

APRIL 2022

# SCENE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO

CUPERTINO EARTH DAY & ARBOR DAY FESTIVAL

**Rebuilding Our  
Community Roots**  
Celebrate Earth  
and Arbor Day

**PLUS:** LEARN ABOUT CUPERTINO'S URBAN FOREST | TAKE THE CUPERTINO CLIMATE CHALLENGE | SAVE MONEY AND WATER WITHIN YOUR GARDEN

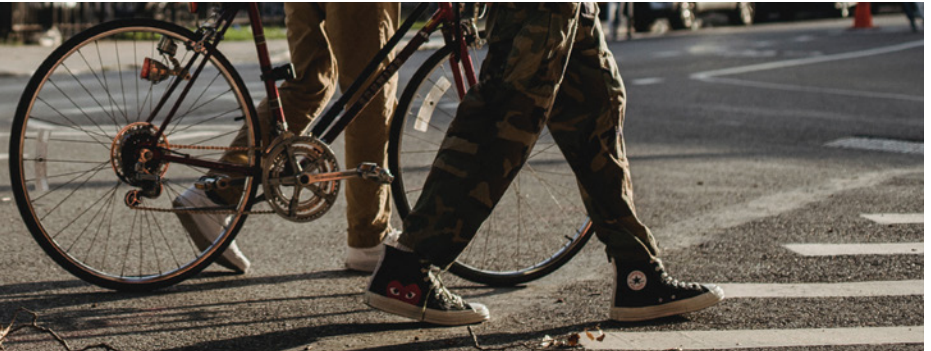
CITY OF



CUPERTINO



CUPERTINO



# Would You Like to Serve on the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission?

Cupertino residents are encouraged to apply for the Bicycle Pedestrian Commission. This seat is for a partial term ending on January 30, 2025. The application deadline is Friday, April 15 at 4:30 p.m. City Council will conduct interviews beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26.

Applications can be submitted via the Online Commission Application at [cupertino.org/vacancies](http://cupertino.org/vacancies). For more details, please see the website or call the City Clerk's office at (408) 777-3223.

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*Questions or comments about The Scene? Contact staff at [scene@cupertino.org](mailto:scene@cupertino.org).*



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# Cupertino's Earth and Arbor Day Festival is Back!

## Rebuild our Community Roots at Earth Day Festival

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Cupertino's 14th annual Earth and Arbor Day Festival returns as an in-person event!

On Saturday April 23, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. join us in celebrating our shared Earth and community roots by attending our Earth and Arbor Day Festival.

This year, the festival is moving just down the block to Library Park at 10800 Torre Avenue. This space will allow more room for activities, social distancing, and bring us closer to the trees.

While the celebration is in a new location, many of the activities will be returning such as the 40-foot climbing wall, the family bike ride, the tree planting ceremony, art activities, climate action planning, and a full day of performances on a solar powered stage.

Each year, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day as a way to come together and protect the planet from things like pollution, deforestation, and drought. By taking part in this festival, you are making our community a happier, healthier place to live.

Avoid traffic and parking hassles by taking the Via-Cupertino shuttle for free on April 23! Get your free ride by downloading the Via app on your mobile device. For more information, visit [cupertino.org/shuttle](https://cupertino.org/shuttle) or call (669) 201-1892.

Face masks will be encouraged, and hand sanitization stations will be located throughout the event.

Learn more about the festival at [cupertino.org/earthday](https://cupertino.org/earthday).

# Cupertino's Urban Forest

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Cupertino's trees provide extensive benefits to our community. Trees increase property values, help retain businesses, encourage shopping, calm traffic, and even lower noise levels. They can also reduce crime, utility costs, and air pollution. Here are a few hard-working trees that you may recognize in Cupertino. To learn more about additional trees in Cupertino, visit [cupertino.org/trees](http://cupertino.org/trees).

Help us plant a new tree at the tree planting ceremony in honor of Arbor Day! Join us at Wilson Park, 10249 S Portal Avenue, on Saturday, April 23 around 11 a.m.

## Tilia Tormentosa – Silver Linden

Fun Facts:

- I am an important honey plants for beekeepers.
- I produce a very pale but richly flavoured monofloral honey.
- People in Europe use my flowers for herbal tea and tinctures.
- In North America, people use my flowers in herbal medicine practices.



