



# *Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed*

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## Policy Regarding Vegetation Management on Private Property

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Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed on occasion is asked by private parties to comment on vegetation management on their properties, usually when a development is proposed. Sometimes this takes the form of requests to support the retention of existing vegetation and sometimes to support its removal. These principles summarize Friends' position:

1. Friends recognizes that development has displaced much native habitat, and replaced native plant species with non-native species, at the expense of wildlife. Some of these plants naturalize and spread to other areas; others—including most ornamental plants—do not.
2. Friends advocates the planting of native plant species on private parcels, as some wildlife may benefit even from fragmented habitat.
3. Friends supports the removal of invasive vegetation and its replacement with appropriate native planting. The following are invasive species of particular concern in our area: acacias, French broom, Scotch broom, cherry plum, cotoneaster, Cape ivy, English ivy, Algerian ivy, blue gum eucalyptus, giant reed (*Arundo donax*), hawthorns, Himalaya blackberry, pampas grass, jubata grass, Harding grass, periwinkle and privet.
4. Friends would not support a development project solely because it involves the removal of invasive plants. The support extends only to the removal of the invasive plants and their replacement with a selection of native plants and at a density of spacing appropriate to the site.