

APRIL 2023

SCENE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO

2023 Earth and Arbor Day Festival
Celebrate Environmental
Protection in Cupertino

PLUS: LEARN ABOUT **TREE SPECIES AND LEAVES** | **FOOD WASTE EMISSIONS: LANDFILL VS. COMPOST** | LEARN ABOUT **LOCAL CRITTERS AND WILDLIFE**



CUPERTINO

Lehigh Southwest Cement Plant and Permanente Quarry Town Hall

The Santa Clara County Supervisor's Office, in partnership with the City of Cupertino, is holding an in person public meeting with a hybrid option to provide an update on the Lehigh Southwest Cement Plant and Permanente Quarry.

For more information visit district5.sccgov.org/5th-district/events.

Wednesday, April 26
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.



CONTENTS

FEATURES

3 | *Earth and Arbor Day Festival*
Community members of all ages are invited to this interactive event to learn about environmental issues and solutions.

6 | *Match the Trees and Leaves*
Read about some of the trees in Cupertino and take our quiz to see if you can identify their leaves!

INSIDE

5 | *Food Waste Emissions: Landfill vs. Compost*
See the impact of food waste in Cupertino, and their emissions when they end up in the landfill or compost.

9 | *A Nature Preserve in the Middle of Cupertino*
Read about McClellan Ranch Preserve, the gem of nature and wildlife at the heart of the City.

10 | *Calendar of Events*
Find upcoming holiday events, classes, and more!

12 | *Directory and Contacts*
Keep this list of the most useful contacts for the City of Cupertino.

Questions or comments about *The Scene*? Contact staff at scene@cupertino.org.

Celebrate Our Community at the Earth & Arbor Day Festival



On Saturday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Cupertino Library Park Field will be alive with energy as thousands of community members gather to celebrate our planet at Cupertino's Earth and Arbor Day Festival. The event will go on rain or shine.

At Cupertino's Earth and Arbor Day Festival, we celebrate our planet and our trees by coming together as a community. Find resources, activities, and conversation to inspire residents, businesses, and community members to take action to reduce their own impact on our planet.

This festival features more than 75 booths hosted by local non-profits and businesses, hands-on activities, live entertainment, a family tour through Regnart Creek Trail, and so much more.

Earth and Arbor Day Festival honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations. Our community is committed to protect our planet from climate change and maintain the health of our people, animals, and natural environment.



cupertino.org/earthday



Cupertino's Earth and Arbor Day Festival
Saturday, April 22 | 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Library Park Field



Reducing Pollution at Home

According to a Keep America Beautiful 2020 National Litter Study, nearly 50 billion pieces of litter were found along U.S. roadways and waterways. That equals 152 items for each U.S. resident. Over half of that litter is reported to end up in our creeks, rivers, and oceans.

When it rains, stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants that have the potential to flow into local creeks and the Bay where they can harm fish and other wildlife. The main sources of litter include: overflowing or uncovered waste bins, pedestrian litter, waste falling from the car, and illegal dumping.

Did you know our local creeks lead into the San Francisco Bay? Pollution prevention is an integral part of keeping the City's creeks and San Francisco Bay clean and healthy, and the work starts at home!

You can help keep our waterways safe and clean. Here are helpful tips for preventing pollution to ensure that only rain goes down the storm drains:

- Bring your car to a commercial car wash instead of washing at home. When washing at home, detergents and soapy water will run off your driveway into the streets and enter the storm drains. Commercial car washes are equipped to treat this wastewater.
- Make sure your garbage carts are closed and not overflowing on collection day. Litter can easily fall out or be picked up by the winds.
- Dispose of chemicals and hazardous waste responsibly through [HHW.org](https://www.hhw.org/).
- Utilize less toxic gardening methods. Chemicals can easily run off from your garden or lawn into the gutter and storm drains. Learn more at mywatershedwatch.org/residents/less-toxic-gardening.

**Please do your part to prevent pollution and report illegal dumping.
Learn more at cupertino.org/cleanwater.**

Energy Efficient Travel: Nothing Beats the Bicycle

Mice, bees, hummingbirds, and salmon are some of the most energy efficient animals when moving from place to place. Dogs, horses, cows, and humans are the opposite; we typically move slow or burn a lot of calories when we run. Thankfully, humans invented the bicycle to accelerate our travel! With a bicycle, people can go three to four times faster than walking and only use a third of the energy.