## Quercus Cambyi – Sierra Oak

Fun Facts:

- I naturally grow in a pyramidal shape while I am young and develop a broader canopy after several years.
- Although I am classified as an evergreen, I shed most of my leaves in late winter.
- I am native to Texas; therefore, I am extremely drought tolerant.
- I have separate male and female reproductive parts.

## Quercus Frainetto - Hungarian Oak

Fun Facts:

- I am 50 feet tall and 30 feet wide with deeply lobed leaves.
- I am native to South Central and Eastern Europe.
- My bark is gray and smooth while I am young, and it turns brown and fissured when I get older.
- I can grow in heavy acidic soils.





## **Lagerstroemia 'Muskogee' – Muskogee Hybrid Crape Myrtle**

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Fun Facts:

- I am resistant to powdery mildew.
- If I am maintained properly, in 15 to 20 years I can reach a height of 30 feet tall and up to 20 feet wide.
- I am known for my gorgeous and abundant lavender flowers that bloom profusely during summer.
- I am a Hybrid tree that was developed by the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

## **Sequoia Sempervirens – Coast Redwood**

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Fun Facts:

- I am resistant to oak root fungus.
- The tallest of my species measures 380 feet tall.
- My trunk can grow more than 27 feet wide.
- I can live for more than 2,000 years.
- I am one of the world's fastest-growing conifers.



## **Koelreuteria Bipinnata – Chinese Flame Tree**

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Fun Facts:

- I am an elegant tree used often in California's urban landscapes.
- My flowers are used medicinally and as a source of yellow dye.
- I can withstand tough environmental conditions such as air pollution, drought, and a moderate amount of salt runoff.

## **Acer Buergerianum – Trident Maple**

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Fun Facts:

- I am considered a highly attractive small maple because I am effective as a lawn specimen, patio, or shade tree.
- I feature distinctive, three-lobed leaves that are two to four inches long and dark green color.
- My roots have a low damage potential when I am planted near sidewalks and driveways.



# California Takes on Climate Change

In January 2021, the governor's office released a proposal for the fiscal year 2022-23 budget, which includes a \$45.7 billion surplus. The environmental and climate actions are featured front and center with the proposed expenditures. The budget proposal allocates \$22.5 billion in one-time investments to advance climate action programs and community resilience up and down the State of California. Highlighted below is some of the proposed spending, and how it might benefit local initiatives in Cupertino.

**Transportation and Mobility:** A total of \$19.1 billion over six years is proposed to be invested across California's most polluting sector – transportation. About half of that will be put towards promoting electric vehicles for both passenger cars and heavy-duty trucks. Another half of the funds will be put towards bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements and expanding local transit options.

**Clean Energy:** A diverse portfolio of new clean energy technologies will need to be developed as quickly as possible. The budget includes \$2 billion for this sector which will benefit Cupertino's efforts to

make our older buildings more energy-efficient and reduce the use of fossil fuels in buildings. Other investments include upgrading the electrical grid to be more resilient.

**Sustainable Communities:**

The budget proposes \$1 billion in grants and tax credits for housing development that furthers the state's climate goals. This includes funding for infill developments, land preservation projects, and adaptive reuse projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**K-12 Schools and universities:** \$2.9 billion for greening school transportation such as electric school buses, and for workforce education in green jobs.

The budget now enters a period of negotiations and a final budget for next fiscal year will be adopted in the summer.



## Make an Impact! Join the Cupertino Climate Challenge



With Earth Day and Arbor Day coming up, April is a great time to take climate action! By doing your part to stop climate change, you can protect the planet, save the trees, and make Cupertino a safer and healthier place for your family. Here are 10 impactful actions you can take today:

1. Sort your recyclables and compostables into the correct bins or carts.
2. Shorten your showers by one to two minutes, or even more.
3. Bring your own reusable utensils instead of using plastic single-use ones.
4. Combine your errands into fewer car trips.
5. Set up a rain barrel and use rainwater to water your garden.
6. Check and replace your air conditioner filter as needed so that your system is running efficiently.
7. Replace meat with a healthier, plant-based protein one meal a week or more.
8. Try to run appliances and charge devices before 4 p.m. or after 9 p.m., when more clean energy is available.
9. Replace shorter car trips with walking, biking, scootering, or wheelchair.
10. Let the City know your thoughts on the Climate Action Plan Update at [cupertino.org/climateaction](https://cupertino.org/climateaction).

