



Conserving Land
for People

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

California Trees

The quarterly publication of California ReLeaf, a program of the Trust for Public Land

Greener Spaces Make Safer Places: The Role of Trees in Crime Reduction

By Jane Braxton Little

Eleanor Torres wanted to protect a community garden in Los Angeles from vandals but she didn't want to fence and lock it. So Torres turned to neighborhood teenagers—the tough kids who'd already had minor scrapes with the law. She offered to sign off on their court-ordered community service requirements if they would keep an eye on the garden.

A handful of wary kids began hanging out around the garden bordered by cacti and berry bushes. Soon they were inside tending their own plots. By the time the squash was ready to harvest, they had their parents and grandparents involved. The L.A. teenagers dubbed themselves the Eco-Vacos, and they put out a formidable gang warning: "Don't mess with my tomatoes."

No one did, says Torres, now CEO of Integrated Infrastructures, Inc., a company that works toward economic, ecological, and social sustainability. "When you put plants in the ground and take care of them, something happens. Everybody starts looking out for one another," Torres says.

No one thinks trees, much less tomatoes, will eliminate urban crime. But communities across the country have proven that neighborhood greenery has a positive effect on the people who live there. What begins with attention to the basic physical appearance of streets and buildings expands to new outdoor activities, some as simple as sitting on doorsteps in the shade. As neighbors get to know one another, they develop a sense of community that not only deters crime but also leads to a better quality of life.

In Baltimore, the Parks & People Foundation has helped nearly 50 community groups transform vacant lots into green space. What began with a truckload of pin oaks on one street has



JANE BRAXTON LITTLE

Baltimore's Parks & People Foundation has involved volunteers of all ages in transforming vacant lots and treeless streets into greener, safer neighborhood spaces.

expanded to the planting of more than 4,100 street trees, and 11,500 riparian trees and shrubs. Baltimore communities that have organized themselves as stewards of their natural resources have seen drug dealers disappear, says Parks & People's Guy W. Hager. When the trees are big enough to create a canopy, people tend to congregate outside in the shade. This helps discourage crime.

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Fall 2002

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Working to expand,
enhance, and
preserve California's
urban forests.



Trees have brought residents together in San Jose's Santee neighborhood.

Greener Spaces, Safer Places (continued)

"Their eyes are on the street. Criminals just stay away," he says.

Data Backs Up Intuition

Most communities that have launched street tree and landscaping projects have had little more than their instincts to

assure them that their efforts would help reduce crime. Now, however, researchers are producing data that verifies the social benefits of urban greenery.

In a series of studies conducted at the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Frances Kuo and Bill Sullivan determined that trees do more than give aimless kids a sense of direction and help forge relationships among neighbors. A natural environment also has the potential to reduce social service budgets, decrease police calls, and decrease the incidence of child abuse, Kuo and Sullivan say.

Their research, most of it conducted in Chicago public housing neighborhoods during the mid- to late nineties, found that residents living in buildings without trees are nearly five times more likely to threaten or use a knife or gun against their children than residents who are surrounded by trees, grass, and other plants. Kuo blames the higher levels of child abuse and other crimes on "an unfit environment" and the tensions of living in severe poverty.

Places with trees and other natural amenities not only offer refuge outside an

apartment or house, they also provide a setting in which relationships grow stronger. People who congregate under the trees inevitably get to know one another. They build friendships. Having neighbors to call on for support offers an alternative way of dealing with frustration, Kuo says.

A separate study by the Harvard School of Public Health found that the sense of community, not social or economic class, is the best predictor of neighborhood crime rates. That stimulated police departments around the country to initiate projects to build communities.

"A Fact of Life"

Today, the positive impact of trees on crime is more accepted among planners, law enforcement officials, and community activists. "It's just a fact of life," says Rhonda Berry, executive director of Our City Forest in San Jose, California.

Trees have helped transform low-income sec-

Tips for Success: Using Landscaping to Reduce Crime

The success of using street trees and gardens to reduce crime depends overwhelmingly on neighborhood involvement.

