

Marin County CWPP Accomplishment Report for 2017

CWPP - Key Goals and Action Items

Goal 1. Continue to identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property, and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, wildlife habitat, and other values of functioning ecosystems.

- Continue to collect, analyze, and maintain multi-agency hazard and resource GIS data.
- Maintain an accessible online GIS portal to store and share the multi-agency maps and data developed throughout this CWPP process.
- Utilize the GIS information and modeling results presented in Section 5 of this CWPP for pre-fire planning, and to collaboratively develop priorities for projects throughout the county.
- Develop an inventory of structures with shake and shingle roofing material in each jurisdiction to identify and target education efforts and the need for roof conversions.
- Consider ways to improve the coverage of the fire detection cameras.
- Consider ways to use drone technology for fire protection.

Goal 2. Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning related to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.

- Continue to promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and landowner responsibilities; identify the key minimum elements necessary to achieve a fire safe community and incorporate these elements into community outreach materials and programs.
- Continue to implement the structural ignitability activities outlined in Section 7.2.
- Develop outreach materials outlined in Section 7.1.1.
- Coordinate with county and local government staff to integrate Firewise approaches into planning documents and ordinances.
- Identify approaches to increase the number of WUI properties inspected each year.
- Continue to support community chipper programs to encourage compliance with defensible space and vegetation management requirements.
- Continue the structure ignitability efforts currently in place (see Section 7.2).
- Consider how to make the tree removal process less cumbersome and less expensive.

Goal 3. Support and continue to participate in the collaborative development and implementation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, county, and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.

- Work collaboratively with county, local, and regional agencies and landowners to develop fuel reduction priorities and strategies based on this CWPP, local CWPPs, and/or other regional plans.
- Support the development and implementation of local-scale CWPPs.
- Provide a collaboration mechanism between private property owners (and Home Owners Associations) and large land owners (i.e., MCOSSD, MMWD, NPS)
- Consider the creation of transition zones (areas between developed residential areas and open space areas) where additional defensible space or additional vegetation clearance is needed.

Goal 4. Increase awareness, knowledge, and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and fuels reduction activities, and fire prevention through fire safe building standards.

- Continue to implement the defensible space and outreach activities outlined in Section 7.2.
 - Develop outreach materials outlined in Section 7.1.1.
 - Continue inter-agency coordination with Marin's fire service community and other partners to maintain a community presence and to develop and distribute public information regarding fuel reduction efforts throughout the county.
 - Educate landowners, residents, and business owners about the risks and personal responsibilities of living in the wildlands, including applicable regulations and prevention measures and preplanning activities.
 - Continue efforts to partner with neighborhoods located in WUI area to educate them on becoming fire adapted or Firewise communities.
 - Continue to educate and prepare communities through an emphasis on the Ready, Set, Go! and the Firewise community programs, and create and support venues in which individual community members can be actively involved in local fire safe councils, community emergency response teams, and other community-based efforts in order to develop readiness plans and educate landowners to mitigate the risks and effects of wildland fire.
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- Continue to increase education and awareness about structural ignitability and defensible space; develop and distribute educational materials to vendors and contractors who sell or install fire resistant materials, and make these materials available at local home improvement stores.
 - Increase the number of annual defensible space inspections and increase enforcement.
 - Consider providing defensible space financial assistance for senior citizens.
 - Better enforce defensible space compliance with absentee property owners.
 - Develop and distribute more information about fire resistant landscaping.
 - Create a fire blog.
 - Develop an App for evacuation route information.

Goal 5. Integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state, and federal responsibility areas.