For more tips and resources on how you can take climate action, join [cupertinoclimatechallenge.org](https://cupertinoclimatechallenge.org).

# Continue to fight drought with Cupertino Water Savings

Rebates are available. Start saving today!



\$70 per rain barrel and \$2 per square foot of roof area converted to a rain garden.

\$400 to install qualifying Laundry to Landscape systems.

\$3 per square foot for replacing lawn with drought tolerant landscaping

Local action to address the drought continues to make a difference.

In June 2021, Valley Water declared a local emergency due to the water shortage and imposed a mandatory water usage reduction of 15% below 2019 levels. Since then, the City of Cupertino reduced municipal water usage by 24% through actions such as reducing irrigation and not turning on fountains.

Our community took action over the past several months to make homes and businesses drought-proof:

- 1** Cupertino property owners converted over 26,000 square feet of lawn to drought tolerant landscaping using Valley Water rebates
- 2** Over 250 customers ordered free water saving devices from Valley Water
- 3** 15 residents converted their lawn with the help of Cupertino's Climate Victory Garden Program

Your actions to save water are critical during this drought emergency. Together, we can build a drought-proof future for Cupertino.

## CLIMATE VICTORY GARDEN WINS

The Climate Victory Garden Pilot Program continues for a second year after residents gave rave reviews. Here is what Cupertino residents have to say about the program:

"I am so grateful for the hard work that was put in to convert my garden landscape. I could not have accomplished this project and received my rebate without the City of Cupertino and Ecology Action staff guiding me through the process."

For more information, visit [cupertino.org/drought](https://cupertino.org/drought)

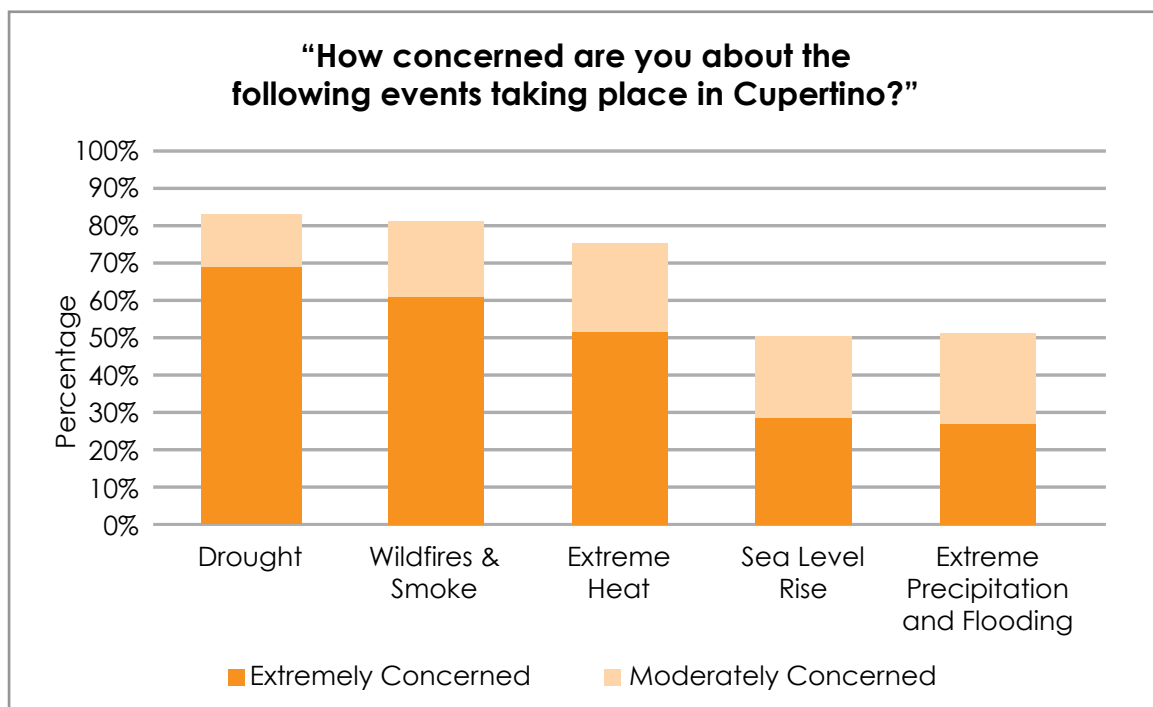


# Community resilience – what does it mean for Cupertino?

When the City Council initiated the process to update the Cupertino Climate Action Plan in 2021, it was with a recognition that Cupertino, and every other community, faces a new set of challenges from a climate that has already warmed an average of 1.1 degrees Celsius since the 19th century.

