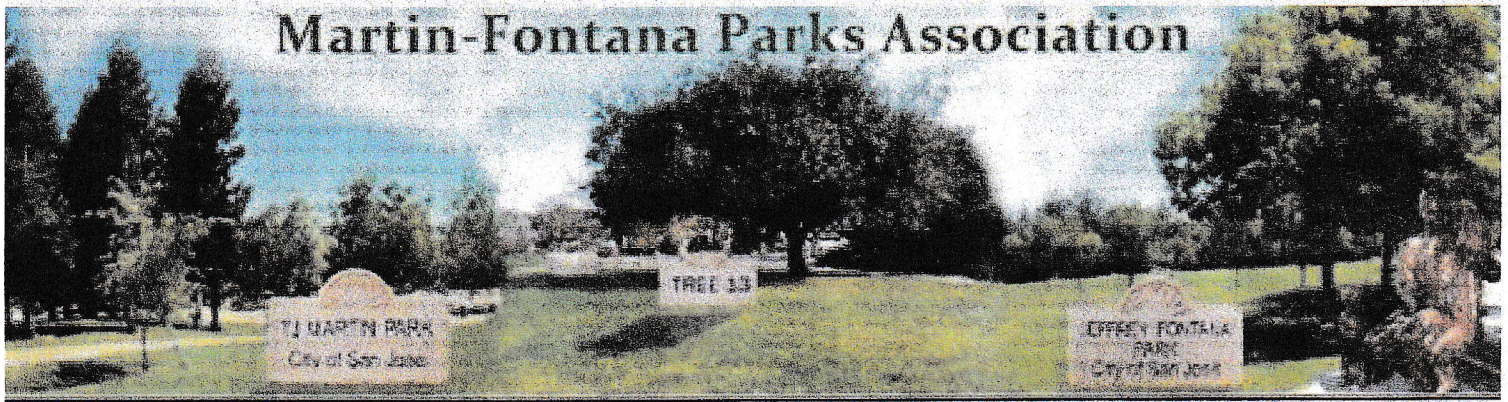


# Martin-Fontana Parks Association



## WE CAN HAVE SAFE RELIABLE POWER WITH TREES

WWW.SAVEOURPARKTREES.COM

April 2022

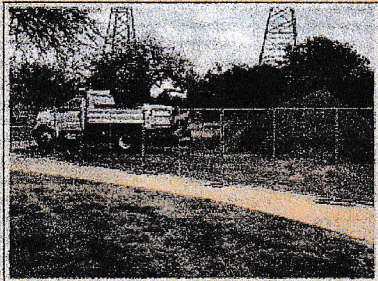
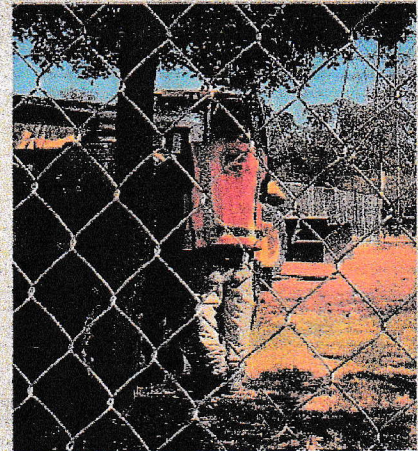


### Pilot Project Started in Fontana Park

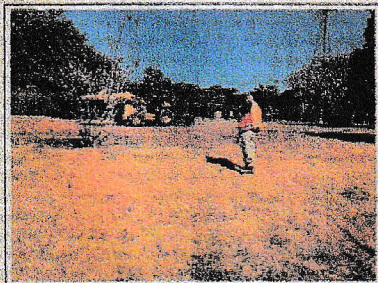
Five years ago, members Gail and Chuck Haywood dreamed of a smooth patch of lawn where people and dogs could move about without dodging gopher holes. When they moved out of the area, they donated \$2000 to MFPA toward this goal.

Last May the San Jose City Council and D-10 Councilman Matt Mahan's office, set aside park funding for a pilot turf project in Jeffrey Fontana Park consisting of:

- \$7000 from the D-10 Council office
- \$15,000 from Martin-Fontana Parks Association
- \$20,000 from the San Jose PRNS (parks department)



In January, 2022, workers began removing old turf and rocks from fenced in areas. When that step is completed, PRNS will lay gopher wire in the bare spaces, stapling gopher wire to the concrete edging around each of the two areas. The last step will be laying sod over the gopher wire. This pilot project for the city will determine if gopher wire is successful in protecting areas of turf from gopher damage.



The center area containing the oak trees can't be included without damaging the roots that have surfaced over the years. Bark mulch will be applied to this area to help retain moisture. Early this month, the project hit a snag when park staff hit a large area of hard pan as they removed the soil. Now we wait to see how they manage this problem!



## The Little Oak That Could... ...THANKS Rich Grialou!



Just west of the PG&E center tower in the open area of Jeffrey Fontana Park you will see an oak tree that seems to be completely dead. The first tree planted in this spot in 2020 did die and was removed and replaced. The second little coast live oak was planted, and the drought conditions seemed to have killed it also. But thanks to the efforts of MFPA volunteer Rich Grialou, the little tree has been faithfully watered by hand, and has been showing signs of life! from the roots upward. Look closely around the bottom, and you will see the beginnings of another multitrunked oak that will someday take its place among the other oaks in the clearing.

## What's New in TJ Martin West?

The West end of TJ Martin Park near Fleet Street and Weimar Ave will see some changes coming this Summer and Fall. As you park walkers know, that end of the park is the site of dead and dying flowering plum trees, planted when the park was built in the 1980's.



