

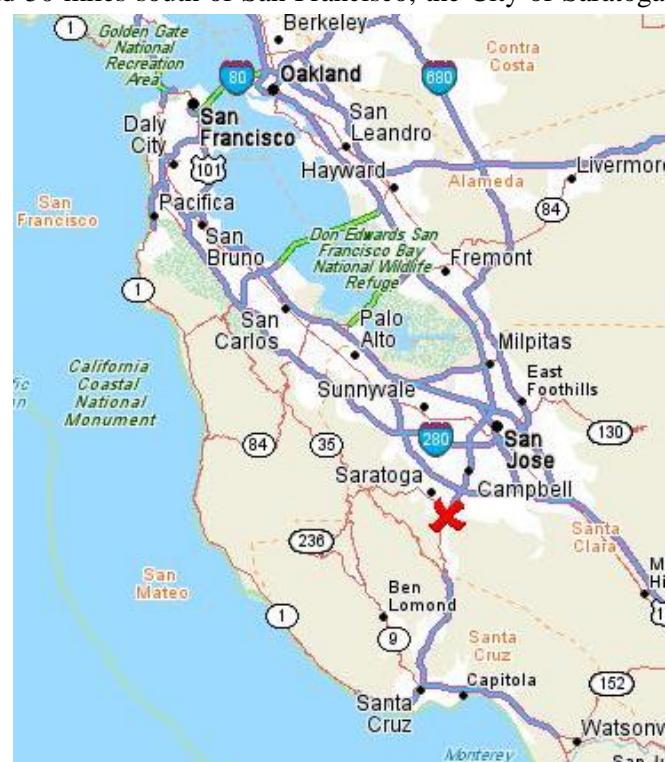
Introduction



HISTORY AND CULTURE OF SARATOGA

Located in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, approximately 26 miles east of the Pacific Coast, 10 miles southwest of San Jose, and 50 miles south of San Francisco, the City of Saratoga runs along the western edge of Santa Clara County. Although the incorporated City of Saratoga dates back only to 1956, the town had its beginning more than a century earlier when William Campbell built a sawmill here in 1848, about two and one-half miles above the present downtown village, along what is now State Highway 9. Having spent the winter of 1846/47 in the abandoned adobe buildings of Mission Santa Clara, Campbell correctly surmised that the settlers who were beginning to come to the Santa Clara Valley would want to build sturdy wood houses, reminiscent of the homes they had left in the East.

With this belief, William Campbell started a sawmill operation along the stream here in 1847. It was delayed however after another millwright constructing a sawmill at the western base of the Sierra mountains a hundred and fifty miles north east found gold flakes in the American River, touching off the 1849 California Gold Rush. While no such discovery occurred here, there were later reports of copper and silver deposits in the region. Instead, for more than half a century, the wealth of the local mountains was in timber, mostly redwood, and the settlement that later became Saratoga owes its start and early development to that wealth.



In 1850, Martin McCarty leased the sawmill Campbell had started, and set about to improve its access by building a road to the site. To recoup his investment, McCarty erected a tollgate near the present intersection of Third Street and Big Basin Way, and charged a fee for the use of the road. It

was common practice in those early days for roads to be built on a private-enterprise basis, then after a period of time, the counties would take them over and maintain them as public thoroughfares. In McCarty's case, although the tollgate was used for only about a year, it was sufficient for the settlement to be known as Tollgate for some years afterward.



Due to the natural resources in the area, the town had a brief industrial era. With the abundance of lumber products, a tannery and paper mills were built along the stream, as well as several flour mills, and a furniture factory in town. Due to the collection of mills, the settlement's post office was given the name of Bank Mills in 1863. Shortly thereafter, the discovery of local mineral springs with a chemical content similar to that of Congress Spring at Saratoga Springs, New York, led to the renaming of the settlement to Saratoga in 1865.

In the latter part of the 1800's, the area's fertile soil and available land saw the emergence of another industry - agriculture. Apricots, cherries and French prunes were particularly well-suited to Saratoga's soil and climate. During the late 1880's, the hillsides were found to be conducive to viticulture and many wineries were established. In 1890, Saratoga became the home of the world-renowned Paul Masson Winery. Convinced that the rich California soil could produce grapes for champagnes comparable to those of France, the French immigrant Masson brought grape cuttings from his native land to plant on the hillsides.

Saratoga developed into a pleasant village as it became the trading center for the surrounding fruit-growing farms. The mountain setting and mild climate also made Saratoga a popular resort area. The elaborate resort hotel Pacific Congress Springs, flourished for almost forty years about two miles above the village, until it was destroyed by fire in 1903. The resort image lingered through succeeding years, even as agriculture became the dominant industry in Saratoga and the Santa Clara Valley.



During the early 1900's, Saratoga had an enviable reputation as a highly desirable place to live. The Interurban Rapid Transit of the day began service which connected Saratoga with the rest of the Santa Clara Valley and beyond. Saratoga soon became a haven for wealthy San Franciscans who came to build elegant hillside homes overlooking the lush valley. One of these was the palatial Mediterranean-style home of the United States Senator James Phelan. His Villa Montalvo is now a center for the cultural arts.



After World War II, the valley's rapid urbanization changed the character of Saratoga from agricultural to suburban. As space technology and the defense and electronics industries were established in nearby communities, Saratoga's open land soon became more valuable for homes for the rapidly growing population, than it was for fruit orchards, although some vineyards and a few scattered orchards do remain as a reminder of the bygone era. The City of Saratoga strives to maintain these elements of its natural

beauty and colorful past through careful zoning policies and historic preservation.

