



OUR CITY FOREST

AUGUST 2004

People Trees Volunteer News

Smog-Busters Rescue Hot and Dusty San José Highway

Monterey Highway in San José has long been one of the city's best examples of an urban heat island. Long stretches of vast asphalt, cement and barren medians with few trees in sight have created a super-hot, dusty, and ugly thoroughfare. Our City Forest proposed a tree planting campaign not only for the highway medians but for nearby neighborhoods impacted by high volume auto emissions this roadway generates. The State Resources Agency responded with a grant to plant 1,600 15-gallon shade trees and this campaign has quietly unfolded over the past 2+ years.



Tree Amigo Harvey Stray and the West San José Kiwanis Club at work.



Give Through Earth Share

A simple and effective way to give to Our City Forest is through your employer's payroll deduction program. Earth Share of California manages workplace giving for more than eighty environmental organizations, including OCF. Currently, employees of many private corporations as well as city, county, state and federal governments are eligible to participate. You may designate an amount of each paycheck to further the work of OCF or you can elect to support us and other environmental charities in a single payroll deduction. Donors who specify OCF as part of their Earth Share donation receive all the benefits of OCF membership. For more information, including how you or your employer can host an Earth Share workplace giving campaign, call 800-368-1819 or visit www.earthshareca.org.



OCF Tree Amigos & volunteers planting trees along Monterey Highway.

Thank you to all of the OCF Tree Amigos, West San José Kiwanis Club members, Starbucks' employees and other volunteers who did the hard work, planting in Monterey Highway neighborhoods, parks, schools, and median islands from Curtner Avenue to Bernal Road. The most rigorous effort was the planting of 146 trees in the center median islands along a 3 mile stretch from Pullman Road south to Blossom Hill Road. Under the direction of OCF Arborist Christian Bonner, this phase alone involved 110 volunteers – working over 250 hours at seven separate plantings to get the trees in the ground properly so they will survive and thrive.

A significant obstacle blocking the median island tree plantings was lack of City funding to install irrigation within the median strip itself, where hand-watering by residents was deemed too risky. Faced with a looming deadline and the possibility of not being able to carry out the median island face lift, OCF went back to Sacramento and obtained permission to use \$25,000 of its State tree grant for the irrigation, making it possible to complete the project. OCF is now seeking local grants and donations to replace this lost funding. Thanks for assistance from the San José Department of Transportation in helping coordinate the irrigation installation. In the not too distant future, a beautiful shade canopy will grace this major thoroughfare.

Our City Forest is a nonprofit organization dedicated to mobilizing the people of Silicon Valley in the development, planting, care and appreciation of our natural urban environment, including our urban forest. Your support is encouraged! Donations are tax-deductible. Contact Our City Forest at postmaster@ourcityforest.org or write to us at 595 Park Ave, Suite 100 • San José, CA 95110

Upcoming Events

- ✦ Saturday, August 7th 9:00AM Tree Bank Work Day
OCF Tree Bank, Watson Park (Jackson & N. 22nd St.) Contact Christian at cbonner@ourcityforest.org
- ✦ Thursday, August 11th 10:00AM
Pruning & Maintenance
Glider Elementary School (511 Cozy Drive)
Contact Asma at Amalik@ourcityforest.org
- ✦ Thursday, August 12th 2:00PM
Pruning & Maintenance Workshop 28 trees
Fair Middle School (1702 McLaughlin Ave)
Contact Christian at cbonner@ourcityforest.org
- ✦ Thursday, August 21th 8:30AM
Pruning & Maintenance Workshop 31 trees
1052 Owsley Avenue
Contact Christian at cbonner@ourcityforest.org
- ✦ Next Month–Tree Amigo Training
Begins Wednesday September 1st at the OCF office
Call 99-TREES for specifics and to enroll

The Art of Pruning

Thanks to Tree Amigos Carol Arnoldy, Nada Ballator, and Lori Wallace–Pushinaitis for participating in the Longford Drive maintenance project.



OCF's Tree Amigos have learned the art and science of pruning young shade trees and are making a difference all over the city.

Recently they structurally pruned 20 sycamore trees, 25 feet high. Volunteers and residents from this Berryessa neighborhood

assisted with weeding, mulching and stake removal giving these trees critical early maintenance to ensure their continued health.

There are many opportunities to participate in maintenance events, both mid-week as well as Saturdays. Get involved. Call 99-TREES.

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595 Park Ave. Suite 100
San José, CA 95110

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