



OUR CITY FOREST

DEC  2005

ALARMING TRENDS DIMINISH FOREST



Have you noticed an increase of street trees being butchered or removed? Despite the fact that City permits are required to remove or prune a street tree, many forge ahead without them. There are three very good reasons why. First, there's a good chance they will get away with it because enforcement is difficult. Second, if they do get caught, the maximum fine for their action is a mere \$500. Many are willing to take the chance, especially repeat offenders such as builders working on remodels who can recoup the cost. Third, many don't even know it's illegal.

Why are permits required? To share a favorite quote from Sarah Ebenreck, "Trees outstrip most people in the extent and depth of their work for the public good." The urban shade canopy is probably our most valuable natural urban resource. Trees clean our air, reduce flooding, provide shade, increase property values, filter dust and noise and on and on. We all benefit. When this resource is threatened or diminished, we all lose.

San José residents have responded loudly to the growing incidences of illegal topping and tree removals, prompting councilmembers last month to direct planning staff to propose stiffer penalties. This action will hopefully lead to a much-needed improvement to existing laws that contain inadequate penalties. There is no question of the need to change the current San Jose regulations and substantially increase the administrative penalties with a significant stair step penalty schedule for repeat offenders. In addition, enforcement of the laws simply has to become a greater priority – including during evenings and weekends. How does this happen? By all of us willing to get involved and knowing what we can do to help. See how, below!

"The best friend of man on earth is the tree." - Frank Lloyd Wright

...from Tree Magic, a beautiful anthology on CD - FREE with a gift membership to Our City Forest!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

REPORT SUSPECTED ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

For **street trees** (between the curb and sidewalk):

1. If you observe what you believe to be illegal cutting or removal of any San José street tree during regular business hours – and the crime is occurring at that very moment - Call 9-1-1. If the crime has already occurred, Call 3-1-1 to report it.
2. Also call Code Enforcement at 277-4528 to relay the information.
3. Also call the Arborist Office at 277-2762 to relay the information.

For large trees on **private property** (at least 56" in circumference when measured 2 ft. above the ground):

1. Same as #1 and #2 above
2. Call the San José Planning Dept. 535-3555 to relay the information.

KNOW YOUR CITY'S LAWS

For street trees: www.sanjoseca.gov/transportation

For private property: www.sanjoseca.gov/planning

SUPPORT STIFFER PENALTIES

Write your councilmember to express your support for stiffer penalties. New S.J. City Hall address: 200 E. Santa Clara St. 18th Floor, San José, CA 95113

CONTRIBUTE TO TREE WATCH!

Send photos and addresses of threatened trees for posting on the Our City Forest web site. Email to jmiller@ourcityforest.org

Make a donation to Our City Forest to support tree protection work!



For more information, visit: www.ourcityforest.org, and click on "OCF Programs"

Printed on 100% Tree-Free Kenaf Paper

PEOPLE & TREES COMMUNITY NEWS

WWW.OURCITYFOREST.ORG
(408) 96-66-33

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

For more details visit: www.ourcityforest.org
or call (408) 99-TREES

Saturday, Dec. 3	Nassau Drive Planting - 15 Trees
Saturday, Dec. 3	Parkview School - 25 Trees
Saturday, Dec. 10	Blackford Neighborhood - 15 Trees
Saturday, Dec. 10	Tamian Planting - 20 Trees
Saturday, Dec. 10	OCF Holiday Open House
Saturday, Dec. 17	Lee Mathson Planting - 31 Trees
Saturday, Dec. 17	Broadway Planting - 15 Trees
Saturday, Dec. 31	Planting TBA - 15 Trees

Happy Holidays! 

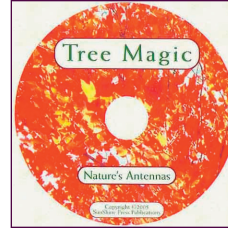
WWW.OURCITYFOREST.ORG

GIVE GREEN THIS HOLIDAY

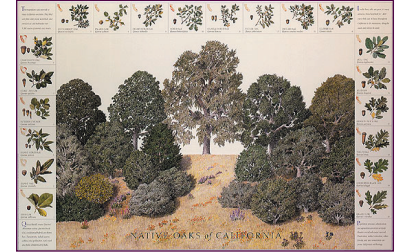
This holiday, consider gift memberships to OCF for your friends and family members. Donations of \$50 or more will give you the choice of either:

- Beautiful California Oak Poster
- Tree Magic CD

As a special bonus, donations of \$100 or more will receive both gifts.



Tree Magic CD
-450 pages in color
-169 poems & stories
-115 photos & paintings



Native Oaks Poster
-36" x 24"
-Printed on Recycled Paper

Be sure to indicate your choices and your mailing address when you mail your check to:

Our City Forest
595 Park Ave. Suite 100
San José, CA 95110

Morgan Center volunteers and OCF Tree Amigos enjoy a photo break.



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