Baltimore's Parks & People Foundation has been working with neighborhoods since 1989 to create green spaces and safer communities. The group's experience has identified a variety of factors that contribute to the success of sustainable open-space projects:

- Choose property that interests the community and that residents feel they can "take back." Avoid no-man zones.
- Identify a well-organized group or local person to act as a catalyst. Access to information, resources, and services is crucial.
- Select projects initiated by the community that are clearly defined and have the potential for multi-generational support.
- Acknowledge the project with signs identifying the goals as well as the individuals and groups involved.
- Involve partners among nonprofit groups and government agencies, particularly for long-term stability of neighborhood projects. Integrate greening with community development.
- Adapt the project to the evolving needs and interests of the community.

- JBL

California Trees

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California ReLeaf is a program of the Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit land conservation organization that conserves land for people to improve the quality of life in our communities and to protect our natural and historic resources for future generations.

California ReLeaf promotes alliances among individuals, organizations, industries, and government, encouraging each to contribute to the livability of our cities and the protection of our local and global environment by planting and caring for trees.

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tions of San Jose into communities where neighbors take an interest in how their block looks. In the process, residents have also developed an interest in their neighbors, says Martin Renteria, a pest control technician who has lived in the Santee area of San Jose for 12 years.

Trained as a Tree Amigo by Our City Forest, Renteria has organized dozens of tree plantings in his neighborhood. In seven years he and other volunteers have put over 300 street trees into the ground. And they've cared for them well, losing just five percent—an excellent record by any standards.

Since they began planting trees, the Santee community has seen neighborhood graffiti all but disappear. That's at least in part because people spend more time outside, says Renteria. Once the trees they planted got big enough to provide some shade, people began coming out to enjoy the cool of the evening. Vietnamese and Hispanic women began raking up the leaves and street litter. "It's brought the neighborhood closer together even though they don't speak the same language," says Renteria.

Across town in San Jose's Northside, Joseph Golda plants trees and landscapes parkway strips and corner lots with his neighbors through the Northside Neighborhood Association. The improvements began after volunteers created a neighborhood garden out of a garbage-strewn lot owned by the city. Golda, a city bus driver, says each tree, each landscaped park strip inspires something else. "It's like a pioneer spirit sweeping through the neighborhood. Everyone gets pretty excited. And it seems to be a much more friendly area now," Golda says.

The neighborhood is safer, too. Although the San Jose Police Department keeps no specific statistics, the Northside neighborhood generally has a lower crime rate than surrounding areas, says Sergeant Tom Sandoval, former liaison to the neighborhood association.

Designing Crime Out

Less crime in a greener neighborhood is not a coincidence, say advocates of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED, pronounced "septed"). Launched in the 1960s as a movement to design crime out of built environments, CPTED has attracted widespread interest

and the participation of more professionals since the formation in 1996 of the International CPTED Association.

CPTED goes beyond bolts on doors and locks on windows to place crime prevention in a social context. The proper design and effective use of the built environment can reduce fear and the incidence of crime, improving quality of life, says Barry Davidson, executive director of the international organization.

Al Zelinka, a Los Angeles community planner, takes these concepts a step further. In *SafeScape: Creating Safer, More Livable Communities Through Planning and Design*, Zelinka and coauthor Dean Brennan, a Phoenix, Arizona planner, emphasize the role that building communities plays in reducing crime. They begin with the basic premise that public safety is a key component of quality of life. One of the primary ways to ensure public safety is through a physical environment that respects the most basic human needs, Brennan says.

It is crucial to create or renovate spaces that bring people together in places where they feel safe: playgrounds, pool areas, ramadas. Although builders tend to limit the number of windows to avoid break-ins, Zelinka recommends as many windows as possible to connect the public and private realms. Planting low-lying thorn bushes at the foot of windows provides a barrier to

(continued on page 4)



A series of studies conducted at the Ida B. Wells public housing development in Chicago found that residents living in buildings surrounded by greenery reported lower levels of fear and less aggressive and violent behavior than residents in housing with no trees.



WILLIAM SULLIVAN

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Human-Environment
Research Laboratory
<http://www.herl.uiuc.edu/>

*SafeScape: Creating Safer,
More Livable Communities
Through Planning and
Design* by Dean Brennan
and Al Zelinka, American
Planning Association
order by e-mail:
bookorder@planning.org

Greener Spaces, Safer Places (continued)

would-be burglars.

Zelinka also recommends an ingeniously simple way to discourage the drug dealers, prostitutes, and other criminals who flock to public parks at night. Work with municipal maintenance crews to schedule automatic sprinkler systems to go on at night in frequent short sessions, he says.

