

OUR CITY FOREST

KEY INITIATIVES - 1994 - 2021

Our City Forest has undertaken dozens of tree planting initiatives financed primarily with state and federal grants. In seeking this funding, OCF has created compelling cases on behalf of San José neighborhoods and schools impacted by redlining, urban heat islands, low-canopy coverage, transportation projects, traffic noise, poor air quality and the removal of trees and vegetation, to successfully obtain the grants listed below.

This list reflects major initiatives but not the many smaller initiatives or the thousands of trees distributed through the community nursery. It does not include City-funded efforts related to a handful of major roads. It explains how the state grants obtained by OCF are restricted to specific areas and shows how OCF has made efforts to identify and obtain funding for as much of San José as possible in spite of the scarcity of urban forest funding. In addition to planting and establishing trees, these initiatives have helped support one-year of job training/service for more than 500 young adults, stewardship training and volunteer opportunities for over 100,000 residents, and environmental education classes for some 35,000 K-8 students.

For all initiatives below, trees were purchased and installed without cost to the City, to residents, schools or others. Trees were planted in streets, parks, schools, libraries, community centers and other public properties. Adoptions were arranged for all trees, and proper permits and clearances were obtained prior to planting, along with 3-year signed agreements from the resident tree stewards.

2020-2021	COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE - <i>Heat islands/East S.J.</i> Supports OCF ongoing efforts in low-canopied areas including
2017-2019	TREES FOR ALL - Trees for S.J. Disadvantaged Areas <i>All disadvantaged tracts</i> 2,000 15-gal. trees
2017-2019	URBAN FOREST EDUCATION CENTER CLASSROOM Outdoor Classroom Structure
2014-2017	GREEN & HEALTHY - 880/280 Neighborhoods (EEM) <i>Central S.J./Seniors</i> 1,000 15-gal. trees and 550 shrubs
2016-2018	TREES TO COMBAT DROUGHT (COUNTY) <i>East and Central S.J.</i> 200 15-gal. trees
2013-2016	TREES FOR MINETA AIRPORT NEIGHBORHOODS (EEM)- <i>Low-income areas</i> 1,000 15-gal. trees and 2,000 shrubs
2010-2012	TREES FOR EAST SAN JOSE (EEM) - <i>East S.J.</i> 1,400 15-gal. trees
2010-2013	INNOVATION GRANT (CAL FIRE) <i>Nursery Development</i> Community Nursery & Training Center Development
2011-2014	FEDERAL RECOVERY ACT (U.S. Forest Service) - <i>Nursery Development</i> Creation of OCF Community Nursery & Training Center
2007-2009	TREES FOR CENTRAL SAN JOSE (EEM) <i>Central and East San José</i> 1,600 15-gal. trees

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2005-2007	TREES FOR SOUTH SAN JOSE #2 (EEM) <i>Mixed income adjacent to Hwy 85</i> 1,200 15-gal. trees
2004 -2006	CAPITOL LIGHT RAIL NEIGHBORHOODS (EEM) <i>Central and East San José</i> 1,200 15-gal. trees
2003-2004	VASONA LIGHT RAIL NEIGHBORHOODS (EEM) <i>Served mixed income areas.</i> 1,500 15-gal. trees
2001-2003	TREES FOR 880 NEIGHBORHOODS (EEM) <i>Mixed income area/Central S.J.</i> 1,200 15-gal. trees
1999-2001	MONTEREY HIGHWAY GREENING (EEM) <i>East San José/low-income areas</i> 1,600 15-gal. trees
1998-2000	INNER CITY GREENING (EEM) <i>Central and East San José</i> 1,200 15-gal. trees
1997-1999	SOUTH CENTRAL SAN JOSE NEIGHBORHOODS (EEM) <i>South Central S.J.</i> 2,000 15-gal. trees
1995-1996	TREES for HWY 101 NEIGHBORHOODS (EEM) <i>Central and East San José</i> 2,000 15-gal. trees
1994-1996	TREES FOR HIGHWAY 85 NEIGHBORHOODS (EEM) <i>South San José mixed income</i> 5,000 15-gal. trees

***Additional Detail:**

2020-2023 CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE WITH SANTA CLARA COUNTY

In 20-21, Santa Clara County partnered with OCF for a climate action initiative aimed at mitigating urban heat islands impacts in low-canopied neighborhoods. With sufficient outside match, the County investment will support the planting of 1,000 trees annually. This project includes scientific research to determine the County's most environmentally impacted census tracts and to calculate the benefits of adding tree canopy to these areas.

