



February 2025



Urban Forest Plan
PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Project Team



City of Alameda

Sustainability and Resilience

Recreation and Park Dept

Public Works

Alameda Municipal Power

Consultant Team

Dudek

AIM Consulting

Project Background



The City of Alameda's Urban Forest Plan will guide the City's operations and activities to **expand and maintain the tree canopy for the next 10 years.**

The Plan is strategic in advancing social equity and contributing to an improved quality of life by providing the benefits of the urban tree canopy to all community members, including improving overall emotional, psychological and physical health.





Purpose of the Urban Forest Plan



Update the Master Street Tree Plan to include park trees and promote an increase in the overall canopy



Develop a forward-focused plan and policies based on the needs of the City



Develop the resources necessary to effectively manage the urban forest and implement the UFP



Partner with the community to effectively steward the urban forest

Benefits of Trees



BENEFITS OF TREES

SHADE

Trees cool cities by up to 10° F by shading homes, streets, and other surfaces. Shaded surfaces can even be 20–40° cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded areas!

FRESH FOOD

Trees provide food in the form of fruits, nuts, leaves, bark, and roots. Even dead trees provide food for many insects!

SAVING ENERGY

Strategically placed shade trees can help save up to 56% on annual air-conditioning costs for homes and businesses, which means burning fewer fossil fuels for generating electricity.

BEAUTY

Trees add natural character to city streets and residential areas as they radiate with colors, flowers, textures, and shapes!

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Trees improve mental health by reducing depression and stress levels in addition to improving public health by decreasing the risk of respiratory illnesses and encouraging outdoor recreation.

CLEANER AIR

Trees absorb pollutants and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS

Trees as landmarks within a neighborhood can encourage civic pride while tree plantings provide opportunities for community involvement and bring diverse groups of people together.

RAINWATER CAPTURE

Trees capture rainfall as water flows down the trunk and into the earth below and recharges groundwater supplies. Trees also help prevent stormwater from carrying large amounts of pollutants to the ocean.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Trees support the lives of many wildlife species and provide them with food, shelter, and nesting sites.





Community Engagement To Date

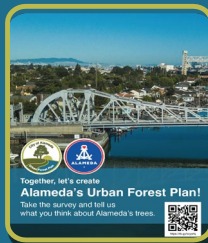
2023-25

Working Group Meetings



JAN 2023

Online Survey



JAN 2023

Pop-up Workshop at Bohol Immigrant Park Opening



FEB 2023

Pop-up Workshop at Storytelling and Drum Festival



MAR 2023

Pop-up Workshop at Spring Shindig



APR 2023

Earth Day Student Letter Writing Activity



MAY 2023

Urban Forest Summit Listening Session



JAN 2025

Community Workshops





Structure of the Urban Forest Plan

Volume 1 – Urban Forest Plan

- Section 1 – Executive Summary
- Section 2 – Introduction and Purpose
- Section 3 – Analyzing Alameda’s Existing Urban Forest
- Section 4 – Management of Alameda’s Urban Forest
- Section 5 – Planning for the Future
- Section 6 – Plan Development Process and Community Engagement
- Section 7 – Monitoring the Plan

Volume 2 – Best Management Practices – standards, details, guidelines and policies for how the City will effectively manage the tree inventory an urban forest.



Draft Plan Preview - Vision

Alameda's urban forest is a collection of healthy, diverse, resilient trees supported by sustainable resources and management practices that enhance our quality of life, provide habitat for wildlife, and support adaptation to climate change for the benefit of all community members and generations to come.



Draft Plan Preview – Key Themes

- **Equity.** Provide for the equitable distribution of canopy cover across the city and provide the benefits of the urban forest evenly to all residents.
- **Health and Resilience.** Promote a healthy and diverse urban forest that is adapted to the adverse impacts of climate change. Alameda’s urban forest is well managed following best practices for tree care.
- **Growing the Tree Canopy.** Encourage the preservation of existing healthy trees and growing the tree canopy by planting new trees.
- **Engaging communities.** Increase awareness in the Alameda community of the benefits of trees and proper management and promote participation in urban forest management