If residents are involved in and committed to design and maintenance processes, they will develop stronger relationships. It is ultimately building a community that creates a safer community, Zelinka and Brennan say. That includes bringing together the agencies that typically interact separately: planning, maintenance, police, and other departments. “What could be a more powerful alliance in local government to create a stronger neighborhood?” says Zelinka.

The Phoenix Planning Department tested these principles in 1997 at a crime-ridden apartment project in one of the city’s worst neighborhoods. The result, says Brennan, was a 60 percent reduction in arrests and a 30 to 50 percent reduction in police calls to the housing complex.

SafeScape concepts have drawn cheers from law enforcement officials. “I have waited three decades for this book,” says Mark A. Kroeker, chief of

police in Portland, Oregon. “Zelinka and Brennan are teaching us to look beyond the broken windows to consider the building of windows that would not be broken.”

Trees and gardens are as essential to building safe and healthy neighborhoods as electricity and water systems, says Torres, the L.A. urban forest activist. The key to lasting improvements is the involvement of local residents in both planning and implementing the changes. “It doesn’t do any good to go into a community and tell it what’s missing. Local residents already know what will serve their own needs best,” she says.

Planting trees, landscaping parkway strips, and growing gardens offers that rare hands-on opportunity for neighbors to work together side by side, says Berry, director of San Jose’s Our City Forest.

“The safest thing for a neighborhood is for the neighbors to know each other. We’ll never know exactly what difference trees make, but when people come together to plant and care for them, we know the difference is significant.”

Jane Braxton Little is a freelance writer based in Plumas County, California.



DON DALE

Miss American Green Cross, created by sculptor Frederick Willard Potter in 1928, was rededicated in 1992 as a monument to early tree preservation efforts.

The American Green Cross: Remembering an Early Tree Preservation Movement

By Don Dale and Janet Aird

Tree preservation organizations are widespread across America today, but they are not a new phenomenon. In Glendale, north of downtown Los Angeles, stands a unique statue depicting a woman on a cross set amidst a pile of tree trunks and cut logs. The statue is a monument to an early twentieth century tree society and a symbol of the deforestation that was taking place across the country at that time.

Glendale was known as the “Fastest Growing City in America” when an organization called the American Green Cross was founded there in 1926 by conservationists dedicated to urban forestry. Its mandate was to help preserve and restore America’s forests and prevent forest fires.

The Green Cross began with strong support from local politicians such as C. E. Kimlin, a contemporary Glendale city councilman and president of

the organization. He was quoted in the press as saying: “The American Green Cross seeks to restore trees, not simply for sentiment, but for the very life of the nation.”

On May 4, 1928, California Governor C. C. Young led a parade of 100 cars and 4,000 school children to the unveiling of the bronze “Miss American Green Cross” statue. Five newsreel companies covered the event, which included a

The American Green Cross (continued)

gala ceremony at the statue's new home, Glendale High School.

At one point, every one of Glendale's 8,000 schoolchildren belonged to the Junior Green Cross. "I was in grammar school when they collected money to buy the monument," says Ruth Moore, a former member who still lives in Glendale. "All the schoolchildren in Glendale contributed their money."

The statue aroused controversy, though. Some art critics called it "an abortion." In the early 1930s a car smashed into it and damaged its base. Shortly afterward, both the American Green Cross and the statue vanished. Their disappearance isn't mentioned in the press clippings of the time, which fill a binder in Glendale City Hall. Neither Moore nor others who were interviewed for this article remember when or why the movement dissolved, and there is no evidence that it achieved the national status that supporters predicted.

"I love the mystery of the disappearance of the statue from the original site," says Don Zabinski of the Glendale Parks and Recreation Department. "Suddenly, she wasn't there. No one reported it, as far as I know." Zabinski believes that the Green Cross met its demise because of the stock market crash. "People had other things to worry about," he says.

Still, the legacy of the Green Cross touches everyone who passes through Glendale's tree-lined streets. The movement created an awareness of urban forestry among residents of the time and set the tone

for what has become a very green community.

As for the statue, hikers rediscovered it in 1954, in an overgrown area of Brand Canyon. It was determined that the parks department had dumped it there. Still, it lay abandoned in the canyon for almost another 30 years. Vandals cut off its arms and legs and damaged the concrete branches and cross.

