



FRIENDS OF CARMEL FOREST

"To protect, sustain, and enhance Carmel's forest and green spaces." Winter 2021

State of the Forest

As of January 2021, the following data is available on tree removals:

- 58% of **homeowner** trees removed have not required replacement on a yearly average since 2012.
- 61% of the **city** trees removed in 2020 were **not** replanted.
- **Only** 60% of the **homeowner** trees to be removed in 2020 are required to be replanted.

As one can see, there is cause for concern for our forest. In a short time, there will be very few trees in Carmel unless we come together and replant for the future. *Friends of Carmel Forest* is researching additional tree species along with our City Forester, Sara Davis, that will diversify our forest to prepare for the future challenges of climate change. It is clear some of the species of trees planted historically, like the Monterey Pine, will not survive significant climate change.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this time of uncertainty, we can always find solace and comfort in our beloved Forest-by-the-Sea. We thankfully can still take walks, admire our tree canopy, and experience the trees above our heads. However, while enjoying our forest, we find ourselves at a pivotal point with respect to its health and longevity. Many of our trees, planted in the early 1900's, are approaching the end of their lives. Climate change has challenged them through drought stress, which has left them increasingly vulnerable to pathogens. We seek your help in re-planting the areas of our forest that have been most affected by age and disease. You can sponsor a Tribute Tree, water a young tree near your home, and/or join us in tree planting in your garden or public right of way space. We welcome all ages of volunteers.

Our forest faces other challenges as well. As homes and properties are developed and remodeled, our trees have no voice to be heard other than ours. Please watch out for trees being damaged or unprotected during construction and questionable trimming or removal, especially on the weekends. Speak up at the monthly Forest & Beach Commission meetings and report any suspicious activity with respect to pruning and cutting down trees to the City Forester or to the Carmel Police Department. Support the City in protecting and restoring our forest.

Friends of Carmel Forest are eternally grateful for your support in protecting our beautiful Carmel-by-the-Sea, no matter how you decide to contribute.

— Ramie Allard

NEWS

Mini-Park at 7th Avenue and Monte Verde



Friends of the Carmel Forest along with the Carmel City Public Works Department have completed a sustainable demonstration area for capturing stormwater runoff at the NW corner of 7th and Monte Verde. This area is a mini-park which includes drainage, boulders, two trees and native plants. We look forward to a City Arbor Day event in April to demonstrate and explain the function of our new sustainable mini-park. Please watch for details in the *Pine Cone*.

Seeking Volunteers, Members, and Tree Sponsors

Have fun with like-minded people and help replant our forest. Please consider becoming a member to receive news and information about upcoming events. Volunteer, Membership and Tree Sponsor information can be found at www.carmelforest.org or email us at info@carmelforest.org.

Enjoy Planting - Starting in March, we will be planting once a month throughout Carmel. Volunteers of all ages are welcome.



Monitoring Trees

Also, on a monthly basis, *Friends of Carmel Forest* monitors 118 trees, many of which have been sponsored by the public. Volunteers individually check on the health and moisture of a group of trees in a localized area. Let us know if you would like to monitor trees in your neighborhood.



Making a Difference

The Kossow family sponsored tree on San Antonio and 9th is growing strong, right along with their family. These photos show the difference we can make by planting a tree. In just 4 years this tree has gone from 4 to 14 feet high.



Another Way to Celebrate

Leah Leppert's friends and neighbors thought the best way to celebrate with her in December of 2019 was to sponsor a tree honoring her and her late husband. The neighbors gathered, read poetry, and shared memories over the planting of a beautiful redwood in the Forest Theater parking area. Leah even grabbed the shovel and threw some soil herself!



FUTURE PLANNED GIVING Endowment Giving

An endowment gift provides *Friends of Carmel Forest* with a secure future income stream that can serve several donor designated purposes. The endowed funds are carefully invested by *Community Foundation of Monterey County* and a percentage of the market value is directed to support the needs of Carmel's forest.

Bequests

Providing for *Friends of Carmel Forest* in your estate plan is an easy way of planning a gift that will benefit Carmel's forest. For information on how to provide a bequest gift to *Friends of Carmel Forest* Stewardship Plan, please contact us at 831-917-0348 or info@carmelforest.org.

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, *Friends of Carmel Forest* is an official support group of the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea.

Watering Made Easy

In conversation with *Carmel Cares*, one of our partners in maintaining and renewing Carmel-by-the-Sea's urban forest, the need for a more practical small vehicle came up as a solution to our groups helping with watering.

Working with *Carmel Gives*, *Carmel Cares'* Dale Byrne acquired a John Deere Gator utility vehicle for the City. The Gator is small enough to get around town easily and is fitted with a 100 gallon water tank, hose reel, and electric pump. To involve the community in taking care of our trees, both groups and their trained volunteers are permitted to use the water vehicle to water our sponsored trees. We are grateful to



Sara Davis (pictured), the City Forester and Bob Harary, the Public Works Director for working with the volunteer organizations in improving the efficiency of watering City and *Friends of Carmel Forest* trees.



Barbara Livingston – Saying goodbye to our first Friend of the Carmel Forest

On February 23, 2021, we lost our most fervent advocate for protecting the Carmel-by-the-Sea Forest, Barbara Livingston. If there was something to act on or speak up about with respect to Carmel's peaceful, quaint tree-canopied character, Barbara was in the room. Steve Brooks, co-founding member of *Friends of the Carmel Forest* remembers, "It was summer 1989 when Barbara Livingston and Clayton Anderson invited a small group of tree activists to Barbara's living room. *Friends of Carmel Forest* was born that morning with Barbara-President, Karen Ferlito-Vice-President, Steve Brooks-secretary and Bob Kohn-Treasurer. Steve is still our Treasurer today. Barbara was a motivator and mentor for many of us to become involved and speak up about issues that are threatening our little town character. Her energy was infectious.

"Barbara Livingston was a tireless advocate for Carmel-

by-the-Sea which she called A-Village-in-a-Forest, and fought for the residential character of our Village with a ferocity and passion unsurpassed by anyone. As the founding President of *Friends of Carmel Forest*, she continued to champion the Urban Forest the



rest of her life. When we make decisions about the future of our village we would be wise to ask 'What would Barbara say or do about this?'" – Karen Ferlito

"On her 90th birthday," recalled Steve Brooks, "Barbara hosted a party at Mission Ranch for over 100 people. Instead of gifts she

encouraged donations for a 'street calming' project – tree islands at intersections on lower San Carlos. If there is a forest in heaven, Barbara will be its protector."

Greg D'Ambrosio, former city forester of Carmel-by-the-Sea said, "I can't get Barbara out of my head. She is imprinted, seared in my thoughts every step I take when walking our village. She is everywhere on Carmel's landscape: the forest, parks, greenbelts, the beach, the village architecture, preservation, special events, all of it and now part of it's soul. I will miss her until the day I join her and other close friends toasting all the good fights protecting and preserving our little village, knowing full well that all the energy expended was worth it. A good life well lived."

Barbara, we will always miss your energy, smile, political awareness, and mentorship to do the right thing here in Carmel-by-the-Sea. – Ramie Allard