Public interest was stirred to new heights in the mid-1950s when, with orchards giving way to subdivisions, the annexation designs of the City of San Jose became obvious. As a result of this concern, Saratogans voted to incorporate in 1956 and to establish their own city government.

Saratoga Today

The City of Saratoga, as it exists today, is an attractive residential community of 30,887(January 1, 2014) known for its excellent schools and prestigious neighborhoods. The community's historic downtown



district known as the Village has distinctive dining, unique shops, and numerous buildings dating back to the late 1800's and early 1900's. Saratoga residents place an emphasis on historical preservation, and on retaining the quality of the city's semi-rural ambience. The City also is home to Villa Montalvo, the former home of Senator James Duval Phelan which hosts an art gallery, an artist in residence program, concert performances, park trails and grounds. Another local gem is the former Paul Masson homestead and winery in the Saratoga foothills, now known as the "Mountain Winery". This high-end event venue features world-class concerts each spring and summer. And Hakone

Gardens, as shown in the picture, is the oldest Japanese-style residential garden in the Western Hemisphere. The garden is maintained and run by the Hakone Foundation, and lies just outside of the Village offering classes, festivals, and Japanese culture.

City Government

The City of Saratoga was incorporated in 1956 and operates under a Council/Manager form of government. The City government receives most of its revenue from property tax, although the City's share of property tax receipts is only about 5.45% of the 1% assessment Saratoga property owners pay. This "low tax" status limits the City to providing minimal services to its residents. Staffing is low for a city this size (51.90 FTE) with many services provided on contract.

In addition, with the relatively late incorporation of the city after the community had developed, many school districts and utility districts were already in place, meaning more than one pre-existing district may serve within City of Saratoga boundaries. Public safety services are provided by other governmental organizations, including the Santa Clara County Fire Department through property tax allocation agreements, and by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office by city contract. Animal control services are contracted with the City of San Jose.

The City's departments are structured by function, and include Public Works – which oversees city infrastructure maintenance and projects, Community Development – which guides the physical growth of the City through planning, zoning, and building inspection, Recreation and Facilities – which provides recreation programs and maintains city facilities, Administrative Services – which provides oversight and support for the City's financial, administrative, and technology operations, and the City Manager's Department – which provides oversight and guidance for City functions, as well as legislative and administrative support for the City Council and Commissions.

Transportation

Saratoga is part of a comprehensive transportation network that links the City to other Silicon Valley cities and beyond through roadways, bikeways, and mass transit systems, including the bus and light rail systems, the CalTrain system, and to the Mineta International Airport in San Jose. Bus routes provide inter-city transportation needs with access to the Village, schools, the community college, and local office and shopping markets. Highway 85 runs through Saratoga, providing linkage to other area freeways and major cities. San Francisco is 47 miles north, and Santa Cruz is about 26 miles southwest. The tourist havens of Monterey and Carmel are approximately 65 and 73 miles south of Saratoga, respectively.

Schools

The City of Saratoga is served by 6 different schools districts, which include Saratoga Union School District, Cupertino Union School District, Campbell Union School District, Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District, Campbell Union High School District, and Fremont Union High School District.

The schools in these districts that serve Saratoga residents are among the best in the nation. Saratoga High School and Monte Vista High School have been ranked by U.S. News & World Report within the top 100 schools in the country.

City of Saratoga Statement of Values

The City of Saratoga strives to maintain a high quality of life for its residents through careful planning and infrastructure maintenance, through activities to build community, and by providing opportunities for extensive citizen participation in community issues. Succinctly, the statement of values for our City is that:

Saratoga is a Community

Where the common good prevails;
Where the natural beauty of the City and its hillsides is preserved;
Where historic assets are preserved and promoted;
Where local commerce provides a vibrant presence in the Village and the other commercial areas;
Where the orientation is toward the family;
Where homes and neighborhoods are safe and peaceful;
Where government is inclusive and values community involvement;
Where desirable recreational and leisure opportunities are provided;
Where quality education is provided and valued;
Where value is placed on an attractive, well maintained and well planned community;
Where government provides high quality, basic services in a cost effective manner;
Where a small town, picturesque, residential atmosphere is retained;
Where the arts and cultural activities which serve the community and the region are promoted;
Where neighbors work together for the common good;
Where leadership reflects community goals; and
Where, because of the forgoing, the citizens and the families of Saratoga can genuinely enjoy being a part of and proud of this special community.

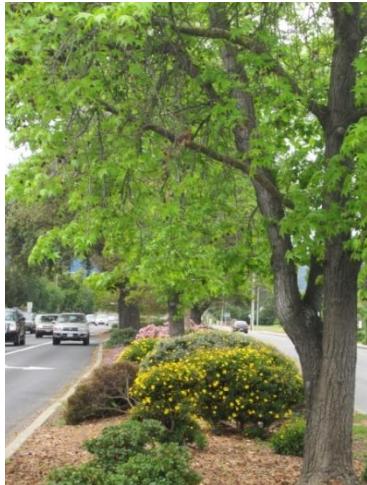
1. Floral Displays

Municipal

Saratoga's Public Works Department maintains plantings and floral displays throughout the city. Areas of responsibility are the beautiful displays of annuals in the Saratoga gateway, at city hall, the median adjacent to the library, and the Village. The city also maintains the street plantings in the Village as well as the plantings in front of our history museum, the heritage orchard and Blaney Plaza.