In 1981 it was taken to the city maintenance yard. Glendale Beautiful chose it as its Arbor Day project and the Glendale Parks, Recreation and Community Services Division helped pay for its restoration by artist Ron Pekar.

In 1992 the statue was dedicated for a second time. Its new home is in Brand Library Park, at the start of a hiking trail into the mountains where it was found. It stands as a silent reminder of a greening movement that was a precursor to the urban forestry organizations of today. 🌿

Don Dale has written articles for national and regional magazines and newspapers, including Tree Care Magazine and Landscape Management.

Janet Aird has written articles on nature and other topics for various magazines and newspapers, including Mother Earth News and The Los Angeles Times.



DON DALE

Tree-lined streets lead to Brand Library Park in Glendale where Miss American Green Cross now stands.

Upcoming Grants

Guidelines and application forms for the California ReLeaf 2003 Capacity-Building Grant Program are now available. A total of \$120,000 will be awarded for urban forestry projects in the categories of education and public awareness, tree care, and volunteer development. Incorporated nonprofit organizations, unincorporated community groups, and city-affiliated volunteer entities, such as tree boards and parks and recreation commissions, may apply for grants from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Proposals are due on October 30, 2002.

The grant guidelines and application forms are available online at www.tpl.org/releaf. To request a hard copy, contact Grant Coordinator Elisabeth Hoskins at (949) 642-0127 or elisabeth.hoskins@tpl.org.



California ReLeaf Network

Member Profile: Coronado Street Tree Committee

By Joan Schwan

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Many parents wish for a better world for their children. Some set to work bringing it about. A decade ago, Shannon Player wondered how to contribute to the world her baby daughter would inherit. She started by planting 19 trees in her neighborhood in Coronado, an island in San Diego Bay. With inspiration from Los Angeles' TreePeople, assistance from San Diego's People for Trees, and in collaboration with other like-minded residents, her interest in trees led to the establishment of the Coronado Street Tree Committee. Before European settlement, the island of Coronado—with its abundant sun, sandy beaches, and meager rainfall—was covered with shrubs and grasses, not trees. In 1888 Coronado was established as a resort community for wealthy East Coast families. These new residents brought a love of trees, and ensured that many were planted.

Network Members

Formed in 1991, the California ReLeaf Network is a statewide alliance of community-based organizations that share the common goals of planting and protecting trees, fostering an ethic of environmental stewardship, and promoting citizen involvement.

Northern California

- Atherton Tree Committee
- Auburn Area Urban Forestry Group
- California Oak Foundation
- California Urban Forests Council
- Canopy: Trees for Palo Alto
- CREEC
- Fair Oaks Beautification Association
- Friends of El Cerrito Trees
- Friends of the Urban Forest Magic
- Marin ReLeaf
- Mendocino County ReLeaf
- National AIDS Memorial Grove
- North Hills Landscape Committee
- Oak Habitat Restoration Project
- Oakland ReLeaf
- Our City Forest
- Patrick's Point Garden Club
- Petaluma Tree Planters
- Roseville Urban Forest Foundation
- Sacramento Tree Foundation
- San Mateo Park Association
- South San Francisco Beautification Committee
- Stewards of Slavianska
- Streaminders
- TREE Davis
- Vacaville Tree Foundation
- ValleMar Conservators
- Woodland Tree Foundation

- Santa Barbara Beautiful
- Santa Barbara County ReLeaf
- Santa Margarita Community Forestry
- Tree Foundation of Kern
- Tree Fresno
- Trees for Cayucos
- Tule River Parkway Association
- Urban Tree Foundation
- Visalia Beautification Committee

Southern California

- Arroyo Seco Foundation
- Community ReLeaf
- Coronado Street Tree Committee
- Desert Hot Springs Tree Advisory Board
- Fallbrook Land Conservancy
- Hollywood Beautification Team
- Huntington Beach Tree Society
- Ivey Ranch Park Association
- Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful
- L.A. Community Forest Advisory Committee
- Mountains Restoration Trust
- North East Trees
- Orange for Trees
- Pasadena Beautiful Foundation
- People for Trees
- Professional Tree Care Association of San Diego
- ReLeaf Costa Mesa
- Seal Beach Tree Committee
- ShadeTree Partnership
- Tree Musketeers
- TreePeople
- Trees for Seal Beach
- Victoria Avenue Forever
- West Hollywood Tree Preservation Society

Central California

- Atascadero Native Tree Association
- Goleta Valley Beautiful
- Greenspace: The Cambria Land Trust
- Ojai Valley ReLeaf

If you would like to reach any of the groups listed, or you are with a group that would like information on membership in the California ReLeaf Network, contact California ReLeaf, (916) 557-1673 ext. 12; martha.ozonoff@tpl.org.

