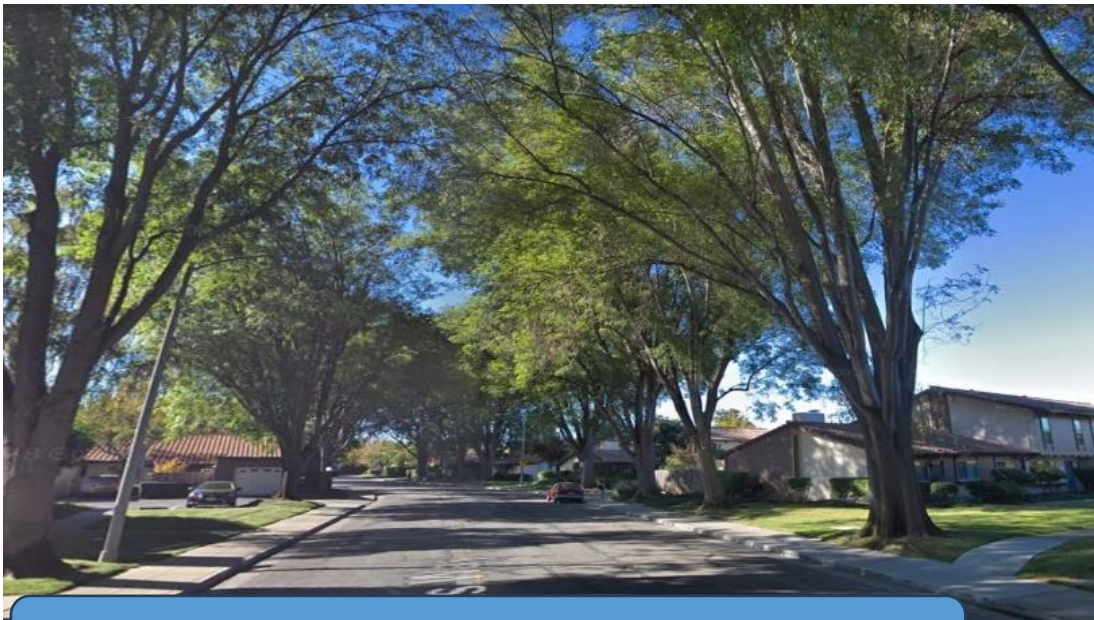


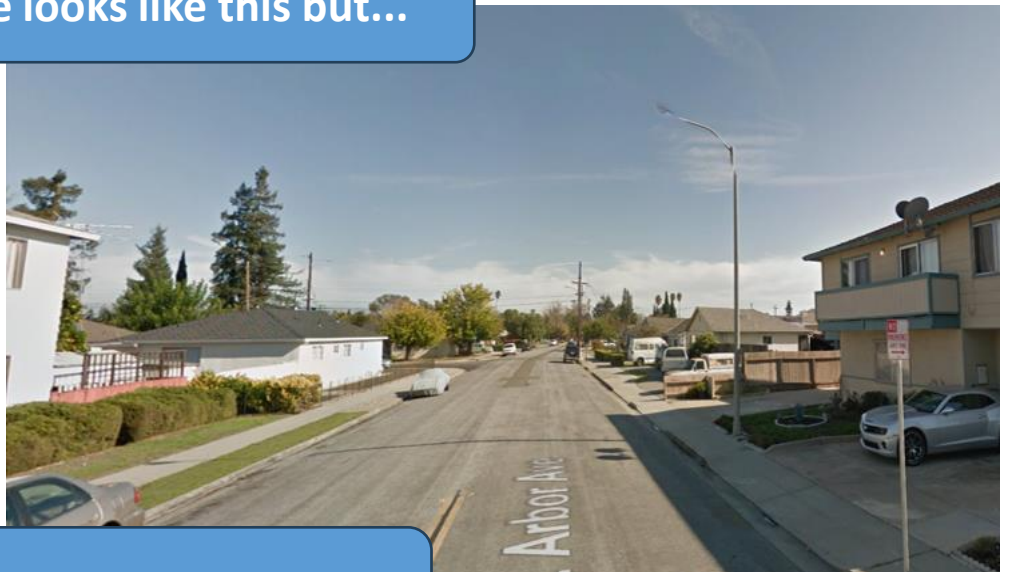
SUFA E-News Spring 2024



Welcome to the Spring 2024 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 City of Sunnyvale looks like this but...



...it also looks like this!

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We would like Sunnyvale to look like the first picture, but we need..