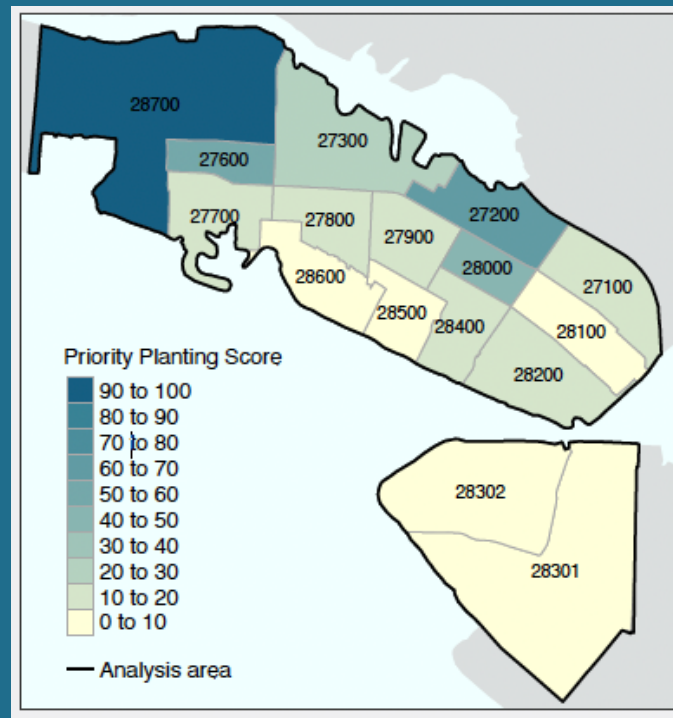
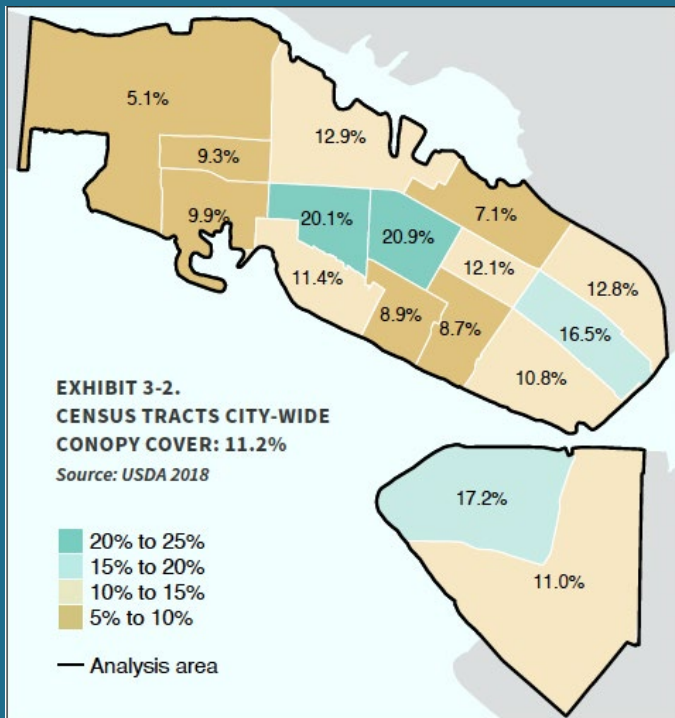


Draft Plan Preview – Goals and Strategies

Goals	City Commitment
<p>➤ <u>GOAL 1:</u> Maintain and grow a healthy and diverse urban forest to provide increase in tree canopy cover in each Census Tract and citywide by 2055.</p>	<p>The City of Alameda has a target to plant 350 trees a year which would increase canopy cover from 11.2% to 20% citywide across all neighborhoods over the next 30 years by planting more climate adapted trees to reduce heat impacts, capture rainwater, clean air, sequester carbon, provide habitat for wildlife, and increase biodiversity. The City desires to have an equal distribution of canopy cover and will prioritize tree planting and establishment care resources to communities that have higher social vulnerability, pollution burdens and low canopy.</p>
<p>➤ <u>GOAL 2:</u> Develop the financial and human resources necessary to effectively manage the urban forest and implement the Urban Forest Plan.</p>	<p>The City of Alameda recognizes its role in ensuring funding and resources are available to support urban forest management activities as a key component to achieving the goals and actions of the Urban Forest Plan.</p>
<p>➤ <u>GOAL 3:</u> Increase protection for public and private trees.</p>	<p>The City of Alameda will continue to promote a healthy urban forest through plans, policies, and ordinances to ensure trees are appropriately maintained, preserved, and protected.</p>
<p>➤ <u>GOAL 4:</u> Partner with an engaged and informed community to effectively steward the urban forest.</p>	<p>The City of Alameda will continue to value and support all people who make a lasting impact on the growth and preservation of the urban forest.</p>



Canopy Cover and Priority Planting Score





Age and Health of the Tree Inventory

EXHIBIT 3-9. DSH DISTRIBUTION OF THE CITY-MANAGED STREET TREE INVENTORY
 Source: City of Alameda Street Tree Inventory (West Coast Arborist 2022).

