

## Project Update

### APRIL STREET TREE PLANTINGS

by Tom Cronin

Our April planting, scheduled for Saturday April 23, started as another rainy spring morning. We made a calculated call at 7:30 am to go ahead with the planting. This turned out to be the right decision as we ended up with 3 hours of perfect planting weather with no rain. Our stalwart volunteer group from Sun Microsystems showed up on time and some 25 strong. This is now the third year that Sun has come out to help us plant during their annual Worldwide Volunteer Week. With the help of this eager crew and a few local neighbors, we planted 42 trees near Westwood Park and Roosevelt Ave. The selection of trees planted included: maple, ash and tristania. During this planting we also experimented by sending Planting Captains out with two planting crews to the end of the planting section. All of the crews then worked their way back toward the start of the planting at Westwood Park. This resulted in an easier way to manage the planting and when everyone is finished and tired they are back at the starting point. A special thanks goes out to Janice Campbell, Redwood City resident and the Team Leader from Sun. She rounded up a great group of spirited volunteers that help us complete another successful planting along the streets of Redwood City. Thank you Sun. We will see you again next year!



Photo taken by Michael Osterman

### CITYTREES EVENTS FOR 2005

City Trees has two planting events and three pruning/maintenance events remaining 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 still 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](http://www.citytrees.org) for the most current event schedule.

#### Upcoming Events:

- June 18**  
Pruning Trees, meet at Madison & Myrtle
- July 16**  
Pruning Trees, meet on Madison (check website for details)
- September 24**  
Planting Trees, location TBA
- October 15**  
Planting Trees, meet at Vera & Hudson
- November**  
Planting Trees, location TBA

# Tree Times

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For more information:  
[www.citytrees.org](http://www.citytrees.org)  
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Redwood City, CA 94063  
Tel: (650) 556-9380 ext. 4  
Fax: (650) 556-9385



City Trees

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Thank You!

### THE MELLAM FAMILY FOUNDATION

by Karen Fine

City Trees recently received a \$1000 grant from The Mellam Family Foundation to continue our work of planting trees in Redwood City. We will use the funds to buy trees as well as additional tools necessary to plant those trees. We are grateful for their generous donation to keep our program active.

Since the late 1990's The Mellam Family Foundation has been supporting a variety of environmental programs throughout the West with a particular emphasis on the use of science and technology to aid in wilderness and coastal protection. Over the years the Foundation has also seen the power of grassroots programs in the environmental arena. Early stage funding to help reach critical mass and broaden the support base is often critical. The Foundation is pleased to help City Trees continue to grow and improve the quality of life in Redwood City.

Yes, please sign me up as a member...

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Membership Level:  
 \$25  \$50  \$100  \$250  Other

Send donation to: CityTrees  
643 Bair Island Rd.  
Suite 103  
Redwood City, CA 94063

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.

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## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATED IN REDWOOD CITY**

by Jane Taylor

On a beautiful Saturday morning June 4<sup>th</sup>, the community of Redwood City celebrated locally in the World Environment Day by hosting a "Tour des Trees Bike Ride/Park/stroll" at Red Morton Park. CityTrees was there to assist with the event and sponsored the tree that was planted.

Activities included a 16-mile bike ride to Woodside; children's walk, bike, or scoot around Red Morton Park; children's face painting and arts and crafts; information about local environmental groups; free T-shirts and tree seedlings. The morning culminated with the ceremonial planting of a Redwood tree in Red Morton Park, near the children's playground. Redwood City is combining the Tour des Trees with World Environment Day ([www.wed2005.org](http://www.wed2005.org)) in an effort to raise awareness and participation in protecting our environment and helping our urban forest.

The Tour des Trees Redwood City is a fund raiser for the TREE Fund, a non-profit tree research foundation ([www.treefund.org](http://www.treefund.org)). Elsewhere in the country, the Tour des Trees lasts up to a week, and each day of the ride a tree is planted along the route.

Gordon Mann, Superintendent of Public Works, worked hard to organize the event and hopes that it will be the first annual such event for the City. Gordon is also working with other Peninsula cities to coordinate all cities to celebrate Arbor Day on the same day.

