

Project Update

HUDSON AND MADISON STREET TREE PRUNING EVENT

by Dan Beeder

The CityTree's tree care program began its second year with a pruning project on February 12th at the corner of Hudson and Madison streets. The project was a great chance to review pruning techniques learned last year and to get more hands-on experience with tree care. More importantly, it was an opportunity to nurture and beautify street trees in another small section of Redwood City.

The project was very well attended and began with a refresher course from Bob Mullins, the Redwood City arborist. Bob reviewed the many reasons for pruning, from improving sightlines to helping trees grow stronger and healthier. He continued with a discussion of proper tool use, pruning techniques and safety considerations. After this refresher, the group moved westward down both sides of Madison. For the next 2 1/2 hours, our volunteer crew was busy pruning, removing old planting stakes, and filling bins provided by the Redwood City Public Works Services Department. In the end, we completed about 1300 feet (roughly a quarter mile) and have helped those trees grow stronger & healthier.

The tree care program primarily targets those streets where we have planted trees in the past. While we are focused on those young trees, we also care for all other trees planted in the city-owned parking strip. Very large trees (or those with complex issues) are left to experts in the Public Works department. The ongoing tree care program activities also fulfill other secondary goals. These are to raise the residents' awareness of the importance of proper tree maintenance and to educate volunteers on practices that support the growth and preservation of young trees.

The next tree pruning project is scheduled for April 2nd and will continue westward down Madison.



CITYTREES EVENTS FOR 2005

by Karen Fine

City Trees has planned five planting events and four pruning/maintenance events for 2005. Volunteers from community groups will assist at each of these events to help reach the City Trees goal of enhancing the urban canopy in Redwood City.

We need volunteers to join in the work for each of these events. We start working at 9 a.m. and finish by 12 noon. City Trees will provide the tools and the snacks, including water.

Children under the age of 16 need to be accompanied by a parent or other adult and the adult must sign a waiver of liability. Parents/guardians must provide transportation for minors to and from the planting site.

All volunteers should provide evidence of their health insurance.

See the schedule at right for upcoming events. The schedule will be updated as the information for dates and locations are finalized in conjunction with the City of Redwood City. Please visit us on the web at www.citytrees.org for the most current event schedule.

Upcoming Events:

March 19
Planting Trees, meet at Vera & Sapphire

April 2
Pruning Trees, meet at Madison & Myrtle

April 23
Planting Trees, meet at Westwood Park

May 14
Planting Trees, place TBA

June/July
Pruning Trees, dates and places TBA

Tree Times

Volume 4, Number 1

Spring 2005

For more information:
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City Trees

a fiduciary project of Acterra

Thank You!

THANK YOU ORACLE!

by Karen Fine

City Trees was recently awarded a grant of \$10,000 from Oracle Corporation to fund a further 12 months of our work. This is the third year that City Trees has received an Oracle grant to aid our tree planting, maintenance program and training of volunteers.

This latest grant reflects Oracle's goal to support communities around the world where they have a large number of employees and where there is strong Oracle Volunteers involvement. Oracle is proud to partner with us to help preserve the local environment by providing monetary support as well as the hands-on effort of its many volunteers.

Because of this generous donation from Oracle, we are able to plan the next year's planting and maintenance events and to further our mission of enhancing the environment of Redwood City. We are also able to help the City of Redwood City implement its goal of planting street trees.

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643 Bair Island Rd.
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Thank you for your support!
Checks should be made payable to "Acterra--
CityTrees" (Acterra is our fiduciary Sponsor)
CityTrees is a 601(c)(3) non-profit organization. All
contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

What's new?

CITYTREES WEBSITE UPGRADED

by Ross Hotchkiss

The CityTrees website, at www.citytrees.org, has been updated and expanded. Besides changing the look of the site, several changes were implemented to make it easier for our supporters to keep in touch with us, and conversely, for us to keep in touch with you. Also, we will begin keeping past information, such as previous copies of the newsletter, available online for reference.

The schedule of upcoming events, details about the next pending event, current newsletter, and other information about current goings on will always be available. We have created online forms to use to add yourself to our members list, and to keep your personal contact information up to date. Information about previous plantings is available, for example when and where we planted, and with what types of trees. As upcoming plantings turn into completed plantings we will add them to the growing list.