Plantings focus on hardy drought tolerant perennials, evergreen trees and bushes as well as deciduous trees.

Drought tolerant gardens are being encouraged by the Santa Clara County Water District by providing a \$2 per square foot incentive.



Business

Several of the landlords and business owners in the Village maintain their own floral display and plantings. Shopping areas, such as Argonaut and Quito Shopping Centers and the Gateway provide beautiful displays throughout the year.

Business owners in the Village have made monetary contributions to the Village Gardeners for supplies and are very supportive of the group.

The Golden Broom Award is given to those outstanding business owners who do a great job maintaining their own plantings, or who generously donate plants or money to the Village Gardeners, who tend the Village streets on a weekly basis.



Residential

The most notable contribution to floral display in Saratoga by a residential group is the planting of wild flowers along Highway 9 which runs through our city. This activity has been suspended this year because of the drought.



Community Involvement

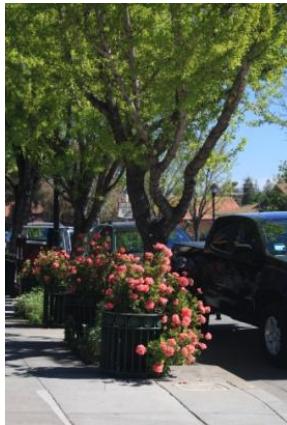
The Village Gardeners, volunteer group, began ten years ago by Jill Hunter and has over fifty members. The goal of the group is to enhance the downtown commercial district with the use of floral displays in the many tree wells, nineteen hanging baskets, and over one hundred pots and urns found throughout the area. The group meets once a week to water, plant and general maintenance. Of course, you can see the gardeners and the beauty of the village on Facebook.

Many volunteers come throughout the week to work on the plantings and some have adopted specific tree wells and pots

In maintaining the overall eclectic nature of the village, the volunteers select their own planting schemes.

Many of the volunteers buy their own materials as well as grow plants from cuttings. Residents have donated pots and plants. The criteria for plant selection are drought tolerance and long blooming

period. In recent years, more and more succulents have been added to the plantings. Hardy perennials are the backbone of the plantings; however, annuals are planted--particularly during the holiday season.



Saratoga has many volunteer gardening groups which help maintain our churches, schools and public places such as Hakone Garden, the history museum, Book-Go-Round and Montalvo art center.

Because most items are donated you will see an eclectic selection of plantings.

2. Landscape Areas

Municipal

Saratoga landscape is best defined as informal plantings in treed natural settings, taking advantage of water wise and native vegetation. The medians in three main roads leading into the Village have been planted and maintained by our city with drought tolerant native plants. There is a noticeable absence of lighting on these arteries and on the streets of Saratoga which for many years minimized light pollution and the stars were amazingly visible in the sky. Unfortunately Saratoga now abuts the 10th largest city in the United States so we are losing our beautiful night sky.

The city also maintains the median on Fruitvale Avenue. In 2012, residents, West Valley College, and the city collaborated to plant Oaks and drought tolerant plants on this beautiful rolling avenue

Highway to Los Gatos is a designated State Scenic Highway

In 2014 the City of Saratoga completed construction of the Village Pedestrian Enhancement Project for purposes of pedestrian safety and landscape improvements. The following improvements:

- Crosswalk with in-pavement lights adjacent to Starbucks
- Blaney Plaza improvements including electrical, landscape upgrades, safety fence, and Wi-Fi
- Blaney Plaza “Spur Road” decorative concrete paving
- Sidewalk and street light pole improvements along the “Spur Road”
- Museum signage and drinking fountain at the Saratoga Historical Park

- Bus Shelter at Saratoga Avenue
- GFI electrical outlet upgrades for the tree lights along Big Basin Way
- Signage including Village Merchant directory

Blaney Plaza prior to improvements



New Design allows pedestrian safety, community involvement such as Wednesday Farmers Market, and improvement of the landscaping.

Street sweepers pass through the Village once a week, and twice a month throughout the neighborhoods.

The city was recently awarded a \$4M grant from the Valley Transit Authority, to plant Oaks and drought tolerant plants along the Prospect Road median. Work will begin shortly.

Business and Residential

While there is no major industry, the village and city are populated by many small businesses whose proprietors are also residents and heavily invested in our landscape.

Community Involvement

We have several instances where Saratoga neighbors have banded together to beautify city green space as is evident on citizen adopted areas on Hwy 9 and Fruitvale Avenue.

3. Urban Forestry

Municipal

Leadership

Saratoga is primarily a residential community where the economic values of properties are closely tied to the rural attractiveness of the city, much of which is attributable to the trees. The intent of the City's Tree Regulations is to provide a sustainable urban forest and to balance the rights of property owners with basic standards for the maintenance, removal and replacement of trees.

The Saratoga City employs an Arborist who approves the trimming and removal of all trees through a permit process.

The Arborists files penalties for non permitted removal of trees or excessive trimming of trees.

The penalties collected are available to plant new trees throughout Saratoga.

All those who do tree trimming must have a City Business License.

Information is available on the City's web site to assist residents with the native Oaks.

As part of the City Risk Management Program, an inspection schedule for City trees was established. As trees are visually assessed on an ongoing basis trimming may be scheduled at any time if brought to the city's attention.