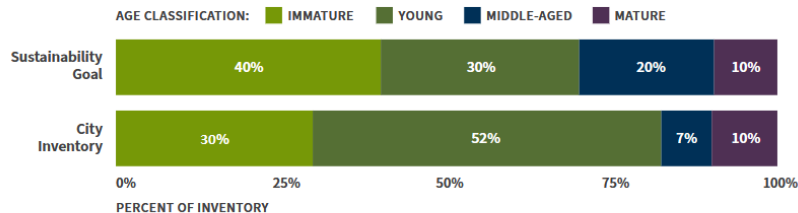
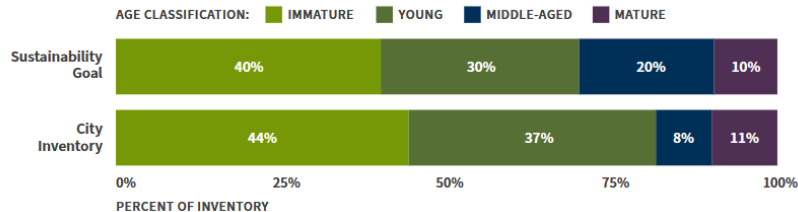


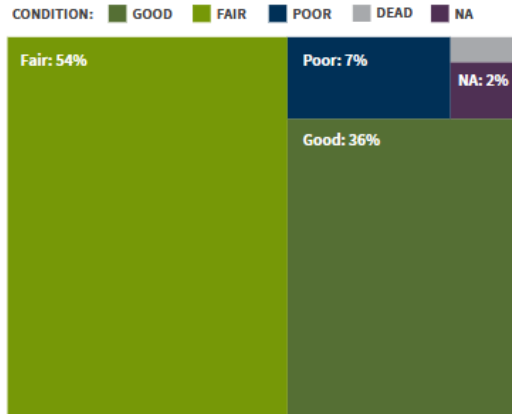
EXHIBIT 3-10. DSH DISTRIBUTION OF THE CITY-MANAGED PARK TREE INVENTORY
 Source: City of Alameda Street Tree Inventory (West Coast Arborist 2022).



Immature: less than 6" DSH, Young: 6" - 18" DSH, Middle-aged: 18" - 24" DSH, Mature: greater than 24" DS
 Percentages less than 1% are unlabeled

EXHIBIT 3-11. HEALTH COMPOSITION RATINGS OF THE STREET TREE INVENTORY

Source: City of Alameda Street Tree Inventory (West Coast Arborist 2022).



