

Cityline Sunnyvale Block 3S

Redwood Square Bench & Plaque

2024 May 24

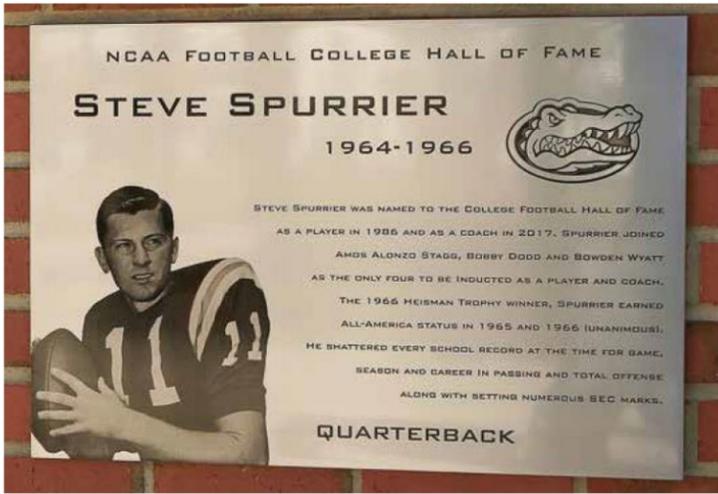
bionic

landscape architecture
urban design
planning









Etched Aluminum



SUNNYVALE
HERITAGE
REDWOOD
GROVE

In the mid-1970s, plans were revealed for a major redevelopment near Sunnyvale's historic downtown core. The project was to be called Sunnyvale Town Center. Concerned citizens led by long-time resident Fern Ohrt petitioned the City to include in the plan the preservation of a group of heritage trees important in the community's history.

The grove included the following trees:

Fred Drew, Mayor of Sunnyvale from 1927 to 1930, planted the first redwood tree next to what was then City Hall.

Antone Schmitz, Mayor of Sunnyvale from 1932 to 1935, donated and planted the second redwood tree after completion of City Hall in 1929.

The Sunnyvale Woman's Club donated and planted a cedar tree on the City Hall grounds as a living gift to the City and in commemoration of Luther Burbank, a lover of trees and plants on May 2, 1930 (diseased and removed).

The Sunnyvale Grammar School graduating class of 1930 donated and planted a cedar tree (diseased and removed).

Jean Bernardou donated two redwood trees to the city on February 21, 1930.

A redwood tree was planted by The American War Mothers and dedicated in commemoration of the members of the Sunnyvale community who lost their lives in World War II and to the three senior class members of Fremont High School, Charles Donner, Nadine Lloyd, and Walter Gachina, who lost their lives in an automobile accident near the high school on May 30, 1945.

A redwood tree was dedicated on July 19, 1978 at the start of construction of the Sunnyvale Town Center to Manuel Vargas, "Mr. Sunnyvale"

Five of the original redwoods are preserved here at the heart of Redwood Square

One tree located near the archway was removed in 2021 and reclaimed to make the adjacent bench. A replacement redwood tree was planted in the grove in 2024.

A new redwood tree was dedicated to Fern Ohrt in 2024. She was instrumental in saving the original redwoods in the 1980's.

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