



LANDSCAPE SUMMIT 2021
February 25, 2021
AGENDA

- 8:50 am Registration (Zoom will open with slideshow)
- 9:00 am Landscape Committee Chair's welcome – Brian Boyer, Superintendent, Cinnabar Hills Golf Club
- 9:05 am Welcome from Director Richard Santos, Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
- 9:15 am State of the Valley's Water- Kirsten Struve, Assistant Officer – Water Supply Division, Valley Water
- 9:30 am **Our City Forest Community Nursery and Lawn Busters Program** – Gabby Fitts, Our City Forest, Community Nursery and Lawn Busters Manager
- 10:00 Valley Water Programs: Overviews and Updates – Ashley Shannon, Water Conservation Specialist, Valley Water
- 10:15 **Sharing and Increasing Community Skills in Permaculture Design, Build, and Care**– Elizabeth Sarmiento, Smart Yards Education, and Dr. Liliana Castañeda Rossmann, Smart Yards Education Board Chair
- 10:45 **Save Our Water and Our Trees** –Gabrielle Trudeau, Canopy, Community Forestry Coordinator, ISA Certified Arborist
- 11:15 Closing Remarks
- 11:30 Summit Ends



Speaker Bios

Kirsten Struve, Assistant Officer – Water Supply Division, Valley Water

Kirsten Struve has over 25 years experience leading water resource programs. She is currently Assistant Officer in the Water Supply Division. She has previously worked on stormwater, recycled water, water quality, climate change and wastewater programs. Prior to joining Valley Water, Kirsten worked for the Cities of Palo Alto and San Jose. Kirsten has a Bachelors in Biology from Knox College and a Masters in Environmental Management from Yale University.

Gabby Fitts, Our City Forest, Community Nursery and Lawn Busters Manager

Gabby Fitts is the Community Nursery and Lawn Busters program manager for Our City Forest. Gabby got her start in the urban forestry sector working with nonprofits in Western North Carolina. Most recently Gabby was working in Central and South America to establish agricultural and emergency preparedness training programs with military and nonmilitary organizations before joining the team at Our City Forest.

Ashley Shannon, Water Conservation Specialist III, Valley Water

Ashley Shannon runs Valley Water’s Landscape Rebate Program and has worked with the Water Supply Planning and Conservation Unit for the past eight years to offer water conservation rebates, programs, and education to Santa Clara County residents and businesses. An avid gardener and “retired” landscape designer herself, Ashley has an AS in Landscape Horticulture from Cabrillo College and a BS in Environmental Studies from San Jose State University.

Elizabeth Sarmiento, Smart Yards Co-op Founder and Manager

Elizabeth Sarmiento has a deep love for nature and its innate value in our lives. Originally from Honduras, she has a degree in Environmental Studies and is trained as/certified by Greywater Action; Bay-Friendly Regional landscape designer; Santa Clara County Master Composter; Permaculture Designer; and Landscape Water Management Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) Specialist. She brings her knowledge and experience in the challenges of water supply, lost habitat, and soil depletion to design, install, and care for ecological gardens as a worker-owner of Smart Yards Cooperative soon to be Beyond Gardens. She is a co-founder of Smart Yards Education and currently sits on its Board.

Liliana Castañeda Rossmann Smart Yards Education Board Chair

Liliana Castañeda Rossmann is Professor Emerita at California State University-San Marcos. She holds a Ph.D. in Communication from the UMass-Amherst and an M.A. in International Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame. She is a bilingual mediator and has worked facilitating public dialogue with community groups across the country. She is an avid reader, gardener, seamstress, yogini, and aspiring piano player. Her two college-age children currently study in Europe. She lives with her husband in San José, California.

Gabrielle Trudeau, Community Forestry Coordinator,

Gabrielle joined the Canopy team in September 2020 as a Community Forestry Coordinator for Palo Alto and Mountain View. A certified arborist, she’ll be working to coordinate planting events and community volunteers, to help Canopy meet tree planting goals. Before joining Canopy, she was working in Cochabamba, Bolivia for International Honors Program (IHP): Climate Change as a cultural liaison/translator/field assistant for the students.