

City of Alameda

Urban Forest

Public Works: 23,000 trees

Parks: 2,500 trees

Regular Tree Assessment

- ▶ Staff conduct ongoing visual review and assessments.
- ▶ Tree Contractor assesses trees during regular trimming.
- ▶ Residents report hazards and staff respond in 24-hours or less to determine if it is a safety hazard.
 - ▶ Our partnership with residents is key!
- ▶ Public Works has an in-house certified arborist and risk assessor.
 - ▶ Monitors trees and does more in-depth assessments as needed to recommend removal, trimming, maintenance or other.
- ▶ Every city tree is inventoried with its size, variety and health.
- ▶ Parks is providing additional training for staff, including recreation leaders in parks, on safety issues to look for.

Tree Assessment and Maintenance

- ▶ Assessment includes a visual inspection of the canopy, dead branches and mushrooms.
 - ▶ Can also include a soil probe, sounding off or coring for more in-depth review.
- ▶ Maintenance includes trim to reduce canopy weight and keep it healthy, mulch and in some cases, deep watering.
 - ▶ Public Works: 5-year trim cycle with annual trimming by zones.
 - ▶ Parks: All trees trimmed every 5 years with more aggressive trimming for trees that drop things, such as eucalyptus. Playground areas trimmed annually.
- ▶ Keep in mind that totally healthy trees can appear unsafe and vice versa - a tree that looks fine may not be.
- ▶ Staff and tree contractor are on-call during storms.

Tree Removal and Replacement

- ▶ Immediate removal if deemed a safety hazard.
- ▶ 3-day notice if dying or diseased.
- ▶ Public Works: 21-day notice if tree is healthy but in conflict with a utility such as sewer, water, electrical.
- ▶ Parks: 14-day notice and then schedule removal if diseased but is not an immediate safety hazard.

A tree is removed, then what?

- ▶ Public Works: Replaces the tree unless there's a utility conflict, typically in next rainy season and in consultation with adjacent property owner.
- ▶ Parks: Plants more trees than are removed, also in rainy season. Transition the varieties and locations to what is more appropriate and will grow better as well as based on park usage patterns.