The Cupertino Climate Action Plan will include an assessment of which climate hazards are predicted to impact Cupertino more in the future, how well we can react to these hazards, and actions that we can take to protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

Using a planning framework provided by the State, the project team has identified six climate hazards of concern. In order of most vulnerable to least, they are adverse air quality, extremely hot days, drought, storm flooding, wildfire, and sea level rise. A recent poll of 107 Cupertino residents shows a high level of concern about these hazards.

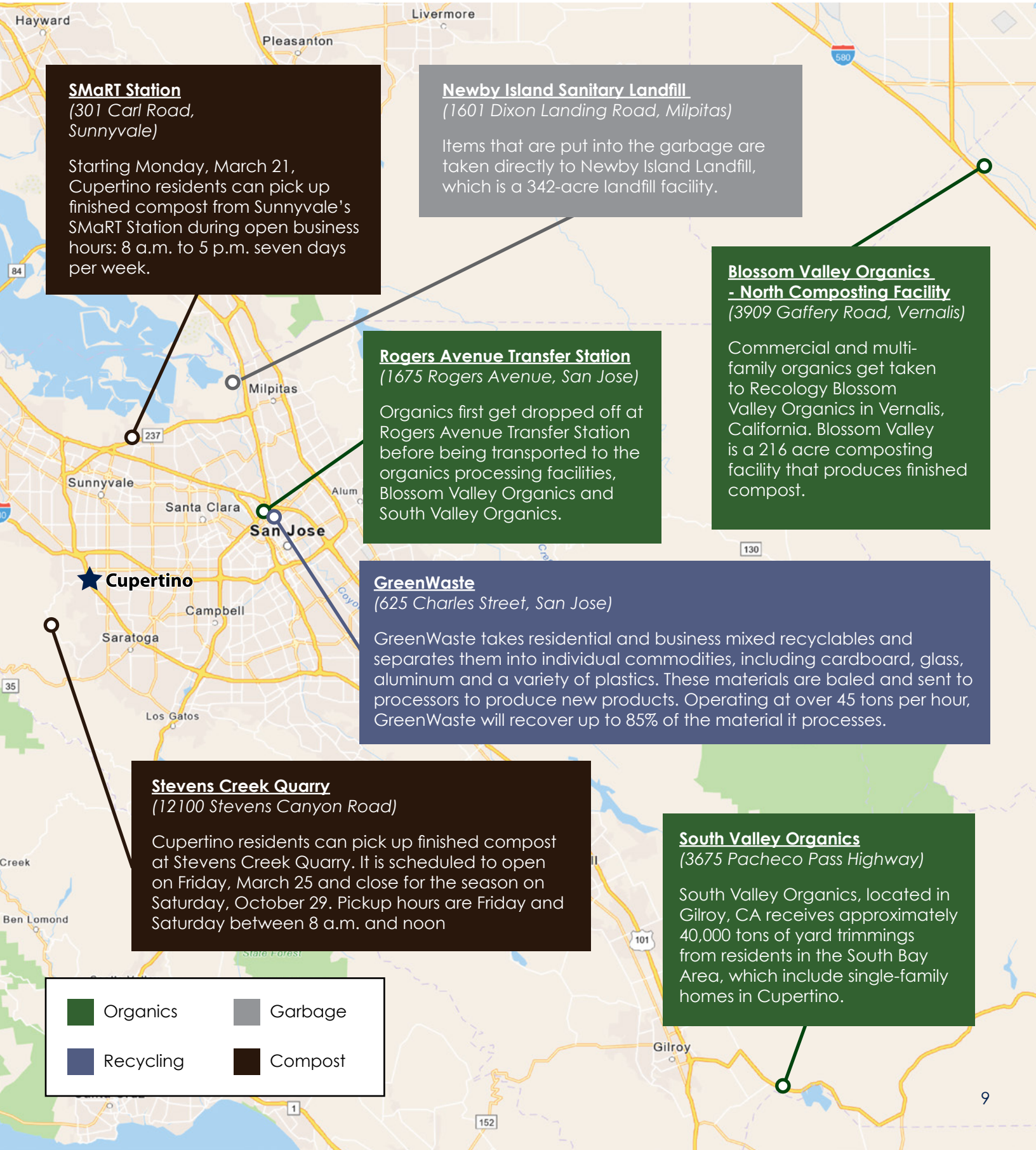


Climate hazards are increasingly considered in daily life, such as with insurance premiums. We invite you to visit our site at [Cupertino.org/climateaction](https://Cupertino.org/climateaction) and leave us a comment about how your family and business plan to become more resilient.



# Waste Materials Destination Map

Have you ever wondered where your waste goes after it leaves the curb? Learn more about each process below after Cupertino's waste hauler, Recology, picks up your waste. Visit [cupertino.org/nowaste](http://cupertino.org/nowaste) to learn more.



## SMaRT Station

(301 Carl Road, Sunnyvale)

Starting Monday, March 21, Cupertino residents can pick up finished compost from Sunnyvale's SMaRT Station during open business hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days per week.

## Newby Island Sanitary Landfill

(1601 Dixon Landing Road, Milpitas)

Items that are put into the garbage are taken directly to Newby Island Landfill, which is a 342-acre landfill facility.

## Blossom Valley Organics - North Composting Facility

(3909 Gaffery Road, Vernalis)

Commercial and multi-family organics get taken to Recology Blossom Valley Organics in Vernalis, California. Blossom Valley is a 216 acre composting facility that produces finished compost.

## Rogers Avenue Transfer Station

(1675 Rogers Avenue, San Jose)

Organics first get dropped off at Rogers Avenue Transfer Station before being transported to the organics processing facilities, Blossom Valley Organics and South Valley Organics.

## GreenWaste

(625 Charles Street, San Jose)

GreenWaste takes residential and business mixed recyclables and separates them into individual commodities, including cardboard, glass, aluminum and a variety of plastics. These materials are baled and sent to processors to produce new products. Operating at over 45 tons per hour, GreenWaste will recover up to 85% of the material it processes.

## Stevens Creek Quarry

(12100 Stevens Canyon Road)

