

1-01-06
STORM

STORM RESPONSE: TREE PLANTING EVENT

by Karen Fine

In partnership with the city of Redwood City, the CityTrees Board of Directors helped to repair some of the storm damage from the New Years weekend storms. Thirteen trees were planted on January 21, 2006, in various neighborhoods around Redwood City. Prior to the planting event, Gordon Mann, Public Works Superintendent, had determined which trees needed to be replaced and had city workers remove them from the sites. Notices were also sent to the homeowners and residents who had experienced tree loss, with watering agreements attached. The City determined which tree species would be appropriate for the various sites, including pistache, tristania, cork oak, and autumn purple ash.

Sandwiched between two sunny days, the CityTrees board members came out on a rainy Saturday morning, testing out a new model of planting, as well as responding quickly to the city's need to replace storm damaged trees. Two pickup trucks were used to transport tools and planting teams to the different sites around Redwood City. Teams of 5 experienced planters helped to dig holes, plant trees, pound stakes, tie the trees, create the watering berm and sweep the site clean.

The work went quickly and the two experienced teams were finished just at 12:00 noon, as the rain began to make the day seriously wet. In all the past plantings, CityTrees has planted with many willing volunteers at a specific designated planting location, spreading out from a center meeting spot to plant trees within a few block radius. As those types of planting spots become less available, a transport model will have to be developed, along the lines of the January 21 experience. Board members learned a lot in this "practice" planting.



Volunteers replacing storm damaged trees



New Years Day Storm Damage

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!
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City Trees

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**WORK
-SHOP**

SECOND TREE CARE WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

by Dan Beeder

Redwood City residents learned how to take care of young trees at a Tree Care Workshop held Saturday, February 4th. This was the second in a series of free public workshops sponsored by CityTrees in collaboration with the Redwood City Public Works Services Department.

The workshop began with one hour of classroom training led by Gordon Mann, Public Works Superintendent on proper tree care, pruning, and maintenance. After the classroom training, the class took part in a kickoff for a Community Task Force on Tree Policy, hosted by Mayor Barbara Pierce (see Task Force article inside for more details).

Workshop participants can apply their newly-gained skills at our next tree pruning project to be held Saturday March 4th, at Hoover School, near Charter St. and Middlefield. If you would like to attend future tree care workshops, or are interested in joining the CityTrees volunteer team in future pruning projects, please contact Dan Beeder at 650-465-6586.



Gordon demonstrates pruning techniques

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Redwood City, CA 94064
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INSIDE SCOOP

CityTrees Reaches Out to our Community

Tom Cronin

One of the goals of CityTrees is to educate the public on the benefits of the urban forest and to inform people of the importance of a healthy, vibrant tree canopy. Recently we have had an opportunity to address two groups about the important work we do in Redwood City.

College of San Mateo

In November, CityTrees was invited to do a presentation to the Horticulture class at the College of San Mateo. Matt Leddy, Professor of Horticulture opened his classroom to us to spend an hour discussing the mission, goals and results of our organization with his class. As this group was quite attuned to the work we do, there were many technical questions concerning tree selection, maintenance and survival rates that were fielded by Gordon Mann, Superintendent at Redwood City Public Works who joined us for this presentation. We are hopeful that our recruiting efforts in the class will yield some new volunteers for future plantings or pruning events.

Redwood Shores Community Association

In January, board members Nancy Radcliffe and Tom Cronin along with Gordon Mann accepted a long sought invitation to address the Board of Redwood Shores Community Association (RSCA). CityTrees has wanted an opportunity to conduct plantings in Redwood Shores for many years. Due to the make up of the many homeowners associations and a complex City easement situation along many streets in that area we have not been able to meet that goal. Thanks to an offer by Jeff Gee, President of RSCA, we made a short presentation to their board informing them of the success we have had in other neighborhoods throughout the City. Much to the surprise of the crew from CityTrees, the RSCA board unanimously passed a resolution at the meeting to support a planting in Redwood Shores and backed that up with designating a \$1000 contribution to CityTrees targeted for a planting in their neighborhood.

Thanks to both of these organizations for allowing CityTrees to tell our wonderful story.

We are excited about how well we were received by these community groups and we look forward to getting out regularly to other groups in our community.

If you are interested in having a representative from CityTrees come to your school, organization or neighborhood association please contact us at: (650) 556-9380 ext. 4 or info@citytrees.org. We look forward to spreading the word about CityTrees.

CITYTREES EVENTS FOR 2006

City Trees has planned 5 planting events and 5 pruning/maintenance events for 2006. 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 18
Planting Trees, Mezes Park Area

March 4
Pruning Trees, location TBA

April 8
Planting Trees, location TBA

May 20
Planting Trees, location TBA

September
Planting Trees, location TBA

October
Planting Trees, location TBA

TREE CARE

PRUNING POINTERS

by Gordon Mann

I would like to briefly cover pruning for those who could not attend our recent seminar. Pruning should be performed to improve the condition and structure of the tree. Three principles should be always remembered when pruning - (1) Safety – Work safely for yourself and others around you. (2) The leaves are the food producing parts of the tree that feed the tree. Removal of too many leaves can stunt growth. (3) Every cut made to a tree is a wound. Properly made pruning wounds can be naturally grown over and have inherent decay resistance.

The major principle in small tree pruning is to maintain a central leader for optimum growth and structure. The ideal tree structure has a main trunk and smaller permanent lateral branches spaced at least twelve to eighteen inches apart along the trunk. Competing branches tend to grow in similar or equal diameter to the main leader developing co-dominant stems, resulting in weaker branch attachments.

Other objectives of pruning:

- Remove crossing and rubbing branches so that each branch has its own open area to grow in.
- Perform correct pruning cuts so the tree retains natural decay resistance.
- Identify temporary branches and permanent branches. On small trees, temporary branches can be left along the lower trunk to help the trunk attain a larger diameter sooner. The temporary branches are removed before they exceed one to two inches in diameter so the pruning wound will be relatively small.
- A correct pruning cut will result in the removal of a branch back to a lateral branch that is at least 1/2 the diameter of the branch that is being cut.

Proper pruning of small trees will create well-structured large trees. An easy small pruning cut today will avoid the need for a large corrective cut (and perhaps even tree removal) in the future.

A good pruning guide is available online at <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/Pruning/prunebook.htm>

TASK FORCE

COMMUNITY TREE TASK FORCE KICKS OFF

by Judith Bursak

On Saturday, February 4th, at the Redwood City Corporation Yard, Mayor Barbara Pierce announced the formation of The Community Task Force On Tree Policies. She was accompanied by Council members Roseanne Faust and Ian Bain. The task force, open to all Redwood City residents, will be charged with reviewing and making recommendations to the City Council on critical issues related to how the city and community live with and maintain our urban forest.

Mayor Pierce emphasized the great opportunity for citizens with diverse views to become involved and make a difference in Redwood City. Roseanne Faust read the words of the architect Frank Lloyd Wright - "The best friend of earth (and) of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."

Ian Bain noted humorously, "This is a good way to get in touch with your community roots!"

Barbara and Rosanne were then helped into two cherry picker buckets and were lifted over 10 feet in the air where they unveiled the banner announcing the formation of the task force. It was a great treat for those who had turned out for the City Trees Pruning workshop.

More information on this task force is available at www.redwoodcity.org/treetaskforce or by calling (650) 780-7464.



Mayor Barbara Pierce and Council member Roseanne Faust kick-off Task Force