Later, the island also became a major military base, which boomed when sailors stationed on Coronado in World War II returned to settle there. Today, the community of 30,000 is one of the wealthiest in California, but its urban forest is aging and in decline.



Committee member Ron Henderson poses with young volunteers at Coronado's annual Arbor Day planting.

CORONADO STREET TREE COMMITTEE

Player grew up in Coronado and has seen the landscape change: "I remember many more trees when I was a child. Now there are whole expanses of public right-of-way that are empty. And we're losing lots of big trees on private land." Developers and new residents often choose to raze existing homes to build new ones, and the mature trees are falling by the wayside, says Player.

In the past, Coronado's city council was responsible for major tree decisions such as accepting or rejecting tree removal proposals. In 1993, Player petitioned the council to form an advisory committee of citizens to do this work instead, and succeeded. The city recruits for and selects new members when one of the seven seats is open, and the superintendent of parks serves as the liaison between the City and the committee.

The all-volunteer committee meets monthly. They review proposed tree removals, conduct tree tours, and organize two annual tree plantings. Since 1993, they've organized the planting of over 500 trees. The group also initiated the city's first street tree inventory; volunteers walked the streets and recorded the health, size, and species of trees in the public

right-of-way. They found an aging urban forest of 7,000 trees and 2,000 palms. Currently the group is working to draft a tree ordinance and revise the city's tree master plan.

Stan Binnie, the current chair of the committee, joined four years ago when he moved from Wisconsin. Retired from a 25-year career as a University of Wisconsin Extension horticultural agent, he has professional experience helping communities understand the value of trees and how to care for them. Binnie has noticed that the Californians he's encountered are often less knowledgeable about tree care than the people he worked with in the Midwest. One reason might be that in Coronado, and California in general, many more people hire others to care for their lawns and yards.

The committee's newest member, Ron Henderson, previously a tree trimmer and now a real estate agent, brings a knowledge of trees and enthusiasm for showing others their value. At their last Arbor Day planting, Henderson says, "A great diversity of people—folks from the U.S. Armed Forces, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, school kids, and quite a few residents—dug in and helped us plant the trees." A highlight for him was seeing one boy return at the end of the day, his new gloves dirty: "You could see the pride this young man held for his accomplishment! He learned a little about trees and I believe he will return in twenty-five years and say to Mom and Pa, 'Remember that tree we planted? Well, look at it now.'"

Player notes that the planting process has changed over time. For that first planting in her own neighborhood, "people paid \$35 to receive a tree, and they had to help do the planting and sign a commitment to care for the tree. Those are the best trees today," she says. They're thriving, she thinks, because the residents were invested in their success. In the early years, Player approached residents in person to talk about planting a tree in their right-of-way. After the planting, she kept an eye on the trees and knocked on doors to remind people to water. Today, the city sends letters to residents notifying them that a tree is going to be planted, and that they are responsible for watering. Player wonders whether these plantings will do as well, without the sweat equity and personal connection fostered by the original approach.

To other citizens and groups working on behalf of trees, both Player and Binnie recommend persistence. "Don't give up," says Player. "We floundered for a long time. We worked for five years on writing the tree ordinance, without much progress, and then we finally broke through and did it." Binnie adds, "Be realistic. Be willing to compromise. There are some people for trees, and some against."


Indeed, the group has encountered some resistance. A project to renovate the town's main street involved a battle over whether to plant trees, palms, or nothing. Business owners were concerned about visibility of their storefronts, and a few individuals spoke out against the "litter" trees drop. In the end, mostly palms will be planted, and a few trees. Two of the island's largest Torrey pines, home to herons, have just been removed by developers. A two-story tall lemonade berry, possibly the last native on the island, was chopped down when the home it stood next to was sold and flattened.

On the other hand, Player says, "Sometimes in the grocery store, someone will stop me and thank me for helping plant an oak tree in their front yard eight or nine years ago. That makes it all worthwhile." 🌿



CORONADO STREET TREE COMMITTEE

Since 1993, the Coronado Street Tree Committee has organized the planting of more than 500 trees.