Cupertino residents can pick up finished compost at Stevens Creek Quarry. It is scheduled to open on Friday, March 25 and close for the season on Saturday, October 29. Pickup hours are Friday and Saturday between 8 a.m. and noon

## South Valley Organics

(3675 Pacheco Pass Highway)

South Valley Organics, located in Gilroy, CA receives approximately 40,000 tons of yard trimmings from residents in the South Bay Area, which include single-family homes in Cupertino.

Organics

Garbage

Recycling

Compost

# Calling All Teens!

Are you passionate about sustainable transportation? Would you like to make a difference reducing traffic congestion and enhancing safety around your school? Would you like more people to understand the needs of people in wheelchairs? If you will be in high school next year and answered yes to any of these questions, we need you!

Cupertino Safe Routes to School (SR2S) is currently recruiting students to be on the SR2S Working Group next school year. The Working Group meets monthly to share ideas about how to implement the goals of the Safe Routes to School program in Cupertino. Input from High School Student Representatives has been invaluable to the Working Group since 2018.

Every year we select two high schoolers to represent each high school. The selection process has become extremely competitive in the last couple of years. If you are selected, in addition to other great opportunities you will be given the opportunity to work with the other high school representative at your high school to apply for our new SR2S High School Grant Program to bring SR2S programming to your school and make a difference at your school. We hope you'll apply!

Applications are  
due Monday, May 30.

Apply at [cupertino.org/saferoutes/hsrep](http://cupertino.org/saferoutes/hsrep)



## Protecting Our Creeks: Trash Capture Devices

Below the City's streets is a labyrinth of interconnected pipes designed to carry storm water away from homes and businesses and out to one of the four primary creeks that flow through Cupertino and end in the San Francisco Bay. Rainwater enters these underground pipes through storm drains that are located along the street gutters. The pipes and drains make up what is called our stormwater system, and it is maintained by the City's Public Works Streets and Medians Division. Because water that enters a storm drain goes directly into the nearest creek without any cleaning or treatment, the City is required by a permit issued by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board to keep pollutants from getting into that system.