The Village has over 75 treewells illuminated with LED lights and in Fall the foliage from those tree puts on its own light show.

Legal Protection of Saratoga Trees

Permits (including a city arborist inspection) are required for residential removing and replacing trees.

Every tree in every park is inventoried by number and species and inspected regularly.

The City of Saratoga amended the Residential Landscaping Regulation to a Water Efficient Landscaping Regulation.

Tree City USA designation was awarded in 2007.

The 2015 by 2015 Program established 5 years ago was a resounding success. In just one year all 2015 trees were planted by residents who took up the challenge

Heritage Preservation Committee maintains a list of Heritage trees, many of which have been submitted by the citizens of Saratoga who wish to recognize the array of majestic trees in Saratoga.

Heritage Tree Criteria

- 1) Specimen is outstanding, healthy with good structure, shows potential for long life.
- 2) Distinct because of age, size, species or location.
- 3) Historically important and/or relative to: agriculture, social, cultural, aesthetic, educational or economic aspects of the community.

Village in Fall



Heritage Stone Pine-Blaney Plaza



Citizens of Saratoga are appointed to the **Parks and Recreation Commission** whose mission is to oversee the planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of parks, trails, and other recreational areas and facilities.

Parks (there are 14 City parks -see attachment 1) and trails are provided and maintained by the city. Quarry Park is being developed in Saratoga and will link the Japanese Hakone Gardens to Sanborn Park, and will eventually enable residents to hike from Saratoga to the Sea, by linking us with other established trails through the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Pacific Coast.

Business

West Valley College's design demonstrates open spaces with the native trees amongst the expansive low profile community college.

The Heritage Orchard surrounds the Saratoga Library with open space.

Heritage Orchard Apricot Blooms



Residential

The City's Tree and Bench Dedication allows residents to dedicate a tree to a loved one in Saratoga and have it specifically planted.

Novakovich Orchard covers 6 acres and produces local grown fruits and vegetables.

Cooper Garrod Land Trust: Saratoga residents and farmer's grew apricots and prunes, built an Equestrian Center, and a Winery, farmed the land for more than 120 years.

Cooper Garrod Stables and Winery donated 200 acres of their land in Saratoga to the Mid-Peninsula Open Space Preserve, and they give away free manure.

In 2012, 120 acres of privately held forested land was acquired by the Mid Peninsula Open Space District to preserve the natural landscape, followed later by the acquisition of another 40 acres of forest land to Long Ridge Open Space.

Community Involvement

San Jose City Forest has assisted the residents with group tree plantings. The residents of certain neighborhoods have opted to use tax return dollars to request trees to beautify the streets.

Volunteer groups have been involved in Quarry Park's maintenance. Leaders have been trained to lead groups of citizens who wish to work and help maintain the city's newest park. The Boys Scouts troupes have also helped with weeding and other maintenance activities at the Quarry Park.

Arbor Day celebration includes planting of a Tree and trees are given away. A poster contest is done throughout the schools to demonstrate the benefit of trees.

13 Oak Trees were planted on Prospect Road by the City.

Many people “buy” memorial trees and benches, which beautifies and helps provide funds for other projects. For example, the Saratoga High School Class of 1974 planted a memorial Crepe Myrtle tree in the inner quad of the high school and 18 Oaks were planted on Fruitvale Avenue in memory of Katherine Holt.

Volunteers for Hakone recently planted 12 Cherry trees donated by Saratoga’s sister city in Japan.

The Heritage Tree Society, a group formed by residents of Saratoga has identified dozens of outstanding trees in Saratoga which are on display at www.HeritageTreesofSaratoga.Org. The group also offers period lectures on tree care and shares their knowledge on YouTube and in many blogs

4. Environmental Efforts – Sustainable Development and Awareness

Preserving the surrounding forests and bucolic peacefulness of this one-time agricultural, now “bedroom” community is very important to the residents and businesses of Saratoga. This is evident in the City of Saratoga Statement of Values.

Municipal

Saratoga has 17 designated Landscape and Lighting Districts where residents have voted for additional taxation to maintain their public areas.

LED lights and solar lights decorate Village trees and light Village streets and parks. Solar panels in the City Corporation Yard and the Saratoga Library provide energy.

A Smart Watering System throughout the city waters only when needed, with over 50 controllers. This program was started in 2002. Drip irrigation and deep watering of tree wells and other landscaped areas is provided. Mulch is used throughout the city. Drought tolerant and native California plants are used when possible.

Curbside recycling of paper, plastic and cans, and garden “waste”, is provided on a weekly basis. Well marked recycling cans are placed along the Village streets and public places. A Clean-Up Day is offered in July when residents can put anything on the curb for pick up.

City trees which have been trimmed or removed are shredded and composted, and the mulch is given to the residents by the city on Arbor Day, or used throughout the city.

Storm drains are marked “No Dumping, Water Goes to the Bay.” Plastic bags are provided along Village streets and parks for Doggie waste, and leash laws are in effect.

12 electric car charging stations are provided throughout the city.

Zoning ordinances protect our hillsides by limiting building to one house per acre. Houses need to be built below ridgelines to help preserve a more natural landscape. There are special zoning ordinances for new construction and remodeling.

Saratoga Creek which flows to the Bay is constantly monitored for water quality compliance.

Pest spraying, for example for mosquitoes, is provided by the city by specially trained employees. One person in the department must have 20 hours of training and a license, but all employees in this department have the training and license.