- Continue to implement the vegetation management and fuel reduction activities outlined in Section 7.2.
 - Continue implementation of the countywide fuel break and fire plan implementation.
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- Continue to implement and maintain vegetation management projects along highly-traveled roadways and access points into all public lands in order to minimize ignitions.
 - Prioritize evacuation routes for fuel reduction programs
 - Develop traffic congestion controls along evacuation routes
 - Implement stronger parking enforcement along evacuation routes
 - Continue to maintain foot trail network in Mill Valley
 - Implement maintenance program for foot trail network in Fairfax
 - Encourage community-level drills for evacuation preparedness
 - Develop a program to address fuel reduction on vacant properties.
 - Consider grazing as a fuel reduction strategy.
 - Consider if additional vegetation reduction are required from roadways that are key evacuation routes into or out of a particular neighborhood

- Create extended or enhanced vegetation fuels management along all identified evacuation routes from developed residential and open space areas.
- Create transition zones to extend shaded fuel breaks between developed residential areas and open space areas.
- Identify and implement vegetation management projects in priority WUI communities throughout the county.
- Work to reduce regulatory barriers that limit hazardous fuels reduction activities (e.g., tree removal process).
- Use the published science on fire ecology to assess the costs, benefits, and best implementation tools for different fuels reduction and vegetation management strategies that are intended to reduce fire risk to lives and property.
- Continue to develop strategic partnerships and funding opportunities with local industries to support fuel reduction projects.

Agency/Department Accomplishments

San Rafael Fire Department

Goal 2.

- Created and staffed FT Vegetation Management Specialist position
- Re-staffed PT Vegetation Management Specialist position
- Mailed 1,397 Vegetation Notices to residents of Loch Lomond, Peacock Gap, and Glenwood educating the residents on Juniper removal and offering Free Chipper Services

Goal 3

- Consider, plan and implement expansion of San Rafael City's WUI zone

Goal 4

- Conducted community outreach and informational to the following neighborhood meetings on Defensible Space, Disaster Preparedness and FireWise:
Loch Lomond HOA
Dominican HOA
Sun Valley HOA
The Oaks HOA
Cala Vista Neighborhood Meeting
Baypoint HOA

Goal 5

- Conducted 1,850 WUI Inspections resulting in 371 WUI code pre-citation's
- 124 Juniper residents into compliance with over 216 cubic yards removed from their properties
- 400,000 pounds of vegetation and flammable debris removed from residential land in the Wildlife-Urban Interface (WUI)
- 45.5 acres of city open space and 130 acres of fire trails, open-space watersheds, and headwalls cleared by Public Works cleared by a combination of Goat Grazing and work crews.
- 371 WUI code enforcement actions resulting from WUI inspections and an 80% compliance rate.
- 124 Juniper residents into compliance with over 216 cubic yards removed from their properties.
- 257,355 lbs of vegetation cleared from private parcels from pre-cite actions
- 105,000 flammable debris removed from private and public parcels
- 45.5 acres of city open space and 130 acres of fire trails, open-space watersheds, and headwalls cleared by Public Works

Bolinas Volunteer Fire Department

Goal 3.

- Defensible space inspections on xxx residences
- Hosted Community Fire Preparedness Meeting for 75 residents

Central Marin Fire Department

Goal 1.

- Firewise, defensible space, and emergency preparedness presentations were made to the following Home Owners Associations and neighborhoods.
 - Casa Madera HOA, Corte Madera
 - Chapman Park Neighborhood, Corte Madera
 - Christmas Tree Hill, Corte Madera
 - Madera Del Presidio HOA, Corte Madera
 - Blue Rock Neighborhood, Larkspur
 - Spyglass Hill HOA, Larkspur
- Community Education – held community forums on emergency wildfire preparedness

Goal 5.

- Evacuation Route vegetation clearing
 - Corte Madera - Meadowsweet / Casa Buena evacuation route improvement.
 - Larkspur – Madrone Canyon evacuation route improvement.

