

COOL TREES

HOW TREES ARE COOL FOR REDWOOD CITY

by Jane Taylor

With the climate heating up, there are some things that everybody can do to reduce the causes of global warming / climate change. Some of the simplest are planting and protecting trees and reducing our gasoline and electricity consumption.

Trees help to significantly cool the planet. Their leaves absorb the greenhouse gas CO2 and release Oxygen. A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Trees also provide shade, which keeps a building or house cooler so that less electricity is needed for air conditioning, reducing your bill by 10 to 15%. Street trees will keep an entire neighborhood cooler and create a lush environment to enjoy on a hot day.

There are many ways you can help ensure that more trees are planted and growing trees are conserved. You can join a local organization such as CityTrees on our tree planting and tree care projects, see <http://www.citytrees.org/news.html> for our current calendar. You can plant trees on your own property or you can sponsor trees to be planted elsewhere www.americanforests.org/planttrees/. You can use household paper products that contain recycled paper rather than virgin paper www.nrdc.org/land/forests/gtissue.asp or use construction materials with sustainably-grown or reclaimed wood. You can recycle paper products in your household and you can buy used, antique or consignment wooden furniture rather than brand-new. San Mateo County has an amazing website to answer all your recycling questions, whether you're looking to purchase or purge, www.recycleworks.org can help you reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and save you money along the way.

The City of Redwood City is taking climate change seriously and the RWC City Council has added "Climate Protection" to their list of council priorities at their meeting on February 12th and Mayor Barbara Pierce signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement April 23rd. The City has a strong urban forest program and has been partnering with CityTrees since 2000 to support our efforts.

Several of CityTree's Board members are currently involved with different efforts to do something about climate change. Rick Nordensten is Redwood City's representative from the Sierra Club coordinating the Cool Cities initiative <http://www.coolcities.us/>. Please contact Rick rick@northstone.org if you would like to get involved. I have organized a grassroots organization of parents concerned about the future of the world for their children called "Cool Families". Please email me for more information janeyappleseed@sbcglobal.net.

CITYTREES EVENTS FOR 2007

City Trees only has three events left in 2007, two plantings and one "Lop & Lunch". 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:

September 15
Planting Trees - meet at Alameda de las Pulgas and Chesterton Avenue

October 20
Planting Trees - location TBA

November 17
Pruning Trees (Lop & Lunch) - location TBA

Tree Times

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For more information:
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City Trees

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TOAST TO TREES

FIRST ANNUAL TOAST TO TREES

by Judy Bursak

On May 20th friends and supporters packed the Redwood City wine bar, Savvy Cellars, for the first annual "Toast to Trees". Guests, including Redwood City Council members Ian Bain and Alicia Aguirre with husband Pete Leibingood, City Planner Jill Ekas and husband Paul, Gordon Mann from Public Works, Community Development Director Peter Ingram, Spectrum publisher Steve Penna and Clem Maloney of Lyngso were greeted with a glass of champagne. Four luscious red wines were offered for tasting along with a variety of "small bites" designed to accompany them. The very knowledgeable and entertaining sommelier guided us through the evening awarding prizes to Tom Cronin and Gordan Mann for their skills as tasters. Throughout the evening, raffle tickets were scooped up in a fierce competition for the great prizes - everything from baby-sitting services to, of course, a tree. Thanks to Nancy Radcliffe and Rick Nordensten for the beautiful invitations and planning, Judy Bursak for the food (with Nancy's help), Mary Stewart and Abby Bursak for serving and pouring, and Ross Hotchkiss for being the official greeter. The evening was so enjoyable it has been decided to hold a second annual "Toast to Trees" next spring. Watch for the date and get your tickets early - remember seating is limited. See you next year!



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PROJECT UPDATE

JUNE TREE PLANTING

by Jason Leith

The morning of Saturday June 16th was sunny and warm as the members of City Trees unloaded the trailer and set up the staging area. Tools were laid out in tight groups on the ground. Coffee and muffins were arranged on the table, only to be snatched up by the slowly forming crowd of volunteers arriving by car, bike, on foot and even by little red wagon.

Three volunteers from Whole Foods showed up bearing gifts of water, bananas and a box of truly delicious apples, then joined the others to put on safety vests and name tags. Four families appeared, some of them first time planters, the parents and kids adding to the milling crowd.