Percentages less than 2% are unlabeled

EXHIBIT 3-12. DSH DISTRIBUTION OF THE CITY-MANAGED PARK TREE INVENTORY



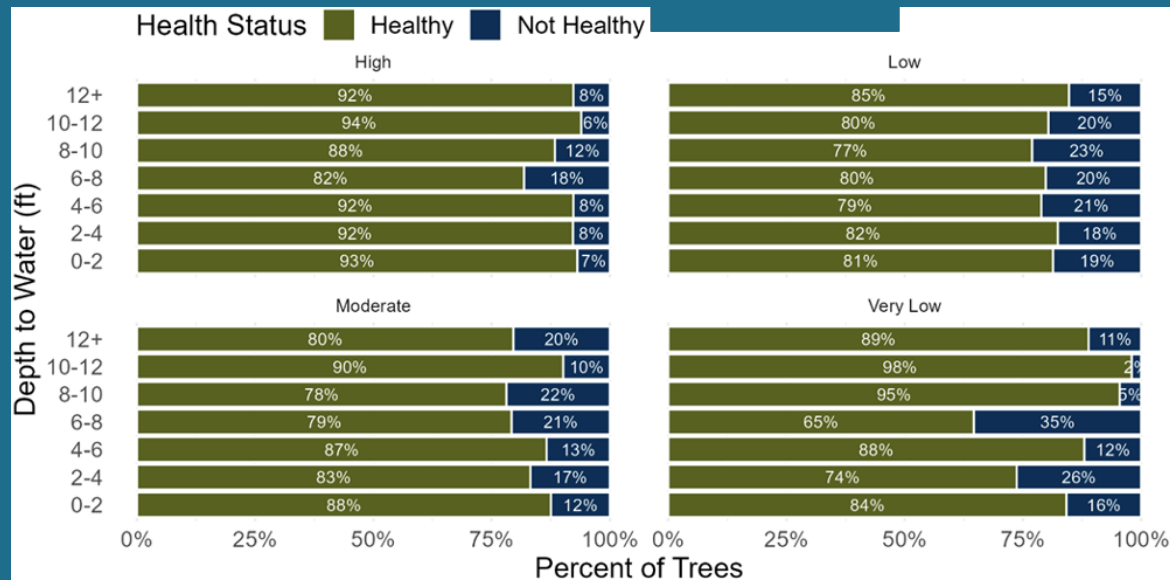
Percentages less than 2% are unlabeled

EXHIBIT 3-12. DSH DISTRIBUTION OF THE CITY-MANAGED PARK TREE INVENTORY

Source: City of Alameda Street Tree Inventory (West Coast Arborist 2022).



Threats and Risks – High Groundwater



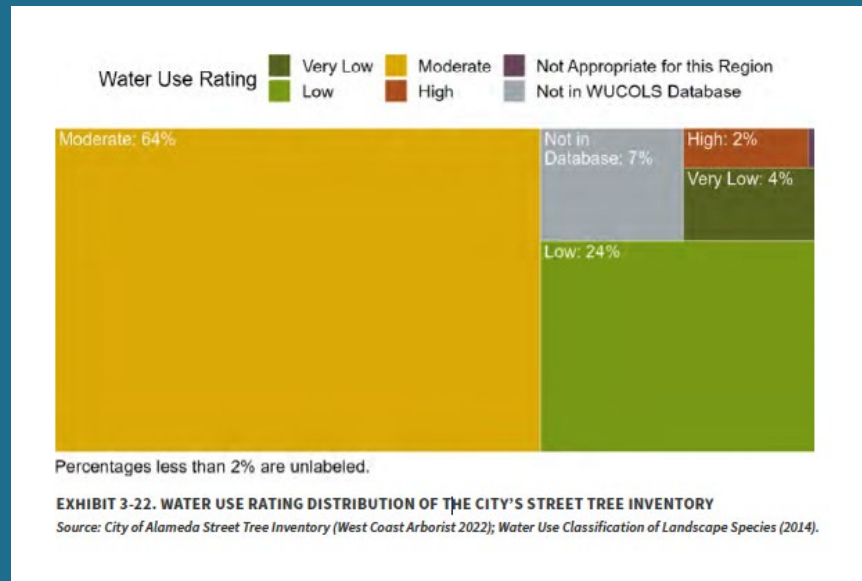
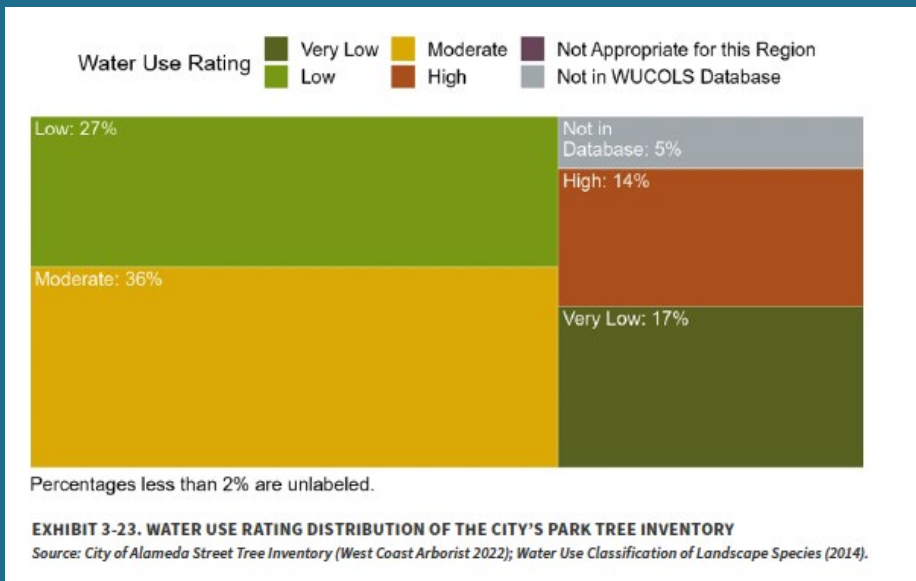
Healthy includes 'Good' and 'Fair' health conditions.
 Not Healthy includes 'Dead', 'Poor', and NA health conditions.