Kentfield Fire Department

- **Awareness:**
Defensible space and emergency preparedness presentation made to the KWPOA
Contacted and educated property owners on defensible space requirements
Distribution of Defensible Space and Hardening your Home information
“Wildfire is coming, are you ready” campaign
- **Implementation:**
Completion of 400, 4291 defensible space inspections in the SRA
Partnership with Marin County Parks and CSA 17
Berens Drive Fuel Reduction Project on States Lands
- **Evacuation Routes:**
Crown Road to Cornet evacuation route enhancement and maintenance
Woodland Road to Good Hill Road (Kentwoodlands) – emergency access/evacuation route enhancement and maintenance

FIRESafe Marin

- Partnered with Marin County Fire Chiefs – Fire Prevention Officers Committee to increase public awareness and education materials on fire preparedness county wide.
 - Marin Transit – bus PSA **GET READY** campaign
 - Staffed FSM booth at San Rafael Farmers Market, attended and made presentations to numerous HOAs, and Marin Valley Mobile Country Club FIREWISE workshop
 - Numerous presentations to HOAs on FIREWISE community program countywide.

- Updated website and education materials and fire resistant plant list, and Newsletters.
- Continued efforts to educate communities through emphasis on Ready, Set, Go and FIREWISE USA community programs.

Marin County Fire Department

Goal 1.

- Ongoing work to make CWPP fire analysis data available for the fire and land management agencies through the use of Marin Map.

Goal 2.

- Dedicated defensible space inspections on 3500 residences in SRA and CSA 19.
- Partnered with FSM in Chipper Days for Inverness.

Goal 3.

- Tam Fire Crew -on going fire hazard reduction projects for land management agencies and local large private landowners on fuel reduction, Hill Ranch, Rock H Ranch, Bothin Girl Scout Camp, Sky Walker, National Park Service –Lamintour Road & Inverness NPS boundary, Parks and Open Space –Blithdale & Ridgecrest Ridge, Rancho Santa Margarita HOA.
- Conducted fire insurance hazard assessments for various homeowners

Goal 4.

- Defensible space flyers mailed to 8000 residents in SRA
- Hosted 2 Green Waste weekends with West Marin Compost
- Defensible space inspections including distribution of fire educational material on 3500 properties
- Presented information to 5 HOAs on defensible space program, READY, SET, GO, & FIRESafe Marin.
- Provided defensible space services to 2 senior property owners.
- Contacted numerous absentee property owners on defensible space requirements

Goal 5.

- Quarterly coordination meetings with Parks and Open Space on Road and Trail management plan for fire roads and fire access.
- Provided fire road maintenance to Spirit Rock, Rancho Santa Margarita, Bothin GS Camp, Marinwood CSD Queenstone, and Fitzpatrick Ranch.
- Prioritization, inventory and evaluation of primary evacuation routes and roads in Woodacre, San Geronimo, Lagunitas, Forest Knolls, Inverness, Panoramic Hwy side streets.
- Provided services for fuel reduction and maintenance to Mill Valley Fire and Parks and Open Space on the Blithdale Ridge Fire Road/Fuel break.
- Cleared evacuation routes of excess vegetation in Woodacre, Inverness /Mt Vision Road.

Marin County Open Space District

Goal 1.

- Marin County Parks collects and stores resource data as part of implementation of the Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan which was completed in 2016.
 - Continued development and implementation of CalFlora database for collecting vegetation data, including weeds, weed treatments, and sensitive species.
 - OneTam partnership helps collaborate with database development and data collection across agency boundaries.

Goal 3.

- Marin County Parks participates in collaborative efforts through membership on the board of FIRESafe MARIN.

- Conducted site visits and planning with Kentfield Fire and Marin County Fire representatives regarding transition zone defensible space projects.
- Conducted site visits and planning with Novato Fire regarding neighborhood defensible space projects.

Goal 4.

- Annual fire letters were mailed to 3,000 open space neighbors encouraging defensible space maintenance actions and outlining the permit process for work on open space property within defensible space.
- Site visits were made and permits issued, as needed, in response to defensible space permit inquiries.
- Distributed County Fire “Ready” brochure to neighbors during site visits.
- Staff participated in Firewise community events, e.g. Pacheco Valley.

Goal 5.

