



Ross Valley Fire Department

Defensible Space/ Vegetation
Management in the Ross
Valley

Presented by:

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Wildfire Preparedness Coordinator



Ross Valley Fire Department

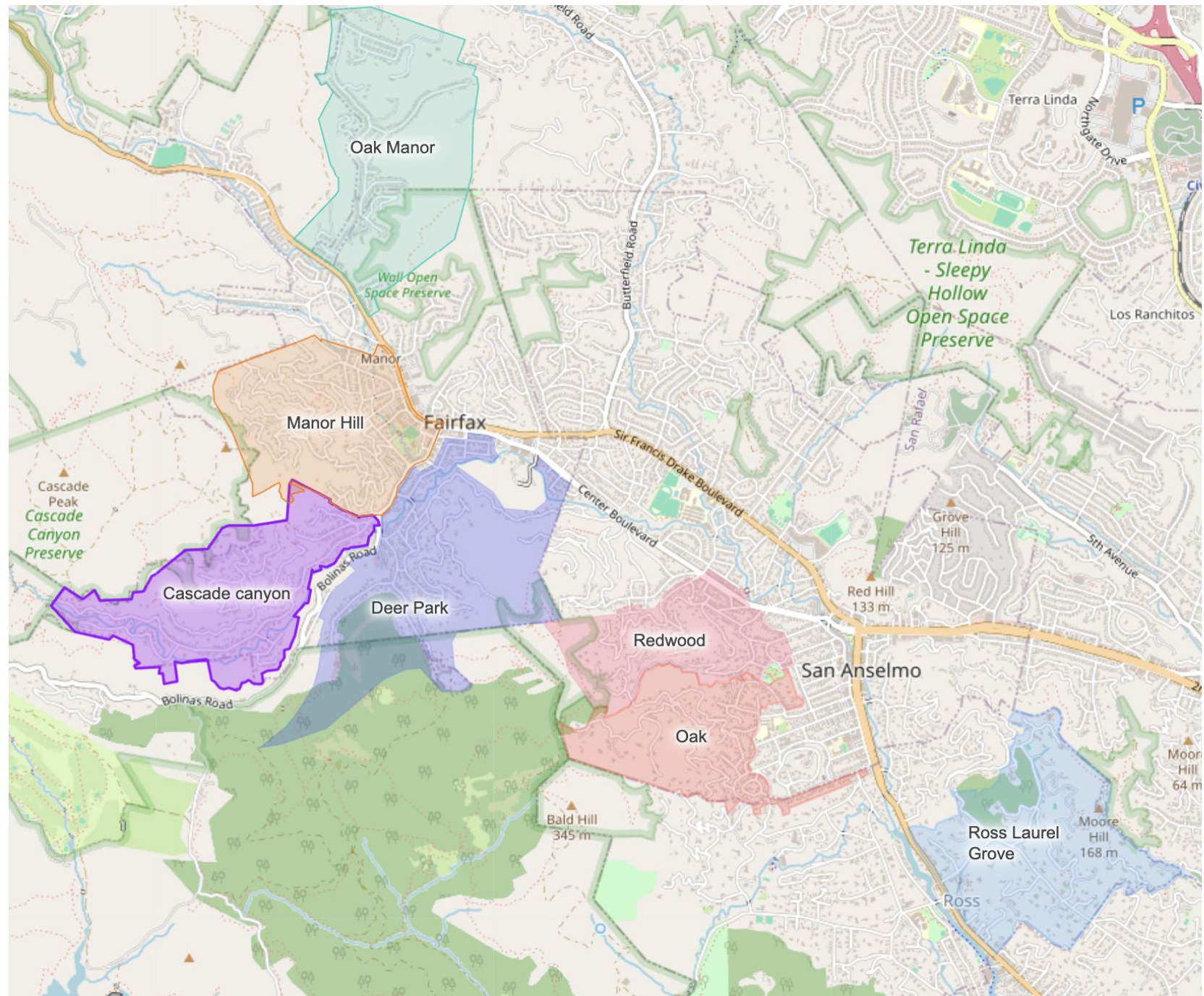
Properties Inspected	2,493 (70 did not receive a reinspection)
Re-Inspections Completed	2,338
Total Inspections	4,901
Engagement within 15 days	2,489 (50.77%)

10 Most Common Defensible Space Items



Hazard	Number of Recorded Issues/Violations
Vegetation in Zone 0	2,279
Ladder Fuels	813
Tree Limbs Overhang Structure	672
Tree Requires Limbing	326
Combustible Growth Near Roadway	279
Patio Furniture Cushions	373
Combustible Doormats	359
Leaf or Needle Litter on Ground	429
Grasses and Weeds	283
Rosemary	355