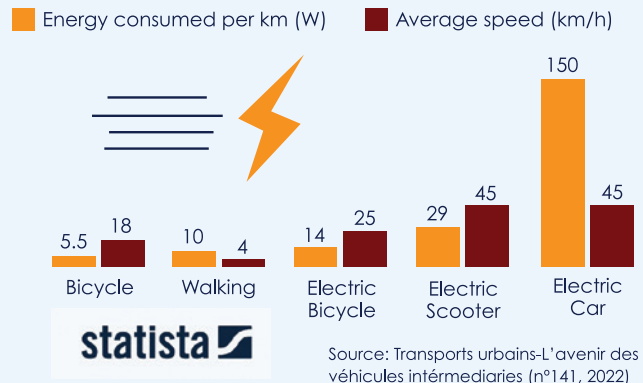
Electric cars, scooters, and even bikes are better for the planet than their gasoline-powered counterparts—but a standard, human-powered bicycle requires almost no energy to travel the same distance. This makes it the best choice for many people to get around town. The Energy Efficiency in Transportation chart shows the energy used to travel one kilometer.

Biking around Cupertino is as efficient as a salmon swimming down a stream—in Cupertino, we have separated bike lanes and special bike cross walks to make biking as safe and easy as possible. Find out more about bike accessibility at cupertino.org/bikeplan.

In honor of Earth Day and Bike Month, we invite you to consider how your transportation choices can reduce your ecological footprint. Find your bicycle, dust it off, and take it for a spin. Then you, too, can be energy efficient like a hummingbird or bee.

Energy Efficiency in Transportation

Average energy required to travel one kilometer and average speed for selected modes of transport



THE MAGIC OF COMPOSTING: EASILY REDUCE YOUR FOOD WASTE EMISSIONS

Many people compost or sort their food scraps to help the earth. Studies back up that choice, and calculate the environmental benefits associated with keeping organic materials out of landfills.

Here is a chemistry lesson to explain the basic science: Landfill gas is made up of roughly 50% carbon dioxide (CO₂) and 50% methane (CH₄). The methane is developed due to the anaerobic decomposition—lack of oxygen—that takes place in a landfill. Whereas a compost pile decomposes aerobically—with oxygen—producing mainly carbon dioxide. The amount of carbon dioxide produced depends on what material is in the compost pile and how much oxygen it gets.

Different greenhouse gases have more heat-holding capability in the atmosphere. Methane can hold 25 times more heat than carbon dioxide. This means that the more methane there is in the atmosphere, the more heat is trapped. This is one reason that the earth is heating up faster.

According to a waste study conducted in Cupertino, 50% of our garbage (by weight) is food waste and goes straight to the landfill where it creates methane. The good news is that it is easy to divert your food waste from the landfill.

HOME COMPOSTING: Put your fruit and veggie scraps in your backyard home compost or worm bin. Home composting creates a nutrient rich soil amendment which is great for your garden. Cupertino residents can receive a free compost bin after attending a free compost workshop taught by UC Composting Education Program.

CURBSIDE COMPOSTING: Put your food scraps in your green organics cart, and put your cart out every week for collection. Recology will pick up this organic material and process it at South Valley Organics. This facility processes approximately 40,000 tons of organic material every year. You can even add your meats, bones, and cheeses to your curbside organics cart.

Visit cupertino.org/compost to learn more about composting options and start sorting today.





What Tree Is That?



Identify tree species by unique leaves in Cupertino

The City of Cupertino maintains more than 22,000 trees, which consist of over 250 types of tree species. It can be challenging to recognize them all, but identifying different tree types is a valuable skill and can impress your friends and relatives.

Sometimes you can identify a tree by the type of bark, how tall it is, or the growth pattern, but leaves are one of the easiest features to help you determine the type of tree you're looking at. Different tree leaves will vary in shape, texture, color, and size. See if you can identify Cupertino's most common tree species by the appearance of their leaves on the next page.

Do you want to identify even more tree types around the City? Each City-maintained tree has a tag on it. To learn more, you can use your phone to scan the tag or go online to cupertino.org/trees to visit the City's Tree Plotter application.

This Tree Plotter app will provide details about each unique tree, such as how many pounds of greenhouse gases that tree has removed from the atmosphere. The app also shows features like height, age, and maintenance schedule.



Match the leaves to the descriptions!



A



B



C



D



E

1 **MAPLE LEAVES** resemble the shape of a hand with five lobes that extend in a finger-like fashion from a central point.

2 **SPRUCE LEAVES** are needle-like leaves, which are jointed near the stem on a separate woody base.

3 **OAK LEAVES** have either five or seven rounded fingers with a wavy edge.

4 **ELM LEAVES** have edges like saw teeth and are often lopsided at the base.

5 **WALNUT LEAVES** are very large with 13 to 23 leaflets per leaf.

The trees in Cupertino are important for providing clean air, shade, clean waterways, and reducing erosion. Many species of wildlife depend on trees for habitat.

