



# BENICIA TREE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

## About Us

The Benicia Tree Foundation is an all-volunteer non-profit organization with the mission to strengthen community by promoting and supporting tree planting, maintenance, and education. We were established in 2009, the same year the City of Benicia unanimously adopted its first comprehensive tree program. Since that time **the Foundation has planted 953 trees** in Benicia.

## Accomplishments for 2021

Accomplishments this past year included sponsoring **3 events that planted 19 trees** and numerous acorns, and sponsoring **23 Tree Care Days that provided maintenance to 1189 trees**. The Foundation relies 100% on volunteers for these accomplishments. Cumulatively, we attracted **241 volunteers**, with 20% being under 18 years of age. These volunteers generated **1,718 hours** of labor for tree planting and maintenance, and for educating residents about our urban forest.

Cooperative projects between the City of Benicia and the Foundation included holding two events at the Benicia Library to plant 16 trees, an event at the Community Center to plant three trees, and planting acorns at Lake Herman Open Space. The Foundation also participated in the update to the Parks Trails & Open Space Master Plan, requesting that the plan incorporate the city-owned open space into the park system with trails for recreation and with trees to improve the environment.



*Volunteers celebrate Arbor Day 2021 by planting trees at the Benicia Library on October 24<sup>th</sup>.*

Benicia Tree Foundation sponsored Tree Care Days in 2021 at the following locations:

- Benicia State Park
- Benicia Housing Authority
- Benicia Unified School District campuses
- I-780/Military West westbound offramp
- Rose Drive

Challenges included getting Caltrans to replace trees they have removed from Benicia freeways. Caltrans would not sponsor any tree planting but would support tree planting proposed by others. Caltrans will look at maintenance needs of the trees planted at the 680/780 interchange.  
+-

The Benicia Tree Foundation is funded entirely by donations and grants, and in 2021, received over **\$8,000 in donations** from nine different individuals and organizations. Our website was hacked in 2021 so these donations helped launch a new website at <https://beniciatrees.org/>.

### Goals for 2022

- Plant 50 trees combined at the Benicia Middle School playfield and the Benicia High School Stadium.
- Implement a second Caltrans Adopt a Highway project to plant trees at the I-780/Columbus Parkway eastbound offramp In Benicia.
- Install interpretive signs at the Lake Herman Open Space project site.
- Attract more volunteers to our tree care days on **second Saturdays** and **third Thursdays** of the month. On these days we meet at one of our project sites to perform routine tree maintenance tasks such a pruning, watering, and mulching.
- Support the implementation of the City's Tree Program by co-sponsoring tree planting on City property, participating on the Tree Subcommittee of the Parks Recreation & Cemetery Commission, and supporting the update of the Park Trails & Open Space Master Plan and adoption of the Citywide Landscaping and Lighting Assessment District.

Any questions on this report can be directed to the Board of Directors which can be reached by phone at 745-4546 or by email at [info@beniciatrees.org](mailto:info@beniciatrees.org).

*Alison Fleck, Steven Goetz, Barbara Wood, Braden Begbie and Jackson Udy  
Board of Directors  
Benicia Tree Foundation*



*Volunteers from the Boy Scouts and the Benicia High Key Club helped spread three yards of mulch around the trees at the Benicia Library in January.*