2017-2019 TREES FOR ALL – GHG Grant for S.J. Disadvantaged Census Tracts

This grant provided 2,000 free trees for residents in San José's most disadvantaged census tracts. There were 24 eligible tracts identified by the State as having the highest impacted blocks in terms of environmental degradation and related health indicators. As with all other State grants in this document, OCF was tasked with searching for planting sites, confirming their eligibility, conducting site assessments, obtaining stewardship agreements from willing tree stewards, selecting species, coordinating planting events, providing ongoing support, and tracking the trees for 3 years in partnership with the stewards. These "intangible" tasks require an estimated 20 hours of OCF time per tree vs. 3 hours each for site prep, planting and staking. Per grant requirements, OCF calculated and reported on the offsets which resulted from various GHG emission categories. This was utilizing a State-approved formula for *each* tree planted, based on the species and the planting site, such as proximity to a building. These trees and shrubs were installed by OCF at no cost to City, residents, or schools. All trees were permitted and approved by the appropriate entities, and stewardship agreements were also secured. Trees were tracked through OCF's 3-year stewardship program. Notably, this was the first grant awarded to OCF since 1994 that provided any funding to support OCF's 3-year stewardship program and tree tracking efforts.

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2014–2017 GREEN & HEALTHY - 880/280 Neighborhoods/focus on Senior Citizens

This grant was awarded to plant 1,200 trees and 500 shrubs to help mitigate the removal of vegetation, increased temperatures, construction dust, and increased vehicular emissions resulting from the impacts of the new on-ramps and off-ramps in a small area. OCF presented a proposal showing how trees and shrubs were essential to improving air quality and cooling temperatures to help protect the many vulnerable seniors and rehab patients housed throughout this part of San José. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to City, residents, or schools. Finding eligible planting sites for this grant was challenging due to the small size of the eligibility zone. All trees were permitted and approved by the appropriate City staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its unfunded stewardship program.

2013-2016 TREES FOR AIRPORT NEIGHBORHOODS

This grant was awarded to plant 1,000 trees and 2,000 shrubs to mitigate the construction and tree removals caused by the building of an additional terminal. This creative proposal – using an airport as the transportation project - was the first proposed by an applicant and only one funded to date through this State program. Eligible neighborhoods fell within a 2-mile radius of the San José Mineta International Airport. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to City, residents, or schools. All trees were permitted and approved by the appropriate City staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its unfunded stewardship program.

2016-2017 – DROUGHT-RAVAGED TREES

The Drought Ravaged Trees Program planted 200 trees in a partnership with Santa Clara County to respond to the drought in a measured, effective way. The program funded the planting and monitoring of 200 trees, and just as importantly, the involvement of County officials and residents in their planting and care. OCF will offer classroom workshops on the benefits of trees, provide educational material online and in handouts for County residents and co-host a 2018 workshop catering to public officials to educate and inform on the myriad benefits of trees and the risks they face.

2010-2012 TREES FOR EAST SAN JOSE

This project planted **1,400** trees in neighborhoods, parks and schools. All residents willing to sign a stewardship agreement for a street tree, plus schools and parks within two miles of the US-101, between the I-280/I-680 interchange and Yerba Buena Rd. were eligible for trees and services. Neighborhoods included Alum Rock, Mayfair, and many others. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to City, residents, or schools. All trees were permitted and approved by the appropriate City staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its unfunded stewardship program.

2010-2013 INNOVATION GRANT for COMMUNITY NURSERY & TRAINING CENTER

When the City adopted a Green Vision goal to plant 100,000 trees, OCF wanted to help. OCF asked the City if it could build a community nursery that would enable OCF to provide trees for private land, since its grants were for public property only. Most available planting space is privately owned, so this would help the city achieve its goal. In addition, OCF had spent 17 years at that point struggling with finding sufficient healthy trees and good species diversity, so growing its own trees provided a solution. The City said yes and provided OCF an unused parcel under the flight path. No Green Vision funds were available for this project. OCF combined this State grant with a federal Recovery Act grant, AmeriCorps funding,

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and the helping hands of 1,000+ volunteers to make the nursery a reality. A total of \$30,000 in private donations was raised by OCF to bring electricity to the parcel.