- Mowed 250 acres of defensible space within preserves.
- Conducted 250 acres of mowing and pruning along emergency access routes within preserves.
- Mowed ignition prevention areas along roadsides and trailheads.
- Continued grazing for flashy fuel reduction.
 - Mount Burdell: 1,292 acres
 - King Mountain: 10 acres
 - Horse Hill: 54 acres
- Thinned understory vegetation to maintain shaded fuelbreaks and keep fire road roadsides clear of dense vegetation.
 - 46 acres at Camino Alto
 - 18 acres at Blithedale Summit
 - 8 acres at Terra Linda / Sleepy Hollow Divide
 - 33 acres at Alto Bowl
- Removed 38 pine trees up to 25” dbh at Marlin Fire Road as part of PG&E grant to clear lines, and reduce fuels in defensible space as well as along emergency access road; this project was a joint effort of Marin County Parks, Mill Valley Fire, FireSafe Marin, PG&E, with approval/support from the neighboring community.
- Partnered with Mill Valley Fire to mow 16 acres and conduct brush thinning along the sides of Blithedale Ridge Fire Road.
- Mowed or removed over 20 acres of roadside and understory vegetation along fire roads to keep clear of dense vegetation.

Marin Municipal Water District

Goal 1.

- MMWD began collecting fine scale fuel reduction data spatially in the Calflora database, in addition to its current use for weed removal and sensitive species location information.
 - One Tam partnership helps collaborate with database development and data collection across agency boundaries.

Goal 3.

- MMWD participates in collaborative efforts through membership on the board of FIRESafe MARIN.
- Removed hazardous Monterey pine trees and other surface fuels at Panoramic Highway parcel near Throckmorton Fire Station for risk reduction and neighbor defensible space.

Goal 4.

- Annual fire letters were mailed to 60 watershed neighbors encouraging defensible space maintenance actions and outlining the permit process for work on watershed property within defensible space zone.
- Staff presented on Firewise and defensible space landscaping to Marin Master Gardeners.

Goal 5.

- Conducted 250 acres of fuel reduction work in fuel breaks on watershed lands adjacent to neighborhoods and along strategic ridge top roads.
- Performed additional 45 acres of weed removal along roadsides.
- Performed follow-up understory removal on 10 acres of resilient forest study plots on Bolinas Ridge. This project seeks to measure improvements in hazard reduction, carbon sequestration, and soil water yield resulting from understory vegetation
- Worked with PG&E to allow removal of hazardous large trees, clearing along high-risk power lines supporting MMWD pumps and treatment plant facilities.

Mill Valley Fire Department

Goal 1.

- Defensible space video shows at Sequoia Theater
- Defensible space post cards mailed to community
- Conducted fire insurance hazard assessments for various homeowners.

Goal 4.

- Recertification of FIREWISE Communities: Scott Valley, Mill Valley Meadows, Scott Highland, Blithedale Highland
- Attended City Community and City HOA Leadership meetings.
- Upgraded defensible space garden

Goal 5.

- Paved road fuel reduction on: Bayview Ave, El Capitan, Fern Canyon Rd, Magee Ave, Marguerite Ave, Myrtle Ave, Ralston Ave, Summit Ave, Tamapais Ave, Blithedale Terrace, Corte Madera Ave, Cottage Ave, Eldridge Ave, King St, Marsh Drive, Melody Lane, West Blithedale, Coronet Ave, Greenwood Way, Stetson Ave, Upland Ave and Woodbine Ave, Bolsa Ave, Circle Ave, Elinor Ave, Hillcrest Ave, Hillside Ave and Oakdale Ave, Baytree Ave, Buena Vista, Country Club Dr, Dawn Pl, Glen Dr, Heather Way, Heather Ln, Magdalena, Sarah Dr, Sheridan Ct, Tartan Rd and Vista Linda Dr, Alvarado Ave, Del Casa Dr, Elaine Ave, Fairway Dr, Manor Dr, Marlin Ave, Rowan Way and Val Vista Rd, Ethel Ave, Janes St, Mirabel Ave, Sunrise Ave, Upper and Lower Wildomar, Edgewood Ave, Helens Ave, Molino Ave, Montford Ave and Sunrise Ave.
- Implemented multiple cypress removal projects
- Implemented on going fuel reduction projects with city an open space fuel reduction, on Blithdale Ridge Fuel break, Camino Alto paved road fuel reduction, T Ditch fuel reduction, SLP
- Sponsored numerous chipper projects

Novato Fire Department

Goal 1.

