Mulch should be a few inches away from the base of the tree; too much moisture around the trunk can lead to decay.



4. Continue to water when there is no rain

Continue to keep your tree watered when there is no rain during the winter months:

- Water young trees every week or every two weeks. Use about 10-15 gallons for each watering. It's especially important to water newly planted trees to help them recover from the stress of a transplant.
- Water mature trees once a month or every other month. Use 10-15 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter, measured at diameter at standard height (DSH), defined as 4.5 feet off the ground. For example, a tree with a 10" trunk diameter at breast height would need 100 – 150 gallons of water (about the same as 4 or 5 loads of laundry). Don't forget to apply water slowly so it has time to soak into the ground.

For trees that are 3 years or younger, continue to water your tree even when there is rain:

- If there is more than 0.3 inches of accumulated rain in one day, you can decrease the amount of watering to 10 gallons instead of 15 gallons.



Fall Movie Nights: Let Trees Take Center Stage

Featured Films & Streaming Options:

1. Secrets of the Forest – NOVA, PBS [NOVA: Secrets of the Forest](#) | [KPBS Public Media](#)

Premiere: April 2025

Available on: PBS platforms (as part of the NOVA series), Prime Video (rent, buy, or stream with PBS Documentaries subscription), Apple TV,

Director: Jamie Lochhead

Duration: 53 minutes

Overview: This NOVA documentary explores how forests may hold the key to cooling the planet and preserving biodiversity. Filmed in breathtaking landscapes across Costa Rica, Brazil, Australia, and beyond, the film follows scientists as they investigate the intricate relationships between trees, fungi, and wildlife. Their mission: to understand how these ecosystems function and how they might help combat climate change and species extinction. Secrets of the Forest offers a compelling blend of science, environmental urgency, and natural beauty.

2. Trees, and Other Entanglements (2023) [Trees, and Other Entanglements \(2023\) - IMDb](#)

Available on: HBO and Kanopy: [Trees and Other Entanglements](#) | [Kanopy](#)

Director: Irene Taylor

Duration: 1 hour and 55 minutes

Overview: This beautifully crafted documentary weaves together stories of memory, identity, and resilience—all anchored by trees. It's not just about forests; it's about the human spirit entangled with nature.

3. Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (2012, animated film)

Available on DVDs: Santa Clara, Mountain View and San Jose Public Libraries

Director: Chris Renaud, co-directed by Kyle Balda

Duration: 86 minutes

Overview: Based on Dr. Seuss's beloved 1971 book, The Lorax is a vibrant animated musical comedy that follows a 12-year-old boy named Ted who lives in a synthetic city devoid of nature. In his quest to win the affection of a girl who dreams of seeing a real tree, Ted uncovers the story of the Lorax — a grumpy yet endearing creature who speaks for the trees and fights to protect the forest from corporate greed. The film blends humor, heart, and environmental themes, making it a family-friendly tale with a powerful message

4. Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees [Call of the Forest](#) | [Trailer](#)

Available on DVDs: DVDs ordered through their website are intended for home viewing only. [Take Action - Call of the Forest](#)

Film could also be streamed or rented: [Watch Call of the Forest: The Forgotten Wisdom of Trees](#) | [Prime Video](#)

Director: Jeff McKay

Duration: 1 hour 26 minutes

Overview: This visually stunning documentary follows botanist and medical biochemist Diana Beresford-Kroeger as she journeys through the ancient forests of Japan, Ireland, and North America. Blending Indigenous wisdom with cutting-edge science, she reveals the profound ways trees support life on Earth — from purifying air and water to healing our bodies and minds. A poetic and hopeful call to action for reforestation and ecological stewardship