 **Member Snapshot**

Coronado Street Tree Committee

Year founded: 1993
Network Member since: 1994
Number of members: 7
Number of trees planted: more than 500

Contact:
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Cooling California Naturally

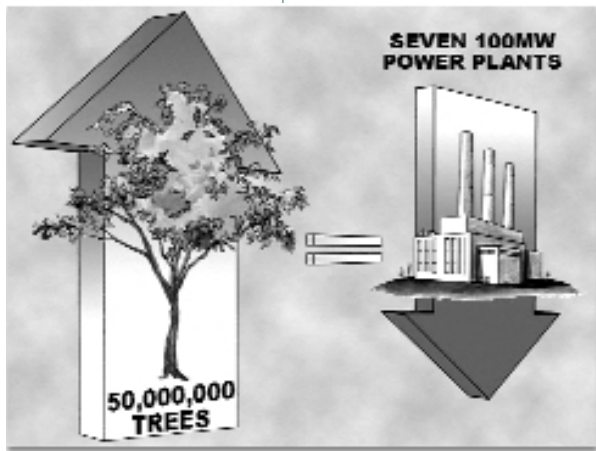
By E. Gregory McPherson, Ph.D.

While the energy crisis in California takes a temporary hiatus, the state's urban forest remains quietly at work keeping our communities cool and clean. Do these trees get the respect they deserve? Let's review the facts.

There are 177 million trees near buildings in California communities, about five trees per person on average. These trees reduce statewide air conditioning energy use by 2.5 percent or 6,400 GWh (gigawatt hours) per year. (For reference, the average U.S. household consumes .009 GWh of electricity per year.)

increased electricity demand associated with population growth.

When tree planting and stewardship costs are less than \$50 per tree, energy conservation benefits alone make shade trees cost-effective investments for utility companies except in California's mountain and coastal climates.



CENTER FOR URBAN FOREST RESEARCH

The wholesale price for this electricity is nearly \$500 million, and the retail price is \$1 billion.

Statewide, an average of eleven trees shade the typical home, reducing annual cooling costs by \$30.

Despite these facts, trees garnered no respect from the California Energy Commission (CEC). In 2001 CEC policy-makers spent \$50 million on peak load reduction measures—including \$10 million on cool roofs—but nothing on shade tree programs. Their decision was strange given that shade tree programs sponsored by municipal utilities in Sacramento and Anaheim have proven their value for more than a decade.

This year the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power rolls out "Trees for a Green L.A.," a program to plant 200,000 trees over 30 months at a cost of \$8 million. The Center for Urban Forest Research's analysis of the program projected the present value of benefits over 30 years to be \$140 million. In addition to energy savings valued at \$11.4 million, trees were projected to remove 10,000 tons of air pollutants valued at \$92 million and reduce stormwater

Statewide, for every existing tree there are 1.4 vacant sites for new trees. Two-thirds of these potential planting sites are in residential areas.

Planting 20 percent of the 242 million vacant sites with trees strategically located to shade east and west walls of residential buildings will reduce cooling demand by 47,000 GWh (1.1 percent) and peak load demand by about 40,000 GW (4.5 percent) over a 15-year period after planting.

Fifteen years after planting, the annual savings will be 6,100 GWh, saving \$462 million in annual power generation costs or about \$1 billion annually in retail costs to consumers. This savings is equivalent to power produced by seven 100 MW (megawatt) power plants.

In 15 years California's population is expected to increase by 550,000 annually, with electricity use increasing by 5,000 GWh each year. Planting trees today will result in future energy savings that more than offset

Plant two trees on the west side and one on the east side for optimal energy savings.



CENTER FOR URBAN FOREST RESEARCH

runoff by 9.2 million Ccf (hundred cubic feet) valued at \$8.6 million.

Urban forestry advocates, members of the California ReLeaf Network, and organizations like the California Urban Forests Council and the Western Chapter ISA can encourage investment in shade tree programs in several ways:

Advocate legislation in California to enable the creation of municipal tree districts—in essence, special assessments that tax recipients of the tangible benefits produced by public trees. Such districts would require voter approval.

Municipal tree districts could extend the concept of landscape assessment districts by receiving funding from air quality districts, stormwater management agencies, and electric utilities in proportion to the value of future air quality, hydrologic, and energy saving benefits provided by municipal tree programs.