- All GIS maps and data for roads and hydrants have been turned over to Marin County Mapping Project coordinator Scott Alber.

Goal 2.

- Updated general plan, safety elements for City of Novato to include Cal Fire requirements
- Updated NFD web page targeting Firewise and Fire Safe information.
- Created a pocket card for crews with Firewise and alert marin speaking points
- Created and mailed over 10,000 annual WUI awareness information postcards
- Incorporated interactive WUI maps located on NFD Website
- FSM brochure given out at all community events
- Vegetation Management Matching Grant Program implemented for HOA's and individual homeowners: 31 total grants dispersed totaling \$30,000 benefitting 15 homeowners and 16 HOA's.
- 283 Home evaluations completed
- 183 vegetation complaints investigated
- Created juniper maps for the MVMCC for prescription vegetation removal

Goal 3.

- Ongoing participation in FIRESafe Marin.
- Allocated 17/18 budget funds for elements of a local scale CWPP
- Applied for a grant to extend a shaded fuel break behind local HOA properties into Marin County Open Space lands.

Goal 4

- Promoted Firewise, created postcard for community focusing on Fire Safe and Firewise, in progress on web page targeting Firewise and Fire Safe information.
- Pocket card completed for crews on speaking points.
- Partnered with two communities for Firewise designation.
- Updated ordinance to the 2016 CFC Chapter 49 requirements for defensible space.
- Coordination with FSM and Marin FPO's completed through mailer campaign.
- Pre-fire season weed abatement notices to previously identified areas of concern.
- 16 neighborhoods identified and targeted for Firewise consideration,; of those 2 have become Firewise certified; of the remaining 14, 7 have been contacted for NFD presentations.
- Supporting local attendance at FSM by Firewise community reps.
- Participate in CERT training.
- Participate and support in Get Ready training.
- Developed cooperative relationship with both City and County Code Enforcement to assist with absentee property owners.
- FSM Brochure and Vegetation Management Standard and approved Plant list available on our website.

Goal 5

- Promoted Firewise.
- Updated ordinance to the 2016 CFC Chapter 49 requirements for defensible space, need additional considerations on how to implement.
- Tam Crew - fuel break in Novato
- Applied for grant for 2 fuel reduction projects, Wilson extension and Old Ranch.
- Blackpoint evacuation map and presentation given.
- Vegetation Projects completed in areas of concern ;
 - Wildhorse Valley -Fire wise-Contacted to begin the process - Hosted two community Chipper Days
 - Bahia - Firewise Contact Completed VMP and is in the process of implementing it. Hosted two community Chipper Days
 - Marin Valley - Fire Wise Designation Completed, 100 ft. fuel break, removing fire prone plants from defensible space areas
 - Blackpoint – Implemented a \$27,500 grant to improve evacuation route in 2016.
 - Indian Valley - 2 Community Chipper Days, evacuation routes on Old Ranch and Wilson and Gage - in progress –
 - Novato Heights Hosted two community Chipper Days
 - Pacheco Valle - Firewise Designation, Hosted 2 Community Chipper Days, Implementing the removal of fire prone plants in defensible spaces, applied for a Western States Grant for additional defensible space up to 200 ft.
- Additional Fuel Reduction Projects Completed
 - Hayes/ Adam Street - City Open Space Project \$11,000- 824 yards 1.6 acres treated
 - Black Point Evacuation Routes PG&E Project\$ 27,500 - 24 acres treated –
 - Hamilton City Open Space-\$10,000- 592 yards and 3.5 acres

Ross Valley Fire Department

Goal 3.

- Defensible space inspections conducted on 900 residents in Sleepy Hollow
- Update structure defense zones within RVFD and implement with OES for notifications (in process)

Goal 4.

- 1 Fire Wise community recognition (Sleepy Hollow)
- Conducted 3 community meetings for Cascade, San Gabriel, Meadow Lands to guide them thru FIREWISE USA process.

