

at home in the forest

we are one in five

Cambria lies in one of five remaining native Monterey pine forests in the world — three on the Central Coast and two on islands off Baja California, Mexico. The Monterey pine is on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of threatened/endangered species.

Our Cambria stand has shrunk by more than one third since 1965. The forest used to reach from the top of Lodge Hill to the sea. Residential building, disease, and vegetation removal have been major factors in the forest's decline.

we are not alone

Our Monterey pine and oak forest provides shelter for many species of resident and migratory birds that have lived there for thousands of years. The forest provides food and shelter for a myriad of plant and animal species, each of which plays its part in maintaining the delicate balance of our local climate and ecosystem.

a tree is more than just a tree

Over its lifetime, each tree provides a value of more than \$67,000 in services including carbon sequestering, rainfall and fog enhancement, soil retention, aquifer replenishment and fresher, cleaner air, as well as increased privacy, more moisture, and reduced glare, noise, water runoff and loss of soil.

how you can help

- **Limit fences around your property.** Animals need access to the forest, to waterways and for grazing.
- **Landscape with native plants.** They use little water and provide food and habitat for native species.
- **Maintain trees, shrubs and native plants around your property for habitat and nourishment of the forest.**
- **Remove invasive non-native plants that can increase fire danger.**

what you need to know

1. Cambria lies in the California Coastal Zone, which falls under the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission. Construction and tree removal are restricted and regulated in the Coastal Zone, and permits are generally required for these activities.

2. All of Cambria is an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA). Monterey Pine and Coast Live Oak trees are protected species.

the law

- **A permit is required to cut down any tree, dead or alive (limited exemptions are detailed in the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance, section 23.05.062 - 064.) Violators (including contractors) are subject to fines.**
- **Property owners are also subject to mandatory tree replacement at the appropriate ratio.**
- **Contact SLO County Code Enforcement at 805 781 5705 to learn more.**

preserve a unique heritage

where to buy trees

Only *Pinus radiata* var. *macrocarpa*, the native Monterey pine tree, should be used for replacement of any pine tree removed. Seedlings are available from Greenspace – The Cambria Land Trust, which can also plant them on one of its protected properties for property owners who cannot plant on their own land. Call 805 927 2866 for details.

how to care for your Monterey pines

- **Water the drip zone:** Rain cascades off the tree's canopy and drips to the ground. That outer edge is the drip zone where the strongest feeder roots gather moisture.
- **Deep and slow:** Water trees deeply and infrequently, once a week in hot dry weather, less in the rainy season. Water slowly and several feet from the trunk so soil can absorb the moisture.
- **Time it right:** Water early in the morning or after sunset; that's when trees naturally replace water they've lost to heat during the day. This also cuts evaporation.
- **The right way:** Apply water directly to the drip zone with a hose on a gentle trickle, soaker hose, drip lines or buckets placed away from the trunk. Apply water in several places along the drip zone, spaced 2 to 3 feet apart, allowing the water to soak in. Try this: Take a 5-gallon bucket and puncture two or three holes in the bottom. Place the bucket directly on the soil under the edge of the tree's canopy and fill with water. The water will slowly seep into the soil. Move the bucket and repeat until the root zone is irrigated.
- **Easy does it:** Prune only if absolutely necessary. Do not fertilize a tree under drought stress.
- **Mulch:** Fallen leaves provide natural moisture control and also break down, adding nutrients to the soil. Mimic that with mulch. Spread organic mulch (wood chips, bark, straw, shredded leaves, pine needles, compost) in a circle around the tree, 2 to 4 inches thick and at least 3 feet from the trunk. Avoid rocks as mulch; they absorb heat, stress roots and increase a tree's water needs.
- **Eliminate competition:** Remove lawn growing directly under the tree and replace with bark or organic mulch.

trees come first!

Native trees should be the first priority for outdoor watering.

Flowers can be quickly replaced; trees take decades. Brown lawns can bounce back; dead trees can't.

Keep your trees alive and reap a host of benefits!

trees & power lines

- Only plant a tree under power lines if it will grow to less than 25 feet at maturity.
- Call 811 at least two days before planting trees, to have underground power lines and other utilities marked.
- Keep all trees at least 10 feet away from high-voltage electric power lines.

to learn more

- cambriaforestcommittee.org
- greenspacecambria.org
- beautifycambria.org