

Tree News

VANDALISM RESPONSE REPLANTING EVENT

(continued from the front page)

The tragedy is being investigated by the Redwood City Police Department. The damage is valued at over \$2,000. If anyone has any information about the possible perpetrator, please contact Detective Gouldson at 650-780-7620. The violation is \$500 per tree (17 trees) plus the replacement cost of the 12 trees.

CityTrees was quick to respond and scheduled a special vandalism response replanting event. On May 6, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning, when most folks are still in bed, volunteers worked to replace the damaged trees. It is a real tragedy when both public property is needlessly destroyed and the hard work of volunteers tarnished.



Volunteers gathered to replant vandalized trees

CITYTREES EVENTS FOR 2005

City Trees has two planting events and three pruning/maintenance events remaining 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 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 for the most current event schedule.

Upcoming Events:

June 17
Pruning Trees, meet at Hoover School

July 15
Pruning Trees, location TBA

September 16
Planting Trees, location TBA

October 21
Planting Trees, location TBA

November 18
Pruning Trees, location TBA

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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TREE VANDALISM

by Gordon Mann

The unthinkable has happened to the new trees CityTrees planted on the 10 and 100 block of Arch Street on Saturday, April 8, 2006. Someone came along between the hours of midnight Thursday April 13 and 5:00 am Friday April 14, 2006 and damaged 17 of the 47 trees (36%) that were planted by CityTrees volunteers. The main tree stems were broken off at the rubber tie point along the trunks and branches were indiscriminately broken off. Twelve of the trees were damaged so badly, they required removal.

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Vandalized tree from April 8th planting

Project Update

MARCH STREET TREE PLANTINGS

by Jack Stephens

On Saturday, April 8th CityTrees was once again joined by Young Latino Leaders and the local Rotary clubs and added 44 trees along Arch and Birch Streets in Redwood City. Both groups have planted with CityTrees before – in fact they have partnered with us on the same planting more than once. This time, Mother Nature helped out too. After a week of threatening forecasts, the sun was shining and the only clouds in the sky were of the puffy white variety. In one of the wettest Marches on record, that was a very welcome surprise. The combination of fine weather and volunteer experience really showed, as the volunteers had the trees in the ground and the site cleaned up in a little over two hours – record time!

For the members of the Redwood City and Peninsula Sunrise Rotary clubs the planting was particularly special, as it was timed to coincide with the annual Rotary Awareness day. While Rotary clubs throughout the area are active year-round to support a number of humanitarian and non-profit organizations, March 18th was the annual day set aside for Bay Area Rotarians to participate in a hands-on project in the community, and members of these two clubs chose to contribute their time to CityTrees – to one and all, thank you.

The March planting also marked the first time that CityTrees has been able to plant in a neighborhood with a narrower than average planting strip. Typically, planting in a neighborhood with a 3-foot planting strip would require extensive reworking of the sidewalk and curb, the use of expensive forged grates or both. Thanks to an innovative procedure tried for the first time on this planting, we were able to add the trees to the local streetscape with minimal concrete cutting. By implementing this new approach, Superintendent of Public Works Gordon Mann and his team have opened up large sections of the city that would have been too costly to plant otherwise. That should be great news to both our volunteers and the residents who will be receiving trees in future plantings.

by Tom Cronin

Spring arrives Early at Mezes Park

On the morning of March 18th CityTrees had the good fortune to get a break in the wet weather, and with that an opportunity to plant over 40 trees in the Centennial/ Mezes Park districts of Redwood City. Joining us for the fourth year in a row and for the first planting in 2006, was the Muslim American Society – Youth Give group. This energetic group from the South and East Bay included over 35 students and adults helping us plant trees in the oldest residential district in Redwood City.

To help add beauty, shade and new wildlife habitat to the neighborhood, CityTrees planted a mix of Red Oak, White Oak, and Tristania trees that will enhance the city streets for decades. One of the challenges this planting presented was that it was a 'split' planting in that we planted both in and around Mezes Park and across Whipple Ave on Lenolt Street. With the help of a new set of walkie-talkies, pre assigned planting captains and a demo planting conducted prior to the crews hitting the streets, we were able to easily complete the project before our target time of 12:00 noon.

Thanks again to the Youth Give group – we look forward to continuing our partnership and your participation on another planting in 2007.

Welcome!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADDS TWO NEW MEMBERS

by Nancy Radcliffe

CityTrees would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new members to our staff, Judy Bursak and Rick Nordensten. Judy and her husband moved to this area about 25 years ago and have been involved in the community ever since. Judy admits she had been looking for a new creative outlet since retiring from her librarian position at Mt. Carmel School last year. Before becoming a librarian Judy owned her own pottery store in the Cannery in San Francisco.

Our second new staff member Rick and his wife moved here in 2003. He discovered CityTrees through our booth at the Redwood City Farmer's Market in early 2004 and has been planting and pruning with us since. Rick's day job is as an IT project manager for Hewlett Packard.

CityTrees is fortunate to have two such hard working and dedicated individuals on our staff. With their help we will continue to make Redwood City a more beautiful city.

Task Force

REDWOOD CITY'S COMMUNITY TASK FORCE ON TREE POLICIES

by Gordon Mann

Mayor Barbara Pierce has offered the public the opportunity to provide guidance and recommendations on the management of Redwood City's urban forest. A task force of 24 participants was selected from approximately 75 applicants. The Task Force held their initial meeting on March 8, 2006, and will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month for approximately 6 months. Their work will include the review of current City policies, ordinances and management practices, quality programs elsewhere in California and the US and tree protection approaches. The group will discuss and agree on what is their highest priority and the best approaches for the urban forest in Redwood City. They will present recommendations to City Council in a report.

The City's tree maintenance staff is excited to have the community involved in the process and looks forward to supporting the task force by providing a clear understanding of existing City practices. Additional resources to help the task force formulate their recommendations will be offered from the available urban forestry literature and program information, an urban forester with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and an independent urban forestry consultant.

The last time Redwood City's tree practices were reviewed was in 1998 and 1999 when one of the recommendations to the City Council was for planting more trees. A result of the 1998/1999 Task Force recommendations was the formation of CityTrees at the urging of Mayor Ira Ruskin. CityTrees planted the first trees in November of 2000.

CityTrees has one member participating on the Task Force. City staff appreciates the time the task force members are investing in the process and looks forward to receiving and implementing recommendations for improving Redwood City's urban forest. If you would like to talk to the Task Force, each meeting has a public comment space on the agenda near the beginning of the meetings at around 6:30 pm, in the Library Community Room.

Open Volunteer Positions

CityTrees is currently looking for a volunteer to head up the *Public Relations/Community Outreach* arm of the organization. The Public Relations Volunteer would be in charge of cultivating and maintaining strong relationships with print and media professionals, drafting and disseminating press releases and support material, advising on strategies to increase involvement and awareness of CityTrees through out the community, creating PR plans/calendars and coordinating and participating in community outreach events at local schools, civic groups and community events (e.g. Farmer's Market).

CityTrees is also looking for tree enthusiasts to fill the following volunteer positions: *Education Program Coordinator, Outreach Volunteers, Photographer, Tree Planters and Pruning Volunteers.*

To inquire, please call the CityTrees hotline at 650-556-9380, ext 4.