Business

Limited commercial development: Only one percent of the city's total acreage is commercial; there is no manufacturing within the city limits.

West Valley College, Prospect High School, and the Saratoga Library have solar panels over their parking lots or on their roofs.

Weekly farmer's markets, one at West Valley College on Saturdays and the other in the Village on Wednesday afternoons are enjoyed by huge crowds.

Residential

New Building Code 2014: Water Efficient Landscape Regulation was instituted to guide new/remodel construction.

Xeriscaping, hardscaping, and voluntary water rationing is encouraged. Many residents are reducing or eliminating their lawns in favor of low-water use alternatives.

The streets are wide, with few sidewalks, and no street lights. Residents maintain their own trees and landscapes. Tidy yards are expected, and many people use gardeners.

Construction sites are fenced and cleaned up regularly.

There are noise ordinances which limit activities such as blowers and construction to certain times of the day. Noise levels are also monitored in town.

Community involvement

Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Creek Clean-up Day, among others, are celebrated with various activities which get the community, young and old, involved and informed. Adopt-a-Highway gives residents another way to contribute by keeping our roadways clean.

The 3,688 acre Sanborn Park is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, and was established in the late 1970s as a large land area park with low intensity use. Some of the many habitats it contains are redwood forests, California oak woodlands, chaparral, riparian and grassland areas. It is the first link in the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which circles the Bay Area with approximately 500 miles of trails, and also connects with the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail. These trails are enjoyed by many people each year, from Saratoga and beyond.

The redwood forests and the California oak woodlands are endemic areas, only found in the California Floristic Province. This is known as a biodiversity hotspot, and Saratoga is located in one of only 33 hotspots in the world. The endemic plants and animals found in a hotspot cannot survive anywhere else in the world. Saratoga's Sanborn Park and Quarry Park are part of a much larger effort to protect these special habitats. Many volunteers are needed.

Saratoga CERT, Community Emergency Response Team, is an active, growing group of resident volunteers, (over 300), who are trained to help out in a disaster such as a severe earthquake or wildfire, both of which are a real threat in our area. Saratoga has a major fault line, The San Andreas Fault, running through our hills, and with the worst drought in 100 years, we are at risk of a major wildfire.

And last, but not least, Saratoga has a delightful, very busy group of volunteers dedicated to beautifying, protecting, and nurturing our landscape: The Village Gardeners!

Educational Environmental Programs

Sanborn County Park, and the Sanborn Science and Nature Center, also known as the Youth Science Institute, or YSI, are located in the hills of Saratoga. YSI, housed in an historic home from 1915 and designated an historical landmark, teaches hands-on nature-based environmental and social science, primarily to over 10,000 children a year. It is a non-profit organization which could not operate as it does without its many volunteers

Walden West, also situated in Sanborn Park, is another organization that has been educating our youth for over 60 years. Most recently, they began an exciting program for K-8 students that combines science, sustainability, and the outdoors in day-long science and environmental programs using the new Abby Sobrato Science and Sustainability Center at Walden West. Their goal is to prepare students for continuing environmental stewardship in their communities through programs such as Growing Gardens and Eco Action projects at school and home. They provide affordable, high quality education to all demographics in Santa Clara Valley. Walden West also depends on volunteers and donations.

To meet a growing demand for additional science programs, Walden West created Growing Gardens for Growing Minds to engage students in outdoor garden learning at their own schools.

A community garden at Quito Park and several gardens at local churches and schools give people an opportunity to grow their own food, and donate to Second Harvest Food Bank, or other organizations of their choice. The schools teach environmentally sound gardening practices, the value of preserving our land and the importance of growing things, and giving back to the community.

Bird boxes have been erected in many parks and are maintained by volunteers.

5. Heritage Preservation

Municipal

Leadership

Heritage Preservation Commission appointed by the city council to protect, help preserve and promote heritage trees, buildings and other structures such as tank houses and gates, and cultural landscapes such as gardens, vineyards

City owned and maintained History Park home to the Saratoga History Museum, the historic Mc Williams House, and Saratoga one-room school house adjacent to the historic Village Library

City acquisition of Hakone Gardens and partnership with Open Space Preserve to protect the heritage Quarry and its historic buildings and artifacts

Saratoga named as a California Landmark in 1948.

Saratoga History Foundation and its associated museum provide monthly Walking Tours of Historic Sites in Saratoga

2 Historic Lanes (Austin Way and Saratoga Av) designated by the Saratoga City Council

Legal protection of heritage sites

Federal and local municipal codes protect resources on the Heritage Inventory and Heritage Tree lists. Saratoga currently has 108 properties on the inventory, 25 of which are Designated Landmarks, 6 of which are on the National Register of Historic Places, and 9 of which are Mills Act Properties. Saratoga also has 2 designated Historic Lanes.

Saratoga Village Guidelines were designed to preserve the unique identity of Saratoga Village

State of California has designated the Heritage Orchard in perpetuity

The city arborist purview includes Heritage Trees

Resource availability

Mills Act to provide tax relief for historic preservation for landmark properties

Heritage Preservation Commission for advice and recommendations

Village Guidelines for recommendations on design and color

Business

Conservation restoration and rehabilitation

Our Historic Village was designated a California landmark in 1948 and this bucolic downtown represents the character that is uniquely Saratoga.

Current examples of business engagement include restoration of the Barn and planned restoration of the Grover House and protection of John Henry house by local businesses to preserve the architectural integrity of these important 19th century homes.