One important pollutant is trash. To help keep trash and litter from reaching our creeks, the City uses two special devices: Auto-retractable Curb Inlet Screens (ARS) and Full Trash Capture devices (FTC).

ARS devices are easy to see, and you might notice them as you travel along Stevens Creek Boulevard or even in your neighborhood. An ARS is a spring-loaded, stainless-steel plate covering the large opening of the storm drain to keep big items of trash from going into the drain. When it rains, a special spring opens with the water pressure. This keeps streets from flooding when needed but keeps trash at street level for the street sweeper to remove when it's dry.

FTC devices are harder to see because they are installed inside of the storm drain to catch trash and small pieces of litter. This keeps litter from entering the network of pipes so it cannot reach the creeks.

For more information about the other ways the City works to prevent stormwater pollution, please visit [cupertino.org/cleanwater](http://cupertino.org/cleanwater).



# Cupertino Summer Camps

Make a Cupertino summer camp part of your child's summer.

This summer, the City of Cupertino is offering more than 100 summer camps covering a variety of interests. Camps are available for ages three to 17 and include enriching programs such as culinary, art, dance, music, education, STEM, nature, and sports.

Find a camp at [cupertino.org/camps](http://cupertino.org/camps).

## Your Favorite Local 5K And Kids Fun Run Is Back!

The City of Cupertino is excited to announce the 2022 Big Bunny 5K and Kids Fun Run is back to an in-person run! This year's run will be Saturday, April 16, at the Cupertino Civic Center.



Register today at [cupertino.org/bigbunny5k](http://cupertino.org/bigbunny5k) and join the City for a bunny-themed run through the streets of Cupertino.



# Cupertino Senior Center

The Cupertino Senior Center has extended its hours of operation and is now open Tuesday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Senior Center is also expanding its programming, including socials such as card playing, bingo, lunch events, and more.

Visit [bit.ly/50Scene](http://bit.ly/50Scene) to see the latest newsletter and additional information on current activities.



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## City Directory

### City of Cupertino

Department	Phone / Email
Building Department.....	(408) 777-3228 Building@Cupertino.org
Business License.....	(408) 777-3221 BL@Cupertino.org
City Clerk.....	(408) 777-3223 CityClerk@Cupertino.org
City Manager .....	(408) 777-3212 Manager@Cupertino.org
Code Enforcement.....	(408) 777-3182 Code@Cupertino.org
Planning Department .....	(408) 777-3308 Planning@Cupertino.org
Recreation .....	(408) 777-3120 Recreation@Cupertino.org
Senior Center.....	(408) 777-3150 SeniorCntr@Cupertino.org
Sports Center.....	(408) 777-3160 Recreation@Cupertino.org
Street Light Maint. ....	(408) 777-3342 StreetDivision@Cupertino.org
Street Sweeping .....	(408) 777-3269 Public_Works@Cupertino.org
Tree Maint. ....	(408) 777-3410 Public_Works@Cupertino.org

### Other Agencies

Organization	Phone Number
Animal Control .....	(408) 794-7297
AT&T .....	(800) 331-0500
California Water Service.....	(650) 917-0152
Chamber of Commerce .....	(408) 252-7054
Comcast .....	(800) 945-2288
Cupertino Library.....	(408) 540-3947
Cupertino Sanitary District.....	(408) 253-7071
Cupertino Union School District .....	(408) 252-3000
Fremont Union High School District .....	(408) 522-2200
Hazardous Waste Drop-off .....	(408) 299-7300
PG&E.....	(800) 743-5000
Project Sentinel (Landlord/Tenant Issues).....	(408) 720-9888
Recology (Garbage & Recycling) .....	(408) 725-4020
San Jose Water Company .....	(408) 279-7900
Santa Clara Registrar of Voters.....	(408) 299-6863
VTA (Transportation Authority) .....	(408) 321-2300
Vector Control, Santa Clara County .....	(408) 918-4770

### First Responders

Emergency Calls.....	911 or (408) 299-3233 (Police, Fire, Medical)
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office .....	(408) 299-2311 (Non-Emergency)
Santa Clara County Fire Department.....	(408) 378-4010 (Non-Emergency)

Need to report an issue or have a City-related question?  
 Visit: [cupertino.org/cupertino311](http://cupertino.org/cupertino311) or call (408) 777-3200.



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