



Greening San Francisco

TREEscapes

Summer 2017



The Most Greenified Block

Shafter Avenue wins annual award

Friends of the Urban Forest presented the fifth annual "Most Greenified Block" award to a representative of **Shafter Avenue** at the **Earth Day San Francisco** festival in the Civic Center on April 22. Neighborhood organizers **Diego Castellani** and **Vanessa Christie** say the increased greenery has improved the energy and cohesion of the neighborhood.

The award recognizes the area of San Francisco that has undergone the greatest "green" transformation. FUF evaluates candidates for the award on the basis of their progress in planting and maintaining street trees and/or sidewalk gardens with the participation of neighborhood residents.



From Dan's Desk

A new era for our urban forest

Proposition E is now in effect

On July 1, you might not have felt the ground shake, but **a seismic shift occurred** in the way San Francisco manages its urban forest.

That's when Proposition E went into effect, **shifting responsibility for street tree maintenance from property owners to the City** where it belongs. The City also took over responsibility for repairing tree-related sidewalk damage, and liability for harm to people or property caused by neglect of such maintenance or repairs.

This is **great news** for property owners, for FUF and our supporters, and for everyone who wants to have a greener City.

The City won't sweep up leaves and other debris dropped by trees; property owners will still be responsible for keeping the sidewalks adjacent to their properties clear. But the City will assess the health and structural stability of all street trees, and do the work necessary to keep them healthy and safe.

The City's tree maintenance work will **"start with the worst first,"** prioritizing the care of trees based on safety considerations. In 2019 the City's tree care activities will become more routine, with trees being pruned every three to five years depending on the species and needs of the individual trees.

Property owners who wish to continue to maintain the street trees adjacent to their properties may opt out of the City's tree care program, as long as the maintenance they're doing meets City standards.

See this FAQ on the **San Francisco Public Works** website for more info: bit.ly/sfpwpropefaq

Warmly,

Executive Director

*A seismic shift
in the way
San Francisco manages
its urban forest*

Vote for Friends of the Urban Forest

Get us "rated" by Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator rates non-profit organizations to help donors decide which ones to support. Friends of the Urban Forest is waiting to get rated. The more votes we receive, the quicker we'll move up the queue. **So please vote for us at bit.ly/voteforfuf.** Thank you!



www.fuf.net
415-561-6890



"In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful."

~ Alice Walker

Upcoming Events

For event updates, details, and info about how to participate, see: www.fuf.net/calendar

If you want a tree, or want to help organize a tree planting in your neighborhood, see: www.fuf.net/treeplanting

If you want a sidewalk garden, see: www.fuf.net/sidewalkgarden

July 6, 13, 20, 27—Tree Replacement Thursdays

July 13-15—Sidewalk Landscaping, Castro

July 15—Tree Planting, SOMA

July 19, 26—Wonderful Wednesday Tree Care

July 21, 28—No-Frown Friday Tree Care

July 29—Tree Planting, Portola

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30—Wonderful Wednesday Tree Care

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31—Tree Replacement Thursdays

August 4, 11, 18, 25—No-Frown Friday Tree Care

August 19—Tree Planting, Portola

August 26—Tree Planting, Excelsior

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29—No-Frown Friday Tree Care

September 6, 13, 20, 27—Wonderful Wednesday Tree Care

September 7, 14, 21, 28—Tree Replacement Thursdays

September 7-9—Sidewalk Landscaping, NOPA

Recently FUF'ed



On March 16, 17, and 18, Friends of the Urban Forest led neighborhood residents and volunteers in installing new sidewalk gardens in San Francisco's **Hayes Valley** neighborhood.



On April 11 students from **Pacific Primary School** visited our offices and tree nursery and learned about trees from **Alex Javier**, our education manager.



On April 5 we pruned a tree on Larkin Street in the **Nob Hill** neighborhood.



On April 8, we partnered with **PODER** and the **San Francisco Bicycle Coalition** for **BIKE TREE LOVE**, a bicycle-powered tree planting in the Excelsior neighborhood.

Factoid: Trees improve social cohesion

In areas with more trees, people know their neighbors better.



Source: Beyer, K.M.M. et al. Exposure to Neighborhood Green Space and Mental Health: Evidence from the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2014, 11, 3453-3472.

A sampling of some of our many recent events



Volunteers from **Levi Strauss** joined us on May 4 for a work day in the **Mission** neighborhood. We tended to young street trees and did outreach to homes and businesses that have space for new trees in their adjacent sidewalks.



On May 20 we led neighborhood residents and volunteers in planting new street trees in the **Castro** neighborhood. Photo by **Barry Williams**.



On April 6 we provided plants and shrubs for a traffic calming demonstration in **Hayes Valley** organized by **Walk San Francisco** as part of its **Walk to Work Day**.



On April 22 we led a tree planting in the **Western Addition**, **Hayes Valley**, **Duboce Triangle**, and **Lower Haight** neighborhoods.



Our **Arborist Apprentices** and our **college interns** participated in a one-day professional development training with staff on April 28.

Thanks to our funders

We're grateful to:

craigslist Charitable Fund for its \$50,000 grant for general operations

Kimball Foundation for its \$25,000 grant to support our Green Teens program

The Tree Fund for its \$5,000 grant to support our Green Teens program

Wells Fargo for its \$17,500 donation to support tree planting

Temple Isaiah 7th Grade Fund for its \$5,000 donation to support our Green Teens program

Donald Frediani, native Californian and long-time San Francisco resident, for his bequest of \$25,000

Find out how you or your company can adopt an upcoming planting: fuf.net/adopt





Presidio of San Francisco
P.O. Box 29456
San Francisco, CA 94129-0456

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage

PAID

San Francisco, CA
Permit No. 13997

 facebook.com/FriendsOfTheUrbanForest

 [@SFUrbanForester](https://twitter.com/SFUrbanForester)

TREEscapes

Summer 2017

Friends of the Urban Forest is a non-profit organization, founded in 1981, that offers financial, technical and practical assistance to individuals and neighborhood groups who wish to plant and care for street trees and sidewalk gardens in San Francisco.

Board of Directors

Noah Goldberg, Chair
Dawn Kamalanathan, Vice Chair
Gina Falsetto, Secretary
Jon Braslaw
Doug Case
John Flynn
Sean Flynn
Kent Jonas
Kerry Lange
Dave Steer
Patricia Wilson

Executive Director

Dan Flanagan

Editor: Ben Carlson

Layout: Mari Ann Donnelly

Printed on recycled paper.

If you'd prefer to receive
Treescapes electronically,
please email brian@fuf.net

The Biophile

Providing habitat for pollinators

By Madalyn Watkins, Sidewalk Landscape
Planting Manager

Pollinators like **birds, butterflies, and insects** find **refuge** in San Francisco's parks, but as they travel from place to place they need opportunities to stop and take a drink, have a snack, or just rest. You can create habitat right where you live: in your sidewalk, backyard, or even a container garden.

You can create habitat right
where you live

The **National Wildlife Federation** offers educational materials and a fun, easy way to create a **Certified Wildlife Habitat®** in a green space near you. A typical sidewalk garden can provide all the elements needed — food, water, cover (shelter), and a place to raise young.

Visit bit.ly/nwfcertify to certify your green space or simply learn how you can **better provide for pollinators** in San Francisco!