Goal 5.

- Collaboration with land owners on fuel break on Mather Road in Sleepy Hollow

Southern Marin Fire Department

Goal 3:

- 2017, Homestead Valley (with SMFD) gained designation as a Firewise Community – and may be the largest single such community in Marin County.
- The Marin Drive Structure Protection Group is a developing organization of about 250 properties are planning several events in the first half of 2018 including a Get Ready class and an Evacuation Drill.

Goal 4:

- An education session on the subject of fire risk mitigation was conducted at the TCSD Community Center.
- New red-flag signs were installed and vegetation was cleared around those signs and several fire hydrants.
- Numerous (400) vegetation risk assessments were done on properties within the District

Goal 5:

- Grant program to TCSD from USFS - Chipper Day program was conducted in Tamalpais Valley included about 1,850 developed parcels, 15% participation (273+ parcels) resulting in about 250 cubic yards of chipped material being recycled as green-waste; removal of numerous trees, mostly eucalyptus. Specifically, 30 large eucalyptus on public property near private-property-structures.
- Equivalent work was performed by private property owners. This consisted of cutting and stacking the material for the tree companies on the Chipper Days and removal of various trees on the private properties. Additional work was done on property owned by other agencies (for example, Marin County Open Space, Marin County DPW, GGNRA); this work was coordinated with the grant work and was funded by those agencies.
- Grant (funds from PG&E) work performed to improve emergency vehicle accessibility and lessen risk to utility assets. This vegetation clearing/removal work took place on several sections of roads that are not-county-maintained and, once cleared, would be useful in emergency situations. Work was done on an approximate total of 2 miles along 9 different roads resulting in the disposal of about 80 cubic yards of chipped material.

Tiburon Fire Department

Goal 1:

- Tiburon Fire Protection District (TFPD) has been actively using the Marin Maps database to assess hydrant installations along Paradise Drive in concert with Marin Fire Chief's Fire Flow Improvement Plan.
- Continued work with FM Scott Alber on Marin County Mapping project to provide accurate mapping information within Tiburon, Belvedere and Unincorporated Tiburon /Marin County.
- TFPD looking into purchasing a Drone for Vegetation Management Inspections and Pre- Planning purposes.

Goal 2:

- Worked with local Fire in Marin speaker to host educational seminar at Town Of Tiburon Town Hall Council Chambers that reached 60 plus residents.
- Fire Prevention staff have participated in 4 HOA meetings and presentations for Defensible Space and Vegetation Management best practices.
- TFPD supported Town of Tiburon Chipper program to reduce fire prone vegetation in the Open Space.

- TFPD and Town of Tiburon have collaborated on a dead tree expedited permit issuance program that resulted in waived fees for homeowners removing dead trees verified dead by the District. This system resulted in over 2 dozen trees being removed as fire hazards in the District.
- Work with City of Belvedere on the identical system for dead trees, to be launched in 2018.

Goal 3:

- Deputy Fire Marshal is to liaison with Town of Tiburon Parks, Opens Space and Trails Commission in implementation of 2010 Fuels management study for Tiburon owned parcels.
- Belvedere City Manager briefed on Vegetation Management needs for Belvedere starting in 2018.
- TFPD interceded to bring 2 large parcel owners together for a fuel reduction project using shared resources.

Goal 4:

- TFPD added more wild fire curriculum into Get Ready94920 program and team teaching with Tiburon/Belvedere Emergency Coordinator.
- Attended 20 individual homeowner site visits for fuel reduction efforts.

Goal 5:

- TFPD continues to enhance Engine Company WUI inspections to include Fire Prone Species recognition.
- Deputy Fire Marshal continuing Design Review of WUI and Non-WUI vegetation Management plans during development stage.
- Working with Town of Tiburon on Abatement of Dangerous Building Code sections to support vacant and unkept properties to become compliant.
- Working with Tiburon to create transition zone from encapsulated open space below Sugarloaf and Place Moulin for fire breaks.