### **WHY PRUNE?**

by Dan Beeder

CityTrees started the tree maintenance (or pruning) program in 2004 to maintain the street trees in Redwood City, both the preexisting trees and the ones we've planted over the last four years. Why does pruning matter? The three main reasons for pruning our trees include tree health, safety, and aesthetics.

The primary reason CityTrees prunes is for the health and longevity of the trees. The first step involves removing broken or diseased wood as well as crossing or rubbing branches. Second, pruning is used to encourage trees to develop and maintain a strong structure over their life and reduce the likelihood of damage during severe weather. All pruning cuts are made in a way to encourage healthy wound closure. We've planted over 1300 trees in Redwood City. We want them to have long, healthy lives. Pruning for safety involves removing branches that could fall and cause injury as well as trimming branches that interfere with lines of sight on streets. For more dangerous issues, such as interference with power or utility lines, we refer the problems to the Public Works Department.

Finally, there is pruning for aesthetics. Trees that are pruned for health and safety are typically more attractive and vigorous. But additional cuts may be made to enhance the tree's natural form and character.

Are you interested in pruning? CityTrees is expanding its pruning program and needs volunteers. Whether you're interested in learning about pruning techniques or just want to lend a hand in beautifying Redwood City, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Dan Beeder at 650-465-6586 or join us at the next pruning event on June 18th at Madison and Myrtle, adjacent to Red Morton Park.

### **Open Volunteer Positions**

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

Tree  
Bob

## **THE APHIDS ARE COMING! THE APHIDS ARE COMING!**

by Bob Mullins, Urban Forester

The sticky substance you see dripping from the City's Ash trees is caused by an active population of Ash aphids. As they feed on the leaves aphids secrete "honeydew", which is the polite way of saying aphid "poop". Honeydew is made mostly of undigested sugar and starch. Black sooty mold will also grow on the honeydew, adding to the mess. The sticky mess can be cleaned off most surfaces with mild soap and warm water. Ants love honey dew, and will protect the aphids from predators. They have been known to carry or herd aphids to new leaves that have not been dined upon.



Aphids can be difficult to control, and several generations can hatch in one growing season. I always recommend the use of the least toxic pest control method. If the aphid population is low to moderate it's best to allow the natural predators to do their job. Get to know these natural aphid enemies such as spiders, ladybugs, lacewings, hover flies, snake flies, and tiny non-stinging wasps. As populations increase the next level of control is insecticidal soaps or a spray with horticultural oil. If the infestation reaches the extreme then it is time for chemical insecticides. These insecticides are applied by foliar spraying, soil drenches, and direct trunk injections.

Ash aphids do not normally feed on other landscape plants. The honeydew produced by aphid feeding is a nuisance; however it is not known to have a long-term adverse affect on ash trees.

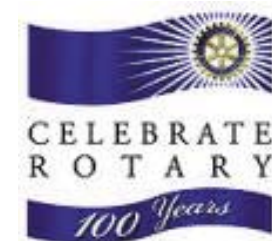
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## **SPOTLIGHT ON OUR SPONSORS**

by Jack Stephens

### **Peninsula Sunrise Rotary Club**

On Tuesday, May 24, CityTrees got started a little earlier than usual. Rather than meeting at 9:00 am to add trees to the city, we joined with the members of the Peninsula Sunrise Rotary Club at 7:30 am as part of their annual community contributions event. CityTrees was again lucky enough to be one of the organizations that the local Rotary club supports.



Since our founding in 2000, members of the Peninsula Sunrise Rotary club have been very supportive of CityTrees, turning out both as individuals and in conjunction with other local service clubs for planting and pruning events. In the last three years, they have augmented that hands-on contribution with a monetary donation. This year over \$50,000 was donated to charitable organizations in Redwood City and around the world included a \$500 contribution to CityTrees. The partnership between the Rotary and CityTrees is a good one. Both organizations are focused on the value that individuals can provide in making a long-term difference to their communities. Both organizations are leveraging the work of a few to harness the contributions of a large group of volunteers to make a real difference for everyone; Both organizations are proving that volunteerism is alive and well in Redwood City – and can make a real difference!

We will be planting with the Peninsula Sunrise Rotary club again in October, and their willingness to match that time commitment with a contribution helps assure that we are able to continue to add trees to Redwood City and properly care for the 1300 trees that CityTrees has already planted – a fine example of Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self".