Trees in areas with high groundwater are healthy. Those with high water needs perform slightly better in areas with high groundwater.

Threats and Risks - Drought



The majority of the City's trees are low or moderate water users



Updated Tree Species List for Public Trees



SUITABLE SPECIES FOR ALAMEDA, CA

City of Alameda CA Updated 2025-01-06 76 🌳

Tree Species Selection Matrix for Alameda, CA - Comprehensive table of street and park tree species that are appropriate for the current and anticipated future climate of Alameda.

Regions: Northern Coast

Curated List, Public, alameda, city, municipal, california, bay area, climateready, resilient

Sort Trees...



1. TRIDENT MAPLE
Acer buergerianum



2. QUEEN ELIZABETH HEDGE MAPLE
Acer campestre 'Queen Elizabeth'



3. OCTOBER GLORY RED MAPLE
Acer rubrum 'October Glory'



4. SOMERSET RED MAPLE
Acer rubrum 'Somerset'



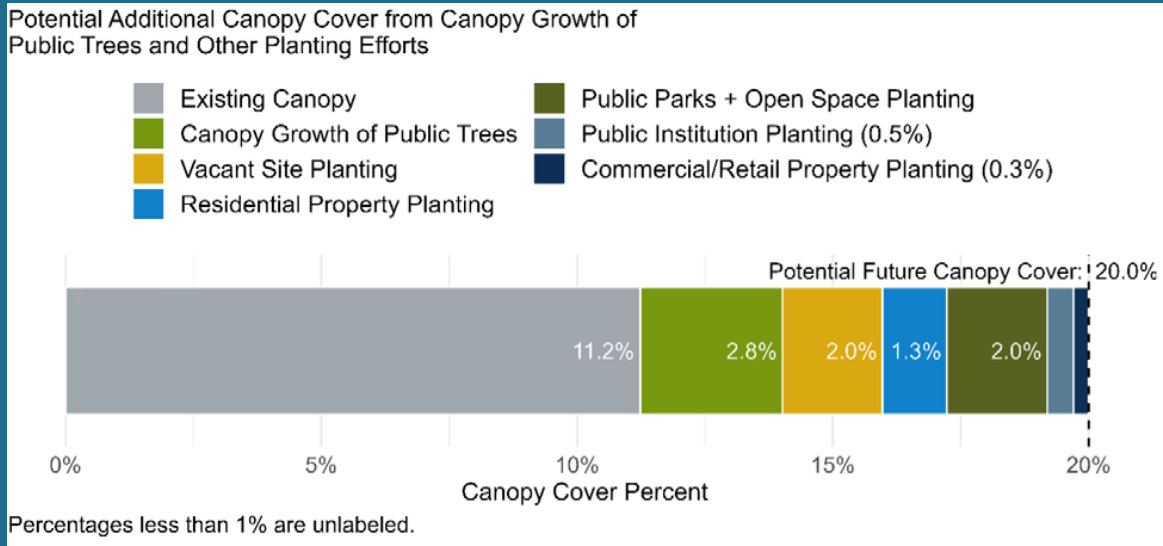
5. AUTUMN BLAZE RED MAPLE
Acer x freemanii 'Jeffersred'

- Species appropriate for Alameda's current and future climate
- Includes guidance to assist City in selecting the right tree for the right place
- Consideration of which species are appropriate for planting under power lines

<https://selectree.calpoly.edu/list/108>



Canopy Increase Analysis



20% tree canopy goal can be accomplished through growth of the City managed tree inventory and planting new trees in various City managed and non-City managed locations.

