

# MARTIN-FONTANA PARKS ASSOCIATION

We Can Have Safe Reliable Power With Trees



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Winter/Spring 2023

## Native Garden Islands in Fontana Park refreshed and ready for Spring

Martin-Fontana Parks Association hired BrightView landscape maintenance services to reconstruct the pathway and clean up the five islands. BrightView is an approved vendor by the City of San Jose and constructed the pathway around the islands when they were planted by volunteers in 2015.



BEFORE



AFTER

The original islands were funded by donations totaling \$7,500 from the car company DGDG.COM, East Bay Wilds Nursery, Almaden Valley Nursery, MFPA Presidents, and PG&E - each donating \$1,500. Donations to MFPA provided funds for the pathway and one of the islands known as the 'Presidents' Island'. The islands and the fencing were created, built and planted by the volunteer team of Pat Pizzo and his grandson, Vince Piazzizi, Dave Poeschel, Rod Carpenter, Chris Reed, Rich Grialou, Lee Pauser, and Larry Sasscer. The team also installed the island's automatic drip irrigation system.

The decision was made to bring BrightView's landscaping services back to the park to take care of necessary labor to refresh 8 years of growth and also to restore the five islands after recent rain storms. The total project cost was \$9,000, funded from membership donations to MFPA. Volunteers will be able to maintain the area for the next few years. The scope of work that began on February 13 included the following:

- Removing the top three inches of crushed granite and laying down new crushed granite
- Rolling and sealing the new crushed granite
- Reinforcing new bender board where necessary along the path borders
- Removing all dead and dying plants in the plant bed islands
- Weeding and cleaning up debris at the islands



The remaining native gardens (A & C) located on the east side of the five islands will need removal of dead plants & sprucing up. Putting in replacement native, drought tolerant plants and refreshing the bark covering on all the islands will take place soon.





## Fontana Park Update

### **Rodent-free grassy areas are beginning to become a reality!**

The fenced off areas have mesh wire installed and topsoil has been spread. After some weed remediation, new sod will be placed and the lawns should be ready to enjoy sometime this spring!

The project to plant two sections of “gopher free” sod originated with two Martin-Fontana Parks Association (MFPA) members in 2018. They donated \$2,000 toward the project idea, which finally became a reality in 2022. The cost of the project with two gopher free areas was \$47,000 with MFPA donating \$15,000 and the rest coming from Council District 10 and PRNS. After several delays, the project should be completed this spring, with gopher wire, then top soil, then sod. This is a pilot project by the city to test whether gopher wire, installed correctly, will keep gophers from tunneling up through the wire and ruining the sod.

Keep watch this spring for the fences to be removed, and two smooth play areas of sod to be open to our park neighbors!

## TJ Martin Park Update

### **New trees and arbor will provide shade to park goers**

The Parks Department has been removing dead or dying trees throughout the two parks, and the stumps have been ground down. The trees became a hazard as they died out, dropping huge limbs in brisk winds, and their removal and replacement will make our parks safer for walkers and park users.



## **Open position on MFPA Board of Directors**

The current MFPA treasurer is moving away from our parks, leaving the position open. Our meetings are held via Zoom, about six times a year for one hour each. The treasurer receives the bank statements and provides a report on the checking and savings activity at each meeting. Prior to May 15th of each year, the treasurer files an electronic short form for both the state and federal tax report. The time required monthly for this position is one to two hours.

If you like numbers, and have the time to donate to MFPA, please contact the MFPA President, Kelly Shepherd at [kellyshepherd5@gmail.com](mailto:kellyshepherd5@gmail.com) or Linda Wilson at [ronald\\_m@comcast.net](mailto:ronald_m@comcast.net) for more information.



# MARTIN-FONTANA PARKS ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2023



## Rose Garden Workday at Jeffrey Fontana Park

Over twenty years ago, a rookie SJPD officer made a midnight traffic stop in the neighborhood, checking on the welfare of a person sitting in a car parked in the residential area. Jeffrey Fontana was the officer, and he was killed instantly when the car's occupant shot him. A successful campaign was launched to rename the park



for the young officer. The park was renamed, and in 2010 the Memorial Rose Garden was created as a local church beautification project. On the anniversary of Jeffrey's death this year, Martin-Fontana Parks Association (MFPA) member Chris Chen cleaned up the garden and Jeffrey's statue to ready the area for the annual remembrance by the members of Jeffrey's rookie SJPD police class.

Today, MFPA hosts a volunteer event twice a year to clean up the garden, prune, feed, and replace plants as needed. On Saturday, February 18th, 72 volunteers came out to Jeffrey Fontana Park to tend to the rose garden! After weeding through the garden and pruning the plants, the volunteers were able to remove a total of 60 cubic feet of green waste!

Special thanks to the San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS), Santa Clara County Association of Realtors and the Church of Latter Day Saints for their partnership in this event. We look forward to working together again soon in the late spring.



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

Membership: 132 individuals/families

**President:** Kelly Shepherd

**Vice President:** David Chai

**Secretary:** Brianna Wollenweber

**Treasurer:** Gaya Vukkadala

**Marketing:** Isa Murphy

**Volunteer Projects:** Michele LaPlante

**Membership:** Michelle Judd

**Fontana Park Project Manager:** Linda Wilson

**TJ Martin Project Manager:** Larry Sasscer

We also thank our MFPA volunteer park leaders:

**City Council Liaison:** Robert Braunstein

**Gopher X Machine:** Dave Gonzalez

**Native Island coordinator:** Christopher Reed

**Our next board meeting will be Wed, March 8, 6-7 pm**

Anyone interested in becoming involved with MFPA, please talk to any current board member for details or send an email to [SaveOurParkTrees@gmail.com](mailto:SaveOurParkTrees@gmail.com). For more news and information, go to [SaveOurParkTrees.com](http://SaveOurParkTrees.com).





# Heart of the Park

**Thank you to all who came out on October 29 for our annual event!**

We look forward to seeing you and more of our neighbors this Fall!



It was a great joy to see so many people come out and enjoy a day at our park. Many enjoyed the music of UKoolLadies while eating delicious food from the Aikita food truck. The SJPd were out in full force handing out ice cream to everyone. San Jose mayoral candidate at the time, now San Jose's Mayor Matt Mahan welcomed the crowd and dogs paraded to a cheering crowd. We pulled in new members - bringing our total to 132 individuals/families - and gave away some great raffle items while kids painted pumpkins and had their faces painted. Special thanks to all the environmental groups who came out and represented as well as Council 10. **See you all this Fall!**