Participation in heritage and cultural activities

Saratoga Chamber of Commerce, the Village Development Council (SVDC), and local business actively support Memorial Day and Fourth of July celebrations, the Blossom Festival, Heritage Days, and other cultural activities like Bollywood, Thanksgiving Tree Lighting, Witchy Walk and so much more.

Residential

Conservation restoration and rehabilitation

Our community and residents have taken an active role in preserving the identity of this town as evidenced by the number (over 100) of properties on the heritage Inventory and almost 50 trees on this list recently established list

Participation in heritage and cultural activities

Saratoga residents turn out in record numbers for the Blossom Festival, Heritage Days, the Memorial Day celebration, the 4th of July celebration and more

Community Involvement

Saratoga is well recognized as a city where government, civic organizations, businesses, residents, youth and schools, and volunteers from around the West Valley come together in support of major heritage activities

Blossom Festival- Late Winter

Saratoga California is nestled in the Santa Clara Valley – once known as the Valley of the Hearts Delight when the perfume from the stone fruit orchards permeated this entire valley. In commemoration of these halcyon days, Saratoga celebrates its annual Blossom Festival on the grounds of the Warner Hutton house and the adjacent Heritage Orchard in late winter as the buds of the apricots begin to open. Most of the orchards in the Silicon Valley have been uprooted for housing but Saratogans have stood firm to preserve this beautiful orchard. This all volunteer event is spearheaded by the all volunteer managed and run Saratoga History Foundation.

Heritage Days- Early Fall

Saratoga Village is the site for the fall Heritage Day Festivals where local residents don costumes and act out many of the famous characters that founded this town, from mayors, to lumberjacks, to vintners, - from the founders of Hakone Gardens to Senator Phelan who donated Villa Montalvo — all parade the streets of Saratoga in full costume and children are given a score card and prizes if they can identify and meet all 50 or so of the famous people who walk the streets including Olivia de Havilland, Joan Fontaine and their mother Lillian Fontaine, all whom vacationed here in summer.

Memorial Day Celebration

Organized by the Saratoga Foothill Club, attended by the local scout troops, music by the Saratoga High School Band, this xxx annual event takes place on the grounds of Madronia Cemetery, established in 1863 and the grave site of such notables as Mary Ann Brown, wife of John Brown.

History Foundation and Museum Volunteers

Operated by an all volunteer Board of Directors and all volunteer staffing
Students from Saratoga take on regular projects at the museum including managing the archives

The museum is open Friday Saturday and Sunday

Over 20 volunteer docents teach living history (1870s) to over 1000 school children per year from Saratoga and from all over the Santa Clara Valley, and from as far away as San Mateo. A tour of the Mc Williams house is part of every Saratoga school child's history education.

The Saratoga Historical Garden is located around the Book-Go-Round and the Historical Museum, and is mostly made up of native and/or drought tolerant plants. It is marked with signs, and has a self-guided tour brochure. Many of the plants were developed specifically for Saratoga by the non-profit Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation in 1952. The Foundation also provided a grant to landscape this park.

6. Overall Impression

Until 1956 Saratoga was considered a part of San Jose. The residents, about 5,000 of them, decided to become a City because of their fear of being taken over by San Jose. The City was formed after a very close vote and committed itself to staving off the increasing commercialization and urban sprawl born of the growth of the burgeoning tech industry that was swallowing up most municipalities. Saratoga has fought hard to stay a charming respite from the crazy world around them in the Silicon Valley.

There is no industry in Saratoga. In 2015 Saratoga retains a strong sense of place as was recently headlined in the Saratoga News, the weekly newspaper.

The historic Village has remained historic and small although over 300 condominiums have been built around its four-block Village core.

Wildwood Park, in the heart of the Village, remains the most popular park in the City. There is a bandstand in the park frequently used by the community band and opera in the park along with an Easter egg hunt and many other activities. The City Council has allocated \$35,000 to sponsor the many Saratoga community events run by its organizations.

No building in the Village is over 2 stories. Any commercial change is widely publicized and citizens are encouraged to voice their opinions about the project. Currently a large project has been proposed and approved for the center of the Village at Blue Rock Shoot and the historic Grover House next door. The Grover House is to be saved.

There are many opportunities to sit outside either to eat or to converse whether at the coffee shops or multiple benches and seating areas throughout the Village. Dog bowls and treats are placed everywhere, as well as a dog drinking fountain. In addition plastic bags are available for use by dog owners on poles in the Village and parks for use by the dog owners. Residents know store owners and store owners work closely with the residents to sweep and water their areas because the residents' role model this activity for them. The Golden Broom Award, presented by the Village Gardeners, is handed out to those who keep their businesses tidy on a regular basis.

The City staff is small (just 52 employees); the citizens for the most part know the staff and there is great respect shown amongst the staff and the citizenry. There is little staff turnover. Staff shows great pride in their City. They work hard to keep it beautiful and respond immediately to the infrequent calls about graffiti, potholes etc. Medians are always tidy and well planted. Native plants are used for the most part

although some areas were planted years ago with non-native species when there was no water shortage.

Cleanup days are routinely sponsored by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Saratoga's Youth commission, and churches. There is a ministerial association comprised of the 11 churches, synagogues and Muslim Association that meets once a month. The Muslim Association rents Saratoga's Prospect Center for their gatherings during holy days and the City council and neighbors are always invited to a dinner before the holy days begin.