Convince the home building industry and CEC to require planting and care for strategically located shade trees around every new home as a mandatory component of Title 24 Residential Energy Efficiency Standards.

Urge the Public Utility Commission and CEC to fund shade tree programs because:

- Over the long run it is less expensive to plant trees now than to purchase or build new power plants to produce electricity in the future.
- Shade tree programs contribute positively to the quality of life in communities, providing multiple benefits in addition to energy conservation.
- Shade tree programs have public relations value for utilities. Because of their appeal, such programs can also help utilities increase public awareness about other energy conservation programs.
- Shade tree programs provide a built-in economic incentive to promote long-term stewardship and proper tree care because trees planted for energy conservation must be

healthy in order to do their job.

- Shade trees are one aspect of decentralized energy systems that cannot be threatened by terrorist attacks.

The facts are in. In much of California, shade trees are a cost-effective energy conservation measure for new home construction, as well as for retrofitting older homes. Strategic planting and professional tree care can provide a host of other environmental, social, and economic benefits. We'll know when we've instilled respect for shade trees among our policymakers in Sacramento. Their new mantra will resound from the City of Trees, "I think that I shall never see, a heat pump as lovely as a tree." 

Dr. Greg McPherson is director of the Center for Urban Forest Research at the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station in Davis, California. For the past ten years he and other scientists at the Center have been studying the benefits and costs of urban forests.

Resources

Further information is available in two reports by Drs. Greg McPherson and Jim Simpson: *Effects of California's Urban Forests on Energy Use and Potential Savings from Large-Scale Tree Planting* and *Benefit-Cost Analysis of LADWP's "Trees for a Green L.A." Shade Tree Program*

Also available are two brochures promoting the benefits of trees to an energy-conscious public: *Green Plants or Power Plants?* and *Where Have All the Cool Parking Lots Gone?*

These publications are available from the Center for Urban Forest Research, Pacific Southwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service
1 Shields Avenue, Suite 1103, Davis, CA 95616-8587

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<http://cufr.ucdavis.edu/>

Art Show For Oaks: Unique Exhibition Opens in October

“The Art of Saving Oaks” is a unique collaboration between Marin artists and educational organizations to celebrate oak woodlands and inform the public about sudden oak death, a devastating disease that has killed more than 100,000 oaks throughout California since it was first discovered in Marin County in 1995.



COURTESY OF MARTHA KEMP

Lithocarpus densiflorus (tanbark oak), drawn by local artist Martha Kemp, is one of the works featured in “The Art of Saving Oaks” exhibit.

The show will combine an exhibit of well-known landscape and botanical artists—whose work captures the beauty of the landscape and highlights the plants affected by sudden oak death—with educational displays, photos, videos, and handouts on oaks. Most of the artwork in the show will be offered

for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to plant trees in parks managed by the Marin Open Space District that have lost oaks to sudden oak death.

The Art of Saving Oaks exhibition is sponsored by the California Oak Foundation, with major funding provided by the Marin Community Foundation. The California Oak Mortality Task Force, UC Cooperative Extension, Marin Open Space District, and Marin ReLeaf are all part of the event coalition.

The exhibition runs from October 22 through November 16, 2002 at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito. A special reception on October 26 will feature speakers on art and environmentalism, the oak ecosystem, and sudden oak death. The exhibition and reception are free. 🌲

“The Art of Saving Oaks”

October 22 - November 16, 2002
at the Bay Model Visitor Center,
2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito, CA

Reception on October 26, 2002
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Entrance is free. Sale proceeds benefit oak replanting efforts in Marin.

For more information, contact
Carol Haggerty (415) 924-5806
or MaryAnn Nardo (415) 457-9247



Urban Forestry News

Coming Soon: Professional Certification for Urban Foresters

The California Urban Forests Council (CaUFC) is in the process of developing an advanced-practice level certification program for urban foresters. A certification subcommittee, appointed by CaUFC in 2001, has been working to develop a program that recognizes, encourages, and enhances the education, experience, and professional status of urban foresters, while providing the agencies, organizations, and companies that utilize their services with a benchmark for identifying qualified professionals.

CaUFC has raised more than half of the funds necessary to create and launch the program and sustain its operation for two years. A consultant has been hired to develop, review, and approve all of the various certification program elements. These include curriculum and prerequisite requirements, application review criteria and process, continuing education guidelines, and the development of a certification exam.