On Saturday, April 29, the City of Cupertino celebrates Arbor Day. Arbor Day is a national holiday much like Earth Day, that celebrates nature. Its purpose is to encourage people to plant trees, and many communities traditionally take the opportunity to organize tree-planting events on the holiday, including in Cupertino as part of the Earth and Arbor Day Festival.

Join our Arbor Day tree planting celebration on Earth Day, April 29 at 9 a.m. on Orange Avenue and see what new tree is being added to Cupertino's urban forest.

Cupertino Runs on Clean Energy

Recent Achievements

The path towards a low carbon world starts right here at home. Cupertino has shown strong leadership and consistent community support that are making ripples across the world. Cupertino recently ranked among the top 120 cities around the globe with an "A" in climate action.

Here are a few updates that highlight some of the sustainability work in Cupertino:

- Passed an ordinance that waives fees for large properties that want to remove turf grass and place drought-tolerant landscaping.
- Streamlined permit review process for building new electric vehicle charging stations.
- Adopted an updated building code which requires new construction to be built to the highest environmental standards.
- Began planning for major capital investments over the next few years in our own fleet of vehicles and landscaping equipment with low emissions.
- Supported the Capital Improvements team on the design of the new City Hall Annex building, which will be renovated with modern, clean electric technologies.

Looking Forward

Looking forward, the City is excited to add to our portfolio of sustainability programs. With new development in technology, the City realized that residents would benefit from a novel way to become familiar with zero-carbon homes.

Silicon Valley Clean Energy awarded the City of Cupertino a grant to develop and test a virtual reality environment that will take the user on a virtual tour of a carbon-free home.

The virtual reality project is just one strategy listed in the City's Climate Action plan 2.0. The goal is to make these resources widely available in the region and continue to lead the conversation about home decarbonization. More information about this project will be posted to our website as we start development work in late summer 2023.

Helping Customers with Rising Energy Costs

Joining our neighboring communities to form the Silicon Valley Clean Energy Authority continues to pay dividends for the environment and for household budgets. 22,780 households and businesses in Cupertino collectively saved \$348,000 compared to other retail electricity rates. Every person in the community has felt the sting of higher energy rates, largely caused by interruptions in the fossil fuels supply chains due to global events. Cupertino sees a path towards a decarbonized energy supply as a step towards greater energy security and resiliency in the future.

More information on Silicon Valley Clean Energy's progress report can be found at svcleanenergy.org

Cupertino's Energy Results: Clean, Reliable, Affordable

82% reduction in electricity-related emissions (**16,540,000 pounds** greenhouse gas emissions avoided)



\$348,000 in on-bill savings for Cupertino customers (**\$4,546,000 since launch**)

\$84,160 in cash payments to customers for generating surplus solar energy



22,780 households and businesses receiving clean energy from carbon-free sources

A Nature Preserve in the Middle of Cupertino



A Springtime Walk Along the Stevens Creek Trail

Nestled in the neighborhoods of Cupertino, this gem of nature shines. McClellan Ranch is a designated nature preserve—a protected area of importance for plants, animals, and other natural features preserved and managed for conservation and to provide special opportunities for research, education, and the enjoyment of nature.

Stevens Creek is a watershed that channels rainfall and moisture from the Santa Cruz mountains down to the San Francisco Bay. This provides a critical migration route and spawning grounds for the Central California Coast Steelhead Trout, a species that was declared threatened due to blockages and pollutants along the waterway. By protecting this creek area, we are helping protect this species.

It is also critical to preserve the riparian ecosystem surrounding the creek as it offers a uniquely rich habitat for a host of native California wildlife. The floodplain meadow adjacent to the creek is a key part of the preserve and an abundant wellspring of biodiversity. Grassroots Ecology is an integral partner in restoring and preserving this wildlife habitat by planting native vegetation, controlling invasive species, and encouraging people to become stewards of nature.

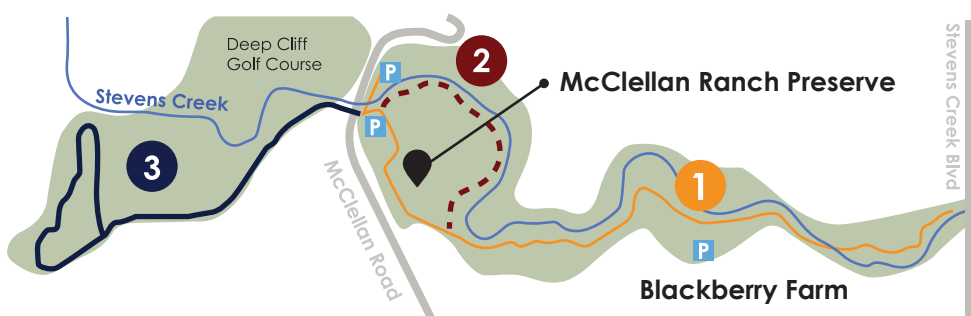
The more we learn about nature, the more we can protect and appreciate our natural environment. Our on-site Environmental Education Center supports this mission.

