



# BENICIA TREE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

## 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 2023

BTF sponsored five events that **planted 18 trees** and numerous acorns, and sponsored 15 Tree Care Days that **maintained 450 trees**. Cumulatively, we **attracted 134 volunteers**, with one-third being under 18 years of age. These volunteers **generated 562 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 [2023 Arbor Day event](#) that planted 10 trees at Overlook 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 native trees on in the 1,800 acres of city-owned open space, and planting more trees as part of the proposed upgrades to the City's 28 parks.



*Volunteers celebrate Arbor Day 2023 by planting trees at Overlook Park on November 18<sup>th</sup>.*

Tree Care Days in 2023 were sponsored at the following locations:

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

Signs describing our tree planting projects were installed at two project sites.

Two signs, funded by Sindy Harris, were installed by the City on the trail leading to

Lake Herman. Another sign at [Robert Semple Elementary School](#) was funded, designed, produced and installed by Sam Miller as part of his Eagle Scout project.



*[Two signs describing Benicia Tree Foundation's Lake Herman Open Space Project were installed on the trail to Lake Herman.](#)*

BTF is funded entirely by donations and in 2023, received over **\$2,800 in donations** from nine different individuals and organizations.

#### Goals for 2024

- Recruiting new Board members.
- Establish new cooperative relationships with other organizations to support Benicia's urban forest.
- Install interpretive sign at Joe Henderson Elementary School 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](mailto:info@beniciatrees.org).

*Respectfully submitted,*

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