

Tree Pruning Cycle Maintenance Occurring in Maintenance Area 4  
Released March 2013

The City of Palo Alto has employed a contractor, West Coast Arborists, to provide routine cycle pruning of street trees in the area bounded by Embarcadero Road, Middlefield Road and San Francisquito Creek (maintenance area 4). This area is comprised of the North Green Gables, Crescent Park, Boyce Addition, Community Center and Walnut Grove neighborhoods. A contract compliance arborist from the City is monitoring the work and is happy to respond to requests or questions from residents. Pruning objectives are individualized for the unique needs of each tree with the focus on clearance for vehicles and pedestrians, risk reduction/protection of public safety, tree health and structure, canopy balance, and simulated natural process. Pruning objectives are bounded by industry standards as well as City of Palo Alto Code and policy. Industry standards for pruning both young and mature trees are described at, <http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/treecareinfo.aspx>.

The cycle of pruning all street trees in the City of Palo Alto takes about 7 years. Branches are selected to be pruned where wounds will rapidly close and the tree will naturally re-allocate growth as needed for a healthier and stronger canopy. Pruning may initially make the tree appear different, but proper selection allows quick recovery. Timing may not be ideal in some situations because workload and budgetary constraints limit the amount of pruning completed each year. We ask for your understanding.

The Urban Forestry Section of the Public Works Department values opinions from residents. Please contact us at (650) 496-5953 if we can assist you.