



BENICIA TREE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

About Us

The Benicia Tree Foundation (BTF) 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 **BTF has planted over 1,000 trees** in Benicia.

Accomplishments for 2022

BTF sponsored five events that **planted 45 trees** and numerous acorns, and sponsored 18 Tree Care Days that **maintained 557 trees**. Cumulatively, we **attracted 205 volunteers**, with 47% being under 18 years of age. These volunteers **generated 887 hours of labor** for tree planting and maintenance, and for educating residents about our urban forest.

Cooperative projects between the City of Benicia and BTF included a [2022 Arbor Day event](#) that planted 10 trees at Duncan Graham Park and planting acorns at Lake Herman Open Space. BTF commented on the update to the [Parks Trails & Open Space Master Plan](#), requesting that the plan support planting more trees in city-owned parks and open spaces, require timely replacement of any tree removed from a park or open space, and work with non-profit organizations to plant and maintain trees on city property.



Volunteers celebrate Arbor Day 2022 by planting trees at Duncan Graham Park on October 10th.

Tree Care Days in 2020 were sponsored at the following locations:

- Benicia State Park
- [Benicia Unified School District campuses](#)
- [Francesca Terrace Park](#)
- [I-780/Military West westbound offramp](#)
- [I-780/Columbus Parkway eastbound offramp](#)
- [Lake Herman Open Space](#)

Benicia High formed a club at the beginning of the school year to recruit student volunteers for Tree

Care Days, and BTF trained 12 Benicia youth in urban forestry as part of Sustainable Solano's Youth Environmental Leadership Fellowship Program.



[Matthew Turner Elementary School](#) was one of five school campuses that hosted a Tree Care Day in 2022 .

Challenges included attracting volunteers to serve the Board of Directors. Three Board members moved out of the area in 2022 and the remaining board members have individually served 10+ years. New leadership is needed on the Board of Directors to plant the next 1,000 trees in Benicia.

BTF is funded entirely by donations and grants, and in 2022, received over **\$2,700 in donations** from nine different individuals and organizations. .

Goals for 2023

- Establish new cooperative relationships with other organizations to support Benicia's urban forest.
- 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 where we meet at one of our project sites to perform routine tree maintenance tasks.
- Support the City's Tree Program by co-sponsoring an annual Arbor Day tree planting, participating on the Tree Subcommittee of the Parks Recreation & Cemetery Commission, and supporting the update of the Park Trails & Open Space Master Plan and development of a 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.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alison Fleck, Steven Goetz, and Barbara Wood
Board of Directors
Benicia Tree Foundation*