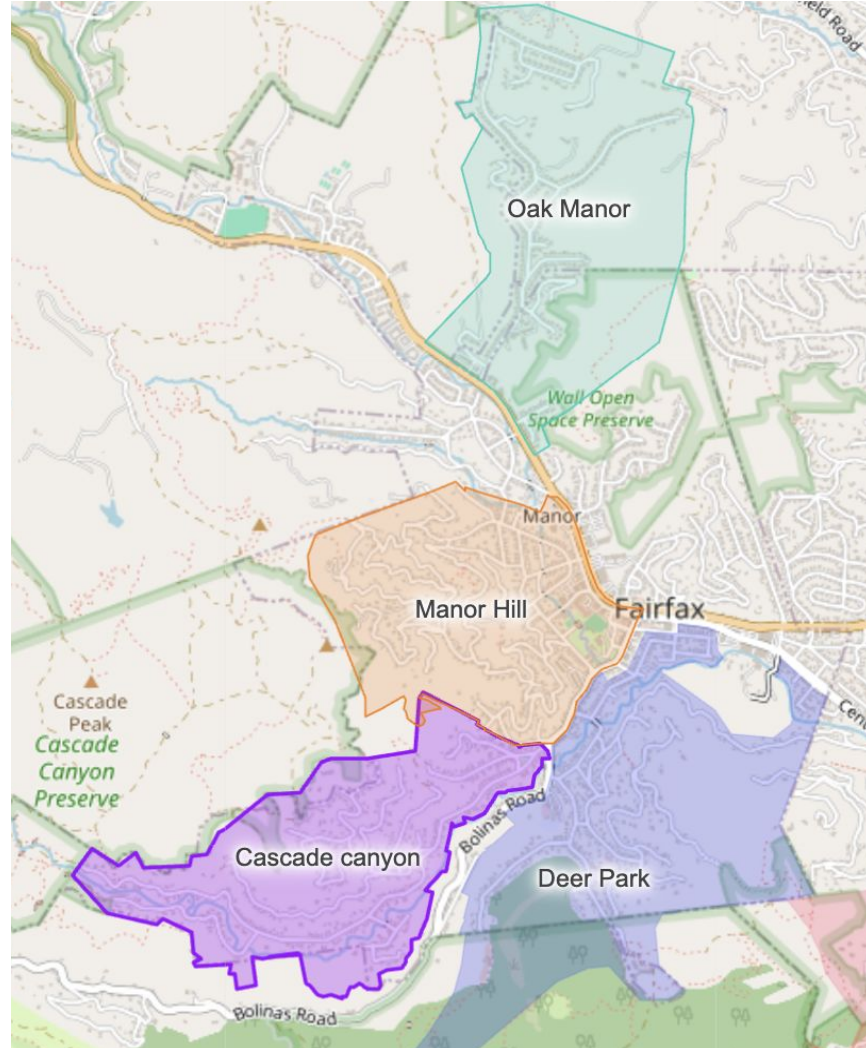
Inspection Zones





Town of Fairfax

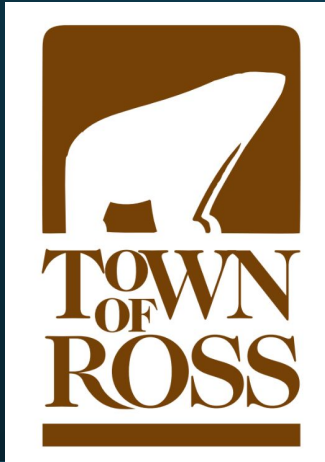
Properties Inspected	1,652 (47 did not receive a reinspection)
Re-Inspections Completed	1,563
Total Inspections	3,262
Report Open Rate	1,694 (51.90%)



10 Most Common Defensible Space Items



Hazard	Number of Recorded Issues/Violations
Vegetation in Zone 0	1,439
Ladder Fuels	487
Tree Limbs Overhang Structure	439
Tree Requires Limbing	200
Patio Furniture Cushions	250
Combustible Doormats	205
Other Combustibles Near Structure	186
Leaf or Needle Litter on Ground	311
Grasses and Weeds	237
Rosemary	232



Town of Ross

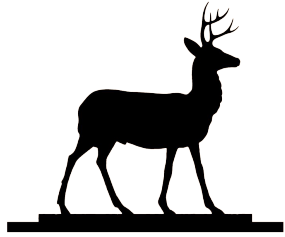
Properties Inspected	186 (18 did not receive a reinspection)
Re-Inspections Completed	168
Total Inspections	360
Report Open Rate	163 (45.10%)



10 Most Common Defensible Space Items



Hazard	Number of Recorded Issues/Violations
Vegetation in Zone 0	225
Ladder Fuels	114
Tree Limbs Overhang Structure	58
Tree Requires Limbing	44
Combustible Growth Near Roadway	41
Combustible Doormats	29
Patio Furniture Cushions	27
Combustible Mulch	26
Rosemary	31
Broom Plants	27



TOWN OF
SAN ANSELMO
EST. 1907

Town of San Anselmo

Properties Inspected	650 (17 did not receive a reinspection)
Re-Inspections Completed	607
Total Inspections	1,274
Report Open Rate	627 (49.22%)



10 Most Common Defensible Space Items



Hazard	Number of Recorded Issues/Violations
Vegetation in Zone 0	609
Ladder Fuels	210
Tree Limbs Overhang Structure	173
Combustible Growth Near Roadway	88
Tree Requires Limbing	81
Combustible Doormats	125
Patio Furniture Cushions	95
Combustible Mulch	70
Leaf or Needle Litter on Ground	91
Rosemary	90



Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District

Sleepy Hollow is on a bi-annual inspection rotation. They did not receive any inspections this year but will receive them next year.

•Inspection Schedule

- No inspections conducted this year — district resources were focused on the Direct Assistance Program targeting Zone 0 vegetation removal
- The entire