Larry Sasscer, MFPA member and project manager, has introduced several native plant gardens in areas of TJ Martin Park from

Meridian Ave. west to the end of the park near Coleman Ave. The flowering plants are in spring bloom now, but the old plum trees sport several dead and dying branches. Park staff has just removed several dead branches overhanging a park bench where walkers and bikers often stop to rest. The branches provided shade for the bench while they were alive and thriving, so Larry is researching ideas for a bench shade structure to take the place of the dying shade trees. This could be a great Eagle Scout project if you know of a candidate in need of a project!

## Bike Restrictions in Guadalupe Oak Grove Park

Recently, a sign was posted reminding people of the bicycle restriction. MFPA Vice President David Chai contacted leadership in the PRNS department about this topic, and we received this communication from Pam Helmke, the Supervising Park Ranger in PRNS:

"When this park was created in the last century it was intended to serve as a preserve for the valley's native oak species. The goal was to ultimately restore and preserve an example of our valley's native oak woodlands. As part of this process the Oak Grove was designed for passive recreation and education. Bicycle riding was prohibited from the opening.

As to the community's desire to change the existing park rules, the best course of action I could recommend is to reach out to the Parks and Recreation Commission to seek their support. This Commission serves to advise the Department and the City Council by providing ongoing input into policies and issues affecting park communities within the City." David is continuing discussions with the city on this topic, but we have no resolution as yet, so for now, it remains a no biking area.



## Amazon Purchases Help Fund MFPA

Shop freely and our Parks benefit!



Shop on Amazon Smile and donate to Martin-Fontana Parks Association to keep trees trimmed and enhance our parks!

AmazonSmile is a charity AFFINITY/contribution program. Every "qualified" purchase made at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will generate a 0.5% donation to MFPA. It costs the purchaser NOTHING and ALL normal Amazon pricing, including PRIME, is still in effect.

When you log on to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) (DIFFERENT FROM AMAZON.COM) for the first time, a screen will appear asking for you to Select "a Charitable Organization". Enter 'Martin-Fontana' and click the Search button. You will get a list, select 'Martin-Fontana'.

If you have already used AmazonSmile and want to change your charity to MFPA it will happen like this:

- Log on to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
- You will see at the top left in orange "Supporting (a charity name)".
- To change it to MFPA, click on the "supporting" word. At the bottom of the drop-down page it will read "Change your charity...".
- Enter 'Martin-Fontana'. You will get a list, then select 'Martin-Fontana.'
- The next time you log in at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) you will see 'Martin-Fontana' next to the orange supporting label.
- When you make a purchase, you will see a note in the confirmation message about the donation.

# MARTIN-FONTANA PARKS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2022



A BIG THANKS to the volunteers who met at the Five Islands Native Garden on April 2! Christopher Reed, Christine Noordam, Rich Grialou and Linda Wilson pulled and hacked a pile of weeds, cleaned up the pathway, and removed some dead branches from the area. Next time you walk by, go through the islands to see the natives in bloom!

This is their best season right now! (Jeffrey Fontana Park near the PG&E towers at Meridian Avenue.) Another THANK YOU to MFPA member Michael Lauth, for volunteering to keep the Pat Pizzo memorial story board clean! (Located just west of the Five Islands near the light pole.)

## May 7 Volunteer Morning!

**For those who like to garden, come out to the MFPA gardens on either side of McAbee on Saturday morning, May 7.**

At 8:30 am the Santa Clara County Association of Realtors is scheduled to spruce up the two native plant islands, planted in 2013-2014 by the boy scouts, on the EAST side of McAbee. AT 9:00, families from the Church of Latter - Day Saints are meeting at the Jeffrey Fontana Memorial Rose Garden to get it cleaned up and ready for summer!

## Gopher Hunters in Fontana and TJ Martin THANKS Larry Sasscer and Dave Gonzalez!

Walking in turf areas in the west end of TJ Martin Park you will notice a somewhat lumpy turf, but an absence of the proliferation of gopher

holes seen throughout the rest of the park. Using a Gopher X machine from the parks department, Larry has worked for over a year to keep at least one area of the park free from the gopher damage.



In the native island areas of Jeffrey Fontana Park, MFPA Member volunteer, Dave Gonzalez, has also been working to keep the native plant areas free from gophers. MFPA purchased a newer model Gopher X that Dave has been using. It would take an army of Gopher X machines and volunteers to keep the turf areas free from gophers, but Dave has done a great job of saving our native islands from Meridian Ave. east to Castello.

**Join the fun and help make your park shine! Tools, water and snacks will be provided.** We suggest you bring your own gloves and wear protective shoes, shirts with sleeves, and jeans to cover your legs!

**STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 MUST HAVE WRITTEN PARENT PERMISSION.**

## Martin-Fontana Parks Association Board of Directors 2022-24

At the March 5 ZOOM membership meeting the following MFPA members were elected to the Board of Directors for 2022-24:

**President:** Kelly Shepherd

**Vice President:** David Chai

**Secretary:** Brianna Wollenweber

**Treasurer:** Leslie Dornell

**Director 1 & Volunteer Coordinator:** Michele LaPlante

**Director 2:** Gaya Vukkadala

**Director 3:** Rod Carpenter

**Director 4:** Pat Wagstaff

**Director 5:** Linda Wilson

**Our next board meeting will be Wed, June 8, 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Go to [SaveOurParkTrees.com](http://SaveOurParkTrees.com) for details.**

We also thank our MFPA volunteer park leaders:

**City Council Liaison:** Robert Braunstein

**Membership Chair:** Michelle Judd

**Project Manager TJ Martin:** Larry Sasscer

**Gopher X Machine:** Dave Gonzalez

**Native Island coordinator:** Christopher Reed