Saratoga is beautifully tended by its staff and residents and proudly bears the title of Safest City in California. A marble plaque was presented to each Council member by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's department in 2014 evidencing that distinction.

The commitment of the citizens to their community is continually underscored by their willingness to approve parcel taxes which, according to California law, must garner a two-thirds majority referendum vote for passage and their support for the Saratoga Education Foundation provides funding for numerous educational enrichment opportunities for the children. The designation of Saratoga High School as the fourth highest rated high school in the state would not have been possible without broad-based community support, support achieved despite the fact that far less than half the households have children in the school system.

Lastly, Saratoga is one of the leading cultural centers in Silicon Valley. Hakone Gardens is the largest authentic Japanese garden west of the Mississippi River and is included in the National Registry of historic sites. Villa Montalvo provides in-residence internships for aspiring artists of all types and is a frequent concert venue. The Mountain Winery has a state-of-the-art 2500 seat amphitheater that provides a venue for more than fifty performances from top of the line acts, many of whom say it is among their favorite places to perform and return over and over.

Saratoga has a strong sense of place and an active and involved citizenry that works very hard to preserve and build on. We celebrate the contribution of all that have gone before to enable this city to become what it is. We feel a deep sense of responsibility to continue to fulfill their vision for our city.

7. Community Involvement

Community involvement in Saratoga is phenomenal so we added a section to highlight the magnitude of our residents' commitment.

The Village Gardeners take full responsibility for all the plants in the Village carrying bottles of water in their cars from their homes to use on over 100 pots and 75 treewells.

Residents run one event a month in the Village for all to enjoy. These include Love Notes, St. Paddy's Party, Heritage Day, Bollywood and Witchy Walkabout. Residents decorate wreaths to be displayed along Big Basin during the holiday season. The website, Saratogavillage.info is run by volunteers, and attracts hundreds of participants

The Saratoga Village Development Council is run by volunteers and has a listserv with over 600 respondents to hear the news of the Village. Monday Missives is sent out by a volunteer to inform residents of events and store promotions going on that week.

The Historical Museum has monthly events; both speakers and heritage events. The museum is totally run by volunteers.

The friends of the library run an all-volunteer used book store which generates \$150,000 a year to enable the library to be open more hours per week.

The Echo Shop in the Village is run by the women from the local Episcopal Church and gives to charities throughout the Valley.

The Foothill Women's Club, located in a historic Julia Morgan building, actively educates and informs its member, all volunteers.

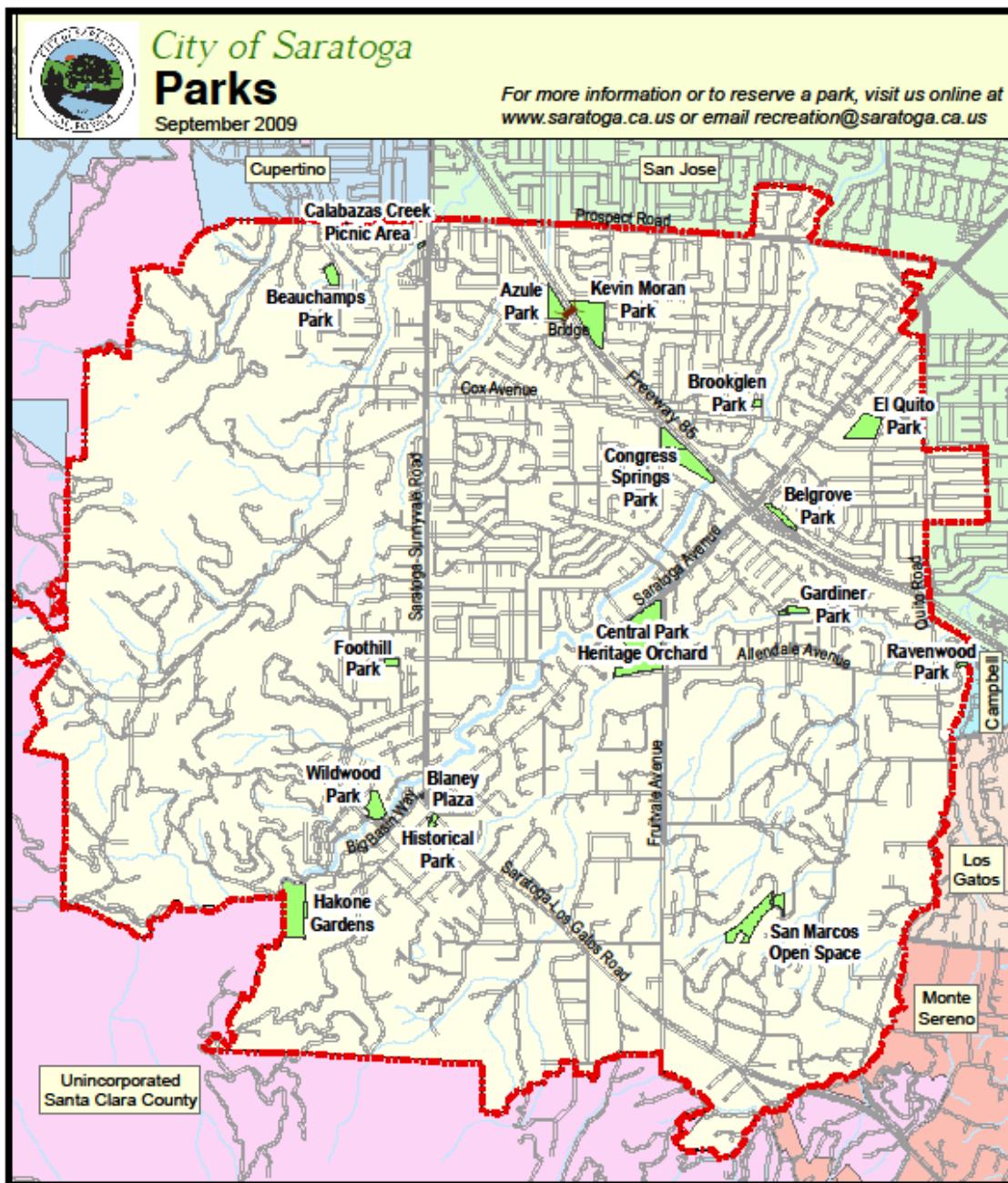
Numerous events are held in Saratoga including a Memorial Day event at the WWI Arch in Blaney Plaza and Madronia Cemetery, a Fourth of July event in Kevin Moran Park, and the Blossom Festival held in the Heritage Orchard every March which celebrates Saratoga's history. Opera in the Park and Community Band Concerts and outdoor showing of movies in Wildwood Park are also part of the yearly events for all to enjoy.