2011-2014 USDA FOREST SERVICE RECOVERY ACT GRANT (FEDERAL) – COMMUNITY NURSERY

This federal grant, combined with a State CAL FIRE grant and an AmeriCorps grant, enabled the creation of the OCF Community Nursery & Training Center by providing critical matching funds and the additional staff needed to design, construct, manage and launch the nursery, including the recruitment and supervision of 1,000+ volunteers who were engaged in its development. This support allowed OCF to have a full-time Administrative Officer and Volunteer Director for a short time. When the grant ended, bookkeeping/admin support was cut back to 10 hours a week, and the volunteer position became half-time again. The City granted OCF use of a trash-filled lot in the airport flight path, to create what is now a paradise in a concrete jungle. The community nursery is a partnership success story, and with its unique features and wide variety of drought-tolerant species. It has been visited by thousands of residents as well as toured by representatives from many Bay Area cities and agencies.

2007-2009 TREES FOR CENTRAL SAN JOSE

This project planted 1,600 shade trees for S.J. residents, schools and parks within two miles of STATE ROUTE 87 between Julian St. (near US 101) and State Route 85. The project scope for 1,200 trees was completed under budget so OCF received approval to transfer additional unspent funds to the tree category to purchase another 400 trees. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to City, residents, schools or others. All trees were permitted and approved by the appropriate City or school district staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees were tracked for 3 years through OCF steward support program.

2005-2007 TREES FOR SOUTH SAN JOSE (HWY 85 NEIGHBORHOODS #2)

This project planted 1,200 trees to address the environmental impacts created by the construction of approximately 14 miles of the new Route 85 freeway which began construction after 1990. Twelve miles of the project is within the City of San Jose. This transportation project had several construction segments beginning and ending between 1990 and 1994. This was the second EEM grant OCF obtained for this area – the first was 10 years earlier for 5,000 trees. These trees were installed by OCF along streets, at schools and at various city facilities, at no cost to residents, schools or city departments. All trees planted along streets, in City parks and other City facilities such as libraries, community centers, and fire stations, were permitted and approved by the appropriate City staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees planted at public schools all received written approval at the school district level in addition to the responsible parties at the school sites and signed stewardship agreements. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its unfunded stewardship program.

2004 -2006 CAPITOL LIGHT RAIL NEIGHBORHOODS

This project planted 1,200 shade trees in neighborhoods and schools within two miles of the 3-mile-long Capitol Corridor Light Rail Project from Hostetter Rd. to Alum Rock Avenue in San José. Shade trees were provided and planted for residents and schools to help mitigate significant environmental and noise impacts resulting from this project which included construction of 5 neighborhood rail stations. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to the City, residents, schools or others. All trees planted along streets, in City parks and other City facilities such as libraries, community centers, and fire stations, were permitted and approved by the appropriate City staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees planted at public schools all received written approval at the school district

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level in addition to the responsible parties at the school sites and signed stewardship agreements. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 year through its unfunded stewardship program.

2003 -2006 VASONA LIGHT RAIL NEIGHBORHOODS

This EEM grant planted 1,500 shade trees, at a total cost of \$146 per installed tree. Planting sites included parking strips and public schools in San Jose and Campbell neighborhoods within two miles of the Vasona Light Rail Project corridor. These trees helped to mitigate the environmental and land use impacts created by the construction and operation of the Vasona Light Rail Project which began construction in February 2001 and included the construction of 9 rail stations, approximately 1/2 mile apart along the transportation corridor. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to the City, to residents, schools or other beneficiaries. All trees planted were permitted and approved by City or school district staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its stewardship program.

2001-2003 - TREES FOR 880 NEIGHBORHOODS

This EEM grant planted 1,200 shade trees, at a total cost of \$155 per installed tree, in neighborhoods adjacent to a 3.4-mile stretch of Interstate 880 between Montague Expressway and North First Street in the City of San José. It was directly related to the environmental impacts created by the widening of the Interstate 880 freeway which began construction in June of 2001. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to the City or to residents, schools or any other beneficiaries. All trees planted were permitted and approved by the appropriate City or school district staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its stewardship program.

1999-2001 - MONTEREY HIGHWAY GREENING

OCF planted 1,600 shade trees along and near a 7.7 mile stretch of Monterey Hwy (Hwy 82) between Curtner Ave. and Bernal Rd to mitigate the impacts of highway construction completed in 1994 which removed 2,000 trees. Nearby neighborhood streets, parks and schools were also eligible. OCF donated \$25,000 to the City to pay for the completion of irrigation in the medians with an unfulfilled promise of reimbursement. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its stewardship program.