A feature that we have not implemented yet, but expect to complete before long, is to provide general information about trees that are native to the area, trees that grow well in our climate, and trees that are desirable, such as those with non-invasive roots, and those that are 'clean' (i.e, don't drop a lot of debris).

So if you are reading this on paper, then visit the website and see it for yourself. If you are already reading this online, then thanks for visiting!

ASK PAULETTE

by Paulette Dolin

Trees change as they grow from a seed to a mature tree. At first they are like an idea, then they begin to show leaves, branch out and take shape before they reach their potential and offer fruit or shade or beauty. Similarly, CityTrees has been growing and changing over the winter.

While we are still committed to our mission and being a grassroots, volunteer organization, the board decided to hire a part time person to take on some of the administrative functions. My name is Paulette Dolin, and I'm the person they hired. You may have met me at our Volunteer Appreciation event over the summer. I have experience working for a non-profit community tree planting organization in LA, so in many ways, I fit in naturally. I also serve on the board.

My role as a staff person within CityTrees will include managing the volunteer database, organizing and centralizing paperwork, and responding to inquiries and opportunities via mail, phone, and e-mail. Consolidating these responsibilities will free up the time and energy of our devoted board to organize plantings, tree care events and other community events so we can continue to grow and extend our services throughout Redwood City.

Open Volunteer Positions

CityTrees is looking for tree enthusiasts to fill the following volunteer positions: *Education Program Coordinator, Outreach Volunteers, Tree Planters and Pruning Volunteers.* To inquire, please call the CityTrees hotline at 650-556-9380, ext 4.

Tree Bob

ANTHRACNOSE:

IT'S A SPRING THING

by Bob Mullins, Urban Forester

Redwood City has a population of approximately 1355 Modesto Ash trees. Most of them line the streets in the Woodside Plaza area. A common leaf disease affecting ash trees is Anthracnose, a fungus that appears each year in the early spring. Just after the first buds break, Anthracnose attacks the new leaves. The fungus is spread by warm and moist conditions. Sound like our spring weather? The first set of leaves are infected and soon curl-up and die. The dead leaves are soon replaced by a second set of new ones. If weather conditions are favorable to the fungus the second and maybe a third set of leaves may be lost. As the spring weather warms up and dries out the fungus dies off. The trees grow new sets of leaves and will have a full canopy just in time for the heat days of summer.

Anthracnose is a very difficult disease to control, taking repeated application of fungicides over several weeks. The City once had a spray program to try to control Anthracnose. We were spending thousands of dollars and releasing hundreds of pounds of pesticides into the environment and gaining very little control. I contacted other cities to see how their control efforts were working. Much to my amazement I discovered that we were the last city trying to control Anthracnose. All the other cities had given up all control efforts, so we did too.

In the 20 years or so since the last spray we haven't lost a tree to Anthracnose. Ash trees will replace the dead leaves with nice new healthy green ones, just in time for Aphids to feed on them. But, that's subject for next time.

Sponsor Spotlight

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SPONSORS

by Tom Cronin

Acterra – Our Fiduciary Agent

Acterra is an active, hands on and involved environmental non-profit based in Palo Alto. Their mission is to protect and restore the local environment through stewardship, education and leadership. Their work is conducted throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Since the inception of CityTrees in 2001, Acterra has provided us, through their Non-profit Incubator program, the fiduciary support we needed to launch our group.

Acterra provides this fee-based service to 10 new or small non-profits. Other groups include Wild Life Steward, Terra Focus and the Donkey Project based in Bol Park in Palo Alto. This allows groups like CityTrees to focus our time and energy on our mission and not get bogged down with complicated financial and tax issues. As Michael Closson, Acterra Executive Director says, "Acterra facilitates, nurtures and supports the functioning of innovative environmental groups like CityTrees."

Acterra has many active programs in place now including the stewardship of the Arastadero Preserve in Palo Alto, a native plants nursery and they sponsor and provide the annual Business Environmental Awards.

You can check out these and many other great environmental programs at their website at: acterra.org. As Closson says, " We are delighted to have a group like CityTrees be one of our partners in our incubator program."

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Acterra and their staff for all of the support they have provided CityTrees over the past four years.



Acterra