The Classic Car show put on by the Chamber of Commerce in July is attended by thousands. The Heritage Tree Society of Saratoga maintains a website with tree news and judges pick the loveliest trees in the City and educate the public at talks given by leading arborists. Arbor Day has sponsored tree posters done by the school children in the town and then displayed in the Village store windows. Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations are conducted by the City of Saratoga accompanied by a tree planting with a plaque. In 2010 the City Council established a goal of having 2015 new trees planted by 2015. Through strong community support the goal was achieve in 2012.

Saratoga has 5 commissions with members chosen by the City Council. All five do a great deal of work for the City without compensation.

The Saratoga Education Foundation raises approximately a quarter million dollars annually to enable the schools to offer arts programs and other enrichment experiences for the children.

Attachment 1: City Parks Map



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Attachment 2: Tree Ordinance

TREE REGULATIONS

*Note to Article 15-50

* Prior Ordinance history: Ords. 71.86, 71-106 and 212.

15-50.010 Findings; purposes of Article.

The City Council finds that the City is primarily a residential community; that the economics of property values is inseparably connected with the rural attractiveness of the area, much of which is attributable to the wooded hillsides and the native and ornamental trees located throughout the City; that the preservation of such trees is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City in order to preserve scenic beauty, prevent erosion of topsoil, protect against flood hazards and the risk of landslides, counteract pollutants in the air, maintain the climatic balance and decrease wind velocities.

To complement and strengthen zoning, subdivision and other land use standards and regulations, while at the same time recognizing the privileges of private property ownership, the City Council adopts the ordinance codified in this Section to establish basic standards and measures for the maintenance, removal, and replacement of trees. Thus, the ordinance codified in this Section is designed to provide a stable and sustainable urban forest to preserve and protect significant historic heritage values, and to enhance the unique aesthetic character and environment of this City. (Amended by Ord. 226 § 2 (part), 2003; Ord. 245 § 2 (Att. A) (part), 2006)

15-50.020 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this Section, unless the context or the provision clearly requires otherwise:

(a) **Agricultural tree** means a fruit or nut tree grown for the production of fruit or nuts.

(b) **Approving body** means the body having authority to approve or deny an application and includes the Planning Commission and the Community Development Director.

(c) **Arborist Report** means a report prepared by a certified arborist and accepted by the Community Development Director containing specific information on the location, condition, structure, potential impacts of development, and recommended actions and mitigation measures regarding one or more trees on an individual lot or project site.

(d) **Bond or security deposit** means a financial instrument which guarantees a future condition and may include an irrevocable letter of credit or cash.

(e) **Canopy or tree canopy** means all portions of the tree with foliage. As context requires, the term also describes the area inside the drip line.

(f) **Crown** means the portion of the tree above the trunk including the limbs and foliage.

(g) **DBH** means diameter at breast height. It is the diameter of a single stem trunk tree measured at four and one-half feet above the ground while standing on the high side of the tree. The diameter may be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Diameter} = \text{Circumference} / 3.142$$

To measure trees with multi-stem trunk, the tree diameter equals the full diameter of the largest trunk plus fifty percent of the diameter of all other trunks on the tree; each trunk is measured at four and one-half feet above the ground while standing on the high side of the tree.

(h) **Damage** means any action undertaken which causes short-term or long-term injury, death, or disfigurement to a tree. This includes, but is not limited to: cutting of roots or limbs, poisoning, over-watering, relocation, or transplanting a tree, or trenching, grading, compaction, excavating, paving or installing impervious surface within the root zone of a protected tree.

(i) **Destroy** means to cause the premature decline of tree health or life as evaluated and determined by the City Arborist.

(j) **Dripline** means the outermost edge of the tree's canopy. When depicted on a map or plan, the dripline is the irregular shaped circle that follows the contour of the tree's branches as seen from overhead.

(k) **Encroachment** means any intrusion or human activity occurring within the root zone of a tree, including, but not limited to structural pruning in excess of International Society of Arboriculture Commission (ISA) Pruning Standards (2001 Edition), grading, excavating, trenching, parking of vehicles, permanent or temporary storage of materials or equipment, or the construction of structures or other improvements within the root zone