

Growing Together: SUFA's Year of Trees and Community

As we prepare for the holiday season, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support of **Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates (SUFA)**. Whether you joined us at one event or many, volunteered your time, or shared ideas to keep SUFA engaging for all ages, your contributions have made a real difference.

In this newsletter, we've highlighted *some* of the projects and activities we've accomplished together. As you'll see, there is still much to be done in the years ahead! **Our wish this season is to welcome more volunteers who share our love for trees.** With many hands, we can take on more projects and expand our impact. We look forward to growing the SUFA team in the coming year and continuing this important work together.

Tree Champions!

Heritage District Movement:

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Ken Rheume, Steve Burke, Penny Hutchinson, Sunil and Neeti Khatana, Josh and Kim Martin, and guidance from SUFA and our former City Arborist, Phase 1 of the Heritage District tree planting is complete with 40 new street trees! Phase 2 will expand canvassing to a broader area, with hopes to replicate this model in other neighborhoods.



Ken Rheume showing the trees planted in the Heritage District



Center: One of the beautiful cherry trees planted in honor of Arbor Day. Below: Tabling during Earth Day



Arbor Day & Sister City

Collaboration: Over the summer, SUFA provided support for the annual Arbor Day tree planting. It was celebrated at the Community Center in partnership with Sunnyvale's sister city, Iizuka, Japan. Four cherry trees were planted at Braly Park with Braly Elementary 5th graders, and eight cherry trees were planted at the Community Center with representatives from Iizuka.

Education & Outreach

April Earth Day Festival at Olive Avenue, SUFA hosted activities for kids, including a touch box with leaves, bark, and cones.  SUFA also led two tree walks through the newly-landscaped Civic Center grounds. 

Partnerships & Advocacy

SUFA continues to be the voice of trees in Sunnyvale, advocating at City Council and organizational meetings for preservation and expansion of our urban forest. We aim to build coalitions with other groups to strengthen shared causes.

Warm Winter Wishes



As we reflect on this season of giving, SUFA celebrates the many hands and hearts that have nurtured Sunnyvale's urban forest this year. From planting trees to leading neighbors on edible tree walks, each effort has deepened our roots in the community. Looking ahead, we hope more volunteers will join us in 2026 to expand our canopy of care.

Together, we can grow a greener, healthier Sunnyvale.



Movie Screening


In partnership with the Sunnyvale Library, SUFA hosted a screening of the documentary ***Giants Rising*** — an 81-minute film celebrating the beauty, ecological importance, and current threats facing California's redwoods. The event was a great success, drawing approximately 80 attendees. Following the screening, David Cowman of the Sempervirens Fund led a thoughtful Q&A session.



Giants Rising Film Screening



Tree Walks & Experiences

Private Group Walks: SUFA led two private tree walks at Serra Park over the summer. Groups of 10–20 can schedule tree walks from May through September by contacting info@sunnyvaletrees.org. 

Edible Tree Walk: One of the most popular walks, led by Jenny Purushotma and her neighbor Rafael, explored fruit-bearing trees. Participants enjoyed engaging discussions on gardening, horticulture, and trees, followed by fellowship on a warm July day.



Edible Tree Walk