1998-2000 - INNER CITY GREENING

This EEM grant planted 1,200 shade trees, at a total cost of \$140 per installed tree, in inner city neighborhoods adjacent to a 3.1-mile stretch of Highway 87 between Julian St. and Highway 101. This project was directly related to the environmental impacts created by the expansion of the Highway 87 freeway which began construction in July of 1997. As with so many of OCF grants, these trees were planted in some of San José's poorest neighborhoods with the highest environmental needs. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to the City or residents, schools, or any other beneficiaries. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its unfunded stewardship program.

1997-1999 - SOUTH CENTRAL SAN JOSE NEIGHBORHOODS

This tree planting grant for 2,000 trees was directly related to the widening of Highway 87 between I-280 and Santa Teresa Boulevard. All neighborhoods, schools and parks within 3 miles of Hwy 87 received free trees, technical assistance, and arborist services from Our City Forest at no cost to the City, or to residents, schools or other beneficiaries. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its unfunded stewardship program.

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1994-1996 - HWY 101 NEIGHBORHOODS URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT

This project for 2,000 trees was directly related to the environmental impacts created by the widening of a 4.5 mile stretch of Highway 101 between Highway 880 and Freeway 280. This transportation project had several construction segments beginning and ending between 1990 and 1994. Neighborhoods, schools and parks received free trees and services. These trees were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to the City or to residents, schools or other beneficiaries. All trees planted were permitted and approved by the appropriate City or school district staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its unfunded stewardship program.

1994 TREES FOR HIGHWAY 85 NEIGHBORHOODS #1

This award for 5,000 trees was obtained to mitigate the impacts to neighborhoods caused by the extensive Route 85 transportation project across South San José. The unique model for this program was developed by OCF President & CEO Rhonda Berry prior starting up OCF, which she developed to obtain a State to plant 500 trees in East Palo Alto & East Menlo Park neighborhoods in 1992. The model is based on obtaining signed stewardship agreements from residents prior to planting, so that only the larger eligible land area must be identified at the time of application, leaving the precise planting sites to be identified only after these stewardship and maintenance plans, along with the training, are completed. This model extends considerable support to residents and ensures higher tree survival rates. It has been used for all subsequent OCF State planting grant proposals. All 5,000 trees of these trees under this grant were purchased and installed by OCF at no cost to the City, or to residents, schools or other beneficiaries. All trees were permitted and approved by the appropriate City or school district staff prior to planting, and stewardship agreements secured by OCF. Trees were tracked by OCF for 3 years through its unfunded stewardship program.

OUR CITY FOREST FEDERAL AMERICORPS GRANTS *(partially funds community service members)*

	AMERICORP \$	# SERVICE MEMBERS*
2021-2022	458,673	30 <i>OCF req'd cash match = \$780k + project expenses</i>
2020-2021	458,673	30
2019-2020	411,867	30
2018-2019	359,023 <i>(3rd downsize)</i>	22 <i>CSJ redirects developer fees (officially)</i>
2017-2018	538,258	40 <i>CSJ developer fees disappear</i>
2016-2017	531,626 <i>(2nd downsize)</i>	40 <i>CSJ developer fees disappear</i>
2015-2016	689,274 <i>(1st downsize)</i>	54 <i>Insufficient local match to sustain peak award</i>
2015-2016	968,124	68 <i>Awarded annual amount for 3 years and beyond</i>
2014-2015	425,648	30
2014-2015	@ 200,000	16 <i>loaned to DOT for street tree inventory</i>
2013-2014	471,883	30
2012-2013	492,972	32
2011-2012	492,972	32
2010-2011	461,119	30
2009-2010	369,908	22
2008-2009	333,000	22
2007-2008	333,000	22 <i>Stipends start at \$15K</i>

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EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL PLANTING INITIATIVES COMPLETED

- 50 free trees for East San José (Rotary)*
- 750 free trees for county pockets*
- 4 citywide State grants of 500 free trees*
- 500 free fruit trees for East San José*
- 500 free trees for Milpitas*
- 500 free trees for Campbell*
- 2,500 free trees distributed at Prusch Park*
- 6,000 riparian habitat seedlings, 1-gallon trees*

Examples of non-planting projects include:

- 2020. Health Benefits for low-income census tracts (research project)*
 - 2016 500 Fruit trees for low-income residents*
 - 2014 Self-Guided interactive tree story tours for families*
 - 2000 Tree Mobile for education & outreach*
 - 1998 Community Organizing for Tree Stewards*
 - 1997 Tree Species Study for San José – research grant*
 - 1996 San José AIDS Memorial Grove*
 - 1994 OCF educational brochures in 5 languages*
 - 1994 State of San José's Urban Forest – research grant*
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