By around nine a planting demonstration was given and the teams were assembled, each small group lugging tools towards the waiting trees along Redwood Ave, Junipero Ave and Valota St. 34 trees were planted; Red Oak, Red Maple, Pistache and Ash Trees. Such was the enthusiasm of the volunteers that the work was completed in record time. The tools and tarps, shovels and pounders were all carried back to the waiting trailer, but left behind were young trees that will in time add immeasurably to the beauty and life of this neighborhood.

Our thanks to all the volunteers.

There are just two plantings left this year. The next planting is on September 15th and the last is on October 20th. We hope to see you there.



GOT SHADE?

CITYTREES INCREASES SHADE AND SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

by Gordon Mann

On Saturday, June 2nd at 7 am, CityTrees volunteers planted seven 24-inch box Chinese Pistache trees in the landscaped area adjacent to the Farmer's Market. This planting is part of a coordinated effort with the City of Redwood City to enhance the community's enjoyment of this area. The City will replace the existing turf with decomposed granite and low maintenance landscaping to reduced water use and provide benches to create a much needed seating area. Please be sure to enjoy the shade from these trees when you visit downtown.

Then, from 9 am until noon, CityTrees volunteers participated in the City's second annual World Environment Day at Red Morton Park. We hosted a booth and planted a ceremonial Redwood Tree honoring the occasion. A proclamation from the City Council declared June 2nd World Environment Day in Redwood City.

The event included a 16-mile Tour des Trees bicycle ride, displays showing ways to improve the environment, and environmental crafts hosted by the City's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. A free Red Maple or Redwood tree seedling and event t-shirt were provided to the first 100 participants.

World Environment Day is a United Nations environmental effort to bring attention and political support to environmental activities that improve the World's environment.

World Environment Day is celebrated on June 2nd and this year, its 35th year, was hosted in Tromse, Norway. In 2005 it was celebrated in North America for the first time ever, in San Francisco.

The event was sponsored by the following companies that have served Redwood City well:

CityTrees – donated and planted the ceremonial tree and volunteers helped set up and clean up
Rubber Sidewalks, Inc. –the sidewalk material that is used to preserve trees during sidewalk repairs by minimizing root cutting;
Nor-Cal Waste – providing trash and recycling collection enhancing waste management and recycling efforts;
HortScience – a consulting firm that assisted in Redwood City's tree program development in 1999 and 2006;

The Professional Tree Care Company – the City's tree maintenance contractor since 2002 and provided the seedlings given away;
Whole Foods – provided snacks and water for the event and bike ride and volunteered at Block Planting event;
Redwood City's Parks Recreation and Community Services and Public Works Services Departments.
Ahmad Hassan – provided a hands-on planting demonstration for the children and everyone took home a plant.

Please join us next year on the first Saturday in June.



PRUNE & PUB

PRUNE AND PUB EVENING A SUCCESS

by Dan Beeder

The CityTrees maintenance program held its second "Prune & Pub" event on Wednesday, June 6th. As the name suggests, this consisted of an evening tree pruning followed by a social gathering at a local restaurant.

Volunteers congregated at 6 p.m. on the corner of Alameda De Las Pulgas and Roosevelt to prune street trees that CityTrees planted 6 years ago. A total of eleven volunteers arrived, including a few new faces. Then the group broke into teams. Some moved southward down both sides of Alameda while others pruned on adjacent side streets. New volunteers were teamed up with veterans to learn the basics of pruning for structure, safety and tree health. For the next 2 hours, our volunteers were busy pruning and removing old planting stakes. The Public Works Dept. arrived around 7:30 to help pick up the old stakes and pruned foliage.

The CityTrees tree maintenance 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 the experts in the Public Works department.

We completed pruning the entire area at around 8:00. After a short cleanup, most of the volunteers retired to a local restaurant for food, drink and festivity. Everyone appreciated the chance to discuss the evening's work, brainstorm on future projects, and socialize.

There is one more pruning event planned this year. Come join us on November 17th at 9:00 am for a Saturday "Lop & Lunch". Stay tuned for more details on our web site. If you are interested in joining us on future pruning events, please contact Dan Beeder at 650-465-6586.

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 throughout 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, and as always Tree Planters and Pruning Volunteers. To inquire, please call the CityTrees hotline at 650-556-9380, ext 4.