



Dear Neighbor,

We would like to introduce **Friends of Alameda's Forest**, a recently formed community organization whose goal is to preserve, care for, and maintain Alameda's public trees. Alameda is known for its wonderful neighborhoods graced by a wide variety of street trees. Even in the midst of our city's financial crisis we wish to help our neighbors take care of these trees. Traditionally in Alameda, the trees between the street and sidewalk adjacent to your property are maintained by the city but each of us is expected to help with their upkeep, as well.

As part of our initial effort, we want to let you know how you can help maintain the trees next to your property. For example:

- Most street trees will survive well on natural precipitation once established. Young trees need to be watered until established (typically 1-2 years) and it's our responsibility to do so. Trees, like all plants, send roots in search for water nearby. Less frequent but deeper watering of newly planted trees encourages root systems to go deep and reduces the likelihood of the roots cracking sidewalks and interfering with your property plantings in the future.
- For the same reason, it is best to give trees some clearance from other plants that might need more watering, as well as paving stones, concrete, and other hard surfaces. Minimize the use of tools, like weed whackers, which can damage a tree's base. Again, deep watering produces fewer problems.
- While as property owners we are responsible for tree maintenance, the city is responsible for tree trimming and planting. If you think there is a problem with tree branches and roots, or you wish to have a tree planted, contact the Maintenance Supervisor, Department of Public Works at 747-7900. The City has a list of trees that you can plant, but please notify them since you must get permission before planting a tree on city property. We support this requirement because it reduces the likelihood of problems in the future.

Finally, you might wish to get further information, give us some feedback, or join us in our activities. We welcome your participation. We've created a website where you can reach us. You will also find information about the trees, updates on tree-related city activities, and useful links. Our new website is at www.alamedaforest.org.

Thank you for helping preserve and grow our urban forest.

—Friends of Alameda's Forest