CaUFC's goal is to launch the program by the end of 2002 and award certification to the first group of Certified Urban Foresters by June 2003.

Please visit the new CaUFC web site at www.caufc.org for additional information. Questions and comments can be sent to caufcdev@attbi.com.

Legislative Update

By Chuck Mills, Outreach Program Manager for the Trust for Public Land's Western Region

Proposition 51 Means Millions for Urban Forestry

The transportation initiative reported on earlier this year qualified for the November 2002 ballot and will appear as Proposition 51—the Traffic Congestion Relief and Safe School Bus Act.

Proposition 51 allocates 30 percent of an existing motor vehicle sales tax for environmental enhancement, transportation impact mitigation programs, and transportation safety programs. The initiative would establish two permanent funding sources for environmental enhancements totaling over \$100 million annually.

First, Proposition 51 doubles the existing \$10 million annual Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) allocation. Since 1991, the EEMP has provided over \$25 million in competitive grants to local agencies and urban forestry groups for tree planting, landscaping, and related urban forestry projects.

In addition, Proposition 51 establishes the Transportation Impacts Mitigation Trust Fund, which allocates approximately \$87 million per year for grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for environmental enhancement and mitigation projects including highway landscaping and urban forestry projects.

Proposition 51 is supported by a wide range of business, labor, transportation, and conservation groups including the Trust for Public Land, Northeast Trees, Fallbrook Land Conservancy, and Greenspace-The Cambria Land Trust.

For more information on the Traffic Congestion Relief and Safe School Bus Act, visit the campaign web site at www.voteyesonprop51.org.

Urban Forestry Legislation Close to Becoming Law

Several key pieces of legislation that could increase

urban forestry funding were passed by the Legislature this month and now await Governor Davis' signature. These include:

- ★ Assembly Bill 52—Patricia Wiggins (D-Santa Rosa) and Barbara Matthews (D-Tracy): Appropriates \$4.8 million from Proposition 40 for the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund.
- ★ Assembly Bill 2251—Joe Nation (D-San Rafael) and Carole Migden (D-San Francisco): Requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to implement a sudden oak death management program and provide at least \$700,000 for this program.
- ★ Assembly Bill 2561—Juan Vargas (D-San Diego): Authorizes city councils to form specified business districts and levy assessments in order to fund certain improvements and activities within these districts, including parks and planting projects.

Legislature Loses Resource Conservation Champion

Due to California's term limit laws, Assembly Speaker Pro Tem Fred Keeley (D-Boulder Creek) will leave the State Legislature at the end of this year.

During his six years in the State Assembly, Assemblymember Keeley championed a variety of critical resource conservation legislation including multiple bills designed to provide urban forestry funding and preserve California's magnificent trees. Some of his achievements include authoring and co-authoring legislation to provide funding for pine pitch canker prevention, ocean resources management, and both park bonds that were approved by voters in 2000 and 2002.

Resources:

For more information on urban forestry-related legislation, visit:

www.tpl.org/relief



For more information on state legislative policy, visit:

California State Senate
www.sen.ca.gov



California State
Assembly

www.assembly.ca.gov





About California Trees

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MARTHA OZONOFF

BONFANTE GARDENS: Tree-Themed Amusement Park Reopens

Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park, which closed several months after its grand opening in June 2001, is open again and worth a visit.

The horticulture-based theme park features 42 rides and attractions including rollercoasters, a historic carousel, four theme gardens, 19 of the world famous Circus Trees, and more than 10,000 trees and hundreds of thousands of plants

encompassing a dizzying array of species. (See California Trees, Summer 2001 for the history of this unique park.)

With its healthy mix of amusement and education, the park is a great place to bring kids. The educational themes of trees, agriculture, and California history are reflected in the rides, gardens, and "Learning Sheds" located throughout the park.

Although admission prices are steep (\$29.95 for adults and \$19.95 for children ages 3-12), the park also offers less expensive "Garden Days"—the reduced admission fee of \$10.95 includes access to the gardens and the train and boat rides.

For hours and admission prices, call (408) 840-7100 or visit www.bonfantegardens.com.



MARTHA OZONOFF

Visitors pause to view a "Circus Tree," one of Bonfante Garden's living sculptures.



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