Learn more: cupertino.org/mcclellanranch

Enjoy the sights and sounds as you meander from McClellan Ranch to Blackberry Farm. Starting out you may begin to see Black-tailed Deer with their spotted fawns and Brush Rabbits foraging in the meadow. Listen for the sounds of hawks overhead, scurrying California Quail, or busy Acorn Woodpeckers. Passing by the 4H farms you may be greeted by the goats and alpacas. As you approach an open turf area surrounded by benches and redwoods, a Swallowtail Butterfly may float across the air. At the playground area, you'll see Scenic Circle Bridge which is excellent for viewing Merganser or Mallard Ducks drifting in the stream.

Going past the pool area you'll start to hear the rippling of the creek. Walk along the Sycamore tree-lined path before you cross the bridge to wind through the Stockmeir orchards. Smell the orange blossoms and you may see Monarch Butterflies flutter about. This is just a sampling of what you could observe on a spring day.

Scenic, family-friendly walks on the Stevens Creek Trail



- 1. McClellan Ranch to Blackberry Farm**—2 mile out-and-back, paved ADA accessible path.
- 2. Nature Trail**—short loop along creek and meadow, bumpy dirt path, no dogs or bikes allowed.
- 3. McClellan Ranch to Linda Vista**—1.2 mile out-and-back, part gravel, part paved, slight grade.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Big Bunny 5K

Saturday, April 8

8:30 a.m. | 5K Race

9:30 a.m. | Kids Fun Run

Cupertino Civic Center

Run, walk, or hop to the Big Bunny 5K and Kids Fun Run—this is an event you won't want to miss! Kids aged 7 and younger will have a blast on a special course built just for them at the Kids Fun Run. Register at cupertino.org/bigbunny5k.



Join-A-Ranger: Wild Flowers

Saturday, April 22

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Environmental Education Center
at McClellan Ranch Preserve

Spring is upon us and many of the native flora are in full bloom. Join the Park Rangers as we walk through McClellan Ranch Preserve, exploring identification properties, ecosystem services, connection to wildlife, and how native flowers were a part of the everyday life for the Ohlone Indians. Registration is required, sign up at reg4rec.org.

<hack> Cupertino

Saturday, April 15 to

Sunday, April 16

Quinlan Community Center

<hack> Cupertino is a 13-hour overnight hackathon organized by Cupertino's Youth Activity Board and Cupertino's Parks and Recreation Department. During our opening ceremony, <hack> staff will present a problem that teams will have to work together to address. For more information, visit cupertino.org/hackcupertino.



Earth and Arbor Day

Saturday, April 22

Cupertino Library Park Field

Read more on page 3 or visit cupertino.org/earthday.



The Blackberry Farm Spring Swing Scramble

Sunday, April 23

10 a.m.

Blackberry Farm Golf Course

Join us for a fun morning of golf in the very first Blackberry Farm Spring Swing Scramble. Shotgun start tournament—all levels and ages welcome! Each participant will receive a goodie bag. Prizes, snacks, and fun for all! Register at reg4rec.org.



Join-A-Ranger: Wildlife Tracking

Saturday, April 29

1 to 2:30 p.m.

*Environmental Education Center
at McClellan Ranch Preserve*

Join the Park Rangers for a fun-filled wildlife tracking class. You'll learn about species identification through their tracks and sign-tracking. Become a nature detective and learn to read the ground like a storybook through the art of tracking. Registration is required, sign up at reg4rec.org.



Cupertino Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30

10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*Memorial Park, Quinlan Community Center,
and Senior Center*

Cupertino-Toyokawa Sister Cities Inc. is proud to present the 39th annual Cherry Blossom Festival. This fun family festival honors Cupertino's sister city relationship with Toyokawa, Japan by sharing Japanese arts and culture with the entire community.



Summer Camps

Registration has begun!

June 12 to August 18

Camps start June 12 and run through August 18. See the City's summer camp schedule at cupertino.org/camps.





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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 Senior_Center@Cupertino.org
Sports Center.....	(408) 777-3160 Recreation@Cupertino.org
Street Light Maint.	(408) 777-3342 StreetDivision@Cupertino.org
Street Sweeping	(408) 777-3269 Engineering@Cupertino.org
Tree Maint.	(408) 777-3410 Engineering@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 or call (408) 777-3200.



The Cupertino Scene is printed on post-consumer waste recycled paper with soy ink. The newsletter is produced by a certified Bay Area Green Business and is recyclable. For information on becoming a certified Green Business, visit cupertino.org/GreenBiz.