More Trees, Please!

The Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates (SUFA), an organization founded in 2014 to protect and increase Sunnyvale's urban forest, is spearheading a petition to plant more trees in the City of Sunnyvale. Trees are an essential part of our community! Sunnyvale's urban forest cools the city, helps manage stormwater runoff, improves the walkability of neighborhoods, removes pollutants, and sequesters carbon, just to name a few of its benefits!

Here is the link to the petition but read on for more background: <http://tinyurl.com/SUFA-Petition>

The Purpose of the Petition

The petition's purpose is to urge the City of Sunnyvale to fully implement the Sunnyvale Urban Forest Management Plan (SUFMP), by funding the staff and equipment needed. The SUFMP was unanimously approved by the City Council back in 2014. The full text of the SUFMP can be found at:

<https://www.sunnyvaletrees.org/urban-forest-management-plan/>

Goal

The goal of the plan is to plant 29,000 new trees - 14,000 in commercial areas and 15,000 in residential areas (of those, 5,000 are to be planted as street trees). Because these trees are not being planted, we are not receiving the benefits, and at this rate, neither will the next generation - trees take time to grow.

Call to Action

We urge you to sign the petition (<http://tinyurl.com/SUFA-Petition>) to express your desire for these trees to be planted and to put pressure on the city to provide the necessary funding to plant them. You can also contact the City Council to request that they prioritize the funding of the Sunnyvale Urban Forest Management Plan (SUFMP) at council@sunnyvale.ca.gov

SUFA's Earth Day Presentation at Resurrection School

In April, Resurrection Catholic School invited the Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates (SUFA) as part of their Earth Day celebration. SUFA shared their passion for trees with students and their teachers in grades 4-8.

During the presentation, SUFA outlined the benefits of trees as well as highlighting some of the historic trees in Sunnyvale. There was a virtual exploration of the trees on the Resurrection campus as well as some tree-related science experiments.

To commemorate Resurrection's beautiful redwood grove, SUFA handed out a special bookmark - featuring a photo of their very own redwood trees, with a message "Hug a tree today".

SUFA believes in the importance of instilling environmental awareness in young minds. Our hope is that one day, they will become tree advocates!





Sunnyvale Celebrates Earth Day 2024

Braly School 5th Grade
Tree Planters

For the third year in a row, to celebrate Earth Day, 5th grade students at Braly Elementary School planted ten cherry trees next door to their school in Braly Park.



To begin the morning, Leonard Dunn, Urban Landscape Manager, and James LeMasters, City Arborist, met with the fifth grade class in the cafeteria for a short talk about trees and their function and importance.

After the presentation it was a short walk over to park where the students planted ten cherry trees donated by Sunnyvale's sister city, Izuka, Japan. Staff members from the city Trees Department were there to explain the basics of tree planting and to help if needed. The students were encouraged to come back to the park, even as adults, to check on their tree.

Others in attendance included volunteers from SUFA, Mayor Larry Klein, Jim Stark, Superintendent of the Parks, Golf, and Trees Department, and Mark Kato and Sinziana Berevoescu of Sunnyvale's Sister City organization



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?

Tree on the Street Interview: The Strawberry Tree

Strawberry Tree: Well...my exact parentage is a little murky. It's likely that I am hybrid of *Arbutus unedo* and another *Arbutus* species. But you can just call me 'Marina' which is my hybrid name.

SUFA: From where do you hail, Marina?

Strawberry Tree: *Arbutus unedo* is indigenous to Ireland and southern Europe. Other species of *Arbutus* can be found throughout the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands.

SUFA: So, you're not a California native?

Strawberry Tree: No, but I have native cousins that you'll see if you go hiking in the hills around the valley here – *Arbutus menziesii*, more commonly known as madrones. You can tell we're related because we both have bark that peels off in strips to reveal our gorgeous, satiny inner bark. If you wanted to, you might say our bark is very "a-peeling" to look at.

SUFA: And why the hybrid name 'Marina'?

Strawberry Tree: Ah, herein lies the murkiness. The 'Marina' family tree seems to go back to a strawberry tree sent from Europe that originally appeared in a horticultural exposition at the Pan Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915..

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Cuttings from the tree ended up in the Western Nursery on Lombard Street in the Marina district of San Francisco - hence the hybrid name. Then a tree that was propagated from those cuttings was moved to the San Francisco Botanic Garden (then Strybing Arboretum) and next into a home garden in the city. Cuttings from this garden tree were introduced into the nursery trade from there and the rest is history. Hey, wait! Does that make me a native? A San Francisco native?