Additional funding will be needed to plant an additional 9,600 trees needed over 30 years and manage a larger forest



Funding and Staffing Scenarios

Scenario	Description	Cost	Trees/Canopy
1. Enhanced Business as Usual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing 5-year pruning cycle for street trees and as needed for park trees • Maintain current tree planting, establishment care and tree removal services • Utilize enhanced management practices and updated tree species list laid out in this plan • Focus annual tree planting program on Census Tracts with high Priority Planting Score • Continue to implement requirements for removal of Protected Trees 	No additional funding except increased maintenance cost as urban forest increases annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 135 net new park and street trees annually • Results in 14-15% canopy cover in 30 years
2. Increased Planting and Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase tree planting and young tree care to plant additional net 115 trees/year • Provide additional maintenance assistance for establishment and care of new trees • Develop and enforce a Tree Canopy Protection ordinance 	\$450,000 in additional funding annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 net new park and street trees annually • Additional tree canopy protection • Results in approximately 18% canopy cover in 30 years
3. Urban Forester	Hire an Urban Forest Manager position to coordinate City tree program and partner with residents, community organizations and large landowners to coordinate planting 100 trees/year on non-City owned land.	\$250,000 in additional funding annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 net new trees/year • Results in approximately 20% canopy cover in 30 years

Current funding allows the City to meet some key performance metrics.

As the urban forest grows, additional funding and staffing positions are needed to effectively implement the Urban Forest Plan and meet the canopy growth goals of the plan.

Council will provide direction on funding scenarios.

Next Steps



January 27: Public Utilities Board and Planning Board

January 29: In-person Public Workshop

January 30: Virtual Public Workshop

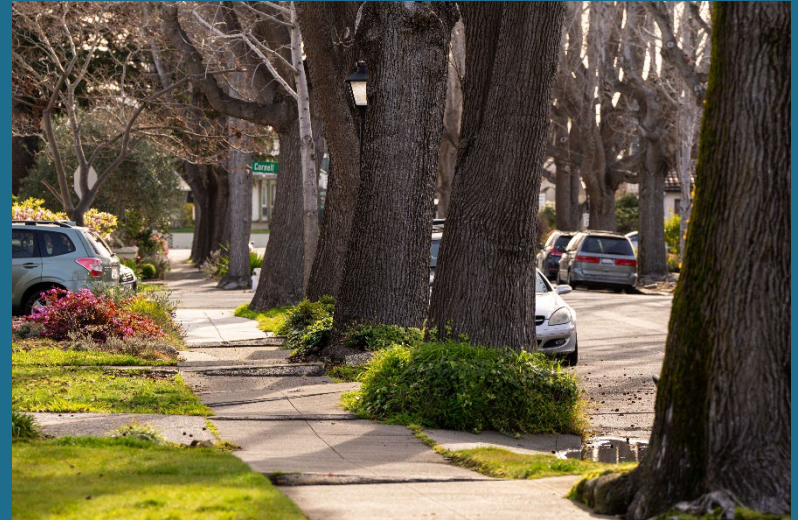
February 4: City Council Study Session

February 6: Historical Advisory Board

February 13: Recreation and Parks Commission

February 14: Public Comment Period Closes

Spring 2025: Final Draft for City Council Adoption



Comment on the Draft Plan

A screenshot of the City of Alameda website. At the top left is the Alameda logo, which consists of a blue anchor with a red heart in the center, above the word "ALAMEDA" in blue. To the right is a search bar with the text "Need help finding something?" and a blue "Search" button. Below this is a red navigation bar with white text for "HOME", "RESIDENTS", "BUSINESS", "YOUR GOVERNMENT", and "CITYWIDE PROJECTS". The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "HOME / Planning • Building • Transportation / Sustainability and Resilience / Urban Forest Plan". The title "Urban Forest Plan" is in large, bold black font. Below the title is an announcement: "Announcement: The Draft Urban Forest Plan Update is available for public comment until February 14, 2025. Read the draft document [here](#) (PDF, 15MB) and provide your input [here](#)." To the right of the text is a smaller version of the Urban Forest Plan logo. Below the logo is a "Contact Us" section with the name "Danielle Mieler, Sustainability and Resilience Manager". On the left side of the main content area, there is a photograph of a park with trees and a path. Overlaid on the top left of the photo is a blue box with white text that says "Share your feedback on the Urban Forest Plan".

Visit www.alamedaca.gov/UFP

- Review and comment on the draft plan using the feedback form **by February 14th**
- Register for public workshops

Recommendation

Review and Comment on Draft Urban Forest Plan