SUFA: An impressive but murky origin story, but sorry, no. Moving on. Tell our readers about your fruit.

Strawberry Tree: Ah, yes, along with our bark it's our other beautiful feature. We produce round, red fruit in the fall, right alongside white, bell-shaped flowers. And here's a fun fact – the strawberry tree is the national tree of Italy because we have the same colors as the Italian flag – green (leaves), white (flowers), and red (fruit).

SUFA: So, is your fruit edible?

Strawberry Tree: Well, yes, it is but, it is largely a matter of individual taste. Some people find the taste bland and the pulp gritty. I've actually heard that our species name, *unedo*, is attributed to Pliny the Elder. He was a Roman writer and naturalist who in 50 AD, after sampling a fruit, allegedly said, "Unum tantum edo" meaning "I eat only one". Having said that, with the addition of other ingredients the fruit can make delicious jams and liqueurs. I think sugar is involved.

SUFA: You're here in Ortega Park. Are there other 'Marinas' in Sunnyvale?

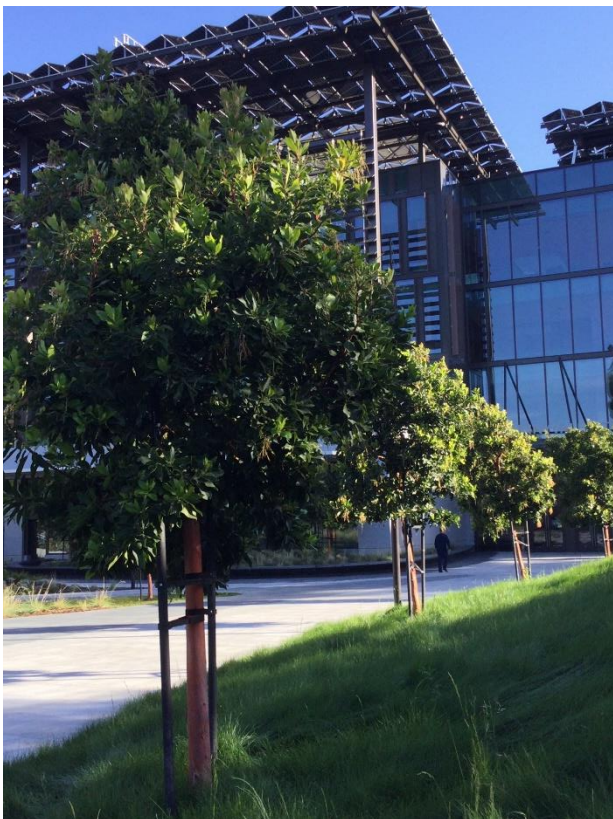
Strawberry Tree: Indeed! You can see us as street trees, in the parks, in home gardens, and Sunnyvale just planted a whole passle of us in the new landscaping around City Hall.

SUFA: Well, thank you! You've been very informative. Lastly, we always ask our tree interviewees what makes them a good tree for the urban forest. What would you say?

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Strawberry Tree: Well, our fruit attracts many kinds of birds and our flowers attract both bees and hummingbirds. We only grow 20-40 feet tall so we're a good garden or street tree and, being of Mediterranean origin, we are naturally drought tolerant. But mostly we are just plain gorgeous – nothing murky about that!

The peeling bark (*right*) and the fruit and flowers (*left*) of the strawberry tree. *Below:* Strawberry trees at the newly-landscaped open space surrounding Sunnyvale City Hall.



The Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates were excited to participate in the Earth Day Festival at the new Civic Center in April. Our SUFA booth was very popular and we met many Sunnyvale residents, city staff, and city officials. We discussed SUFA's mission and the city trees program, and also answered numerous questions.

Visitors to the booth enjoyed the display of tree leaves and bark and our smaller visitors received stickers. SUFA also led two popular tree walks through the beautiful new park next to City Hall. The city preserved redwoods, oaks, and other established trees throughout the property and planted new western redbuds and *Arbutus unedo* trees (strawberry trees) around the building.

Many trees in the area across from City Hall have also been preserved. Talk a walk through the area to see cork oak, Chinese pistache, and olive trees among many others.

The Civic Center tree walk map with tree identification can be found on our website at <https://www.sunnyvaletrees.org/tree-walk-maps/>



Visit us at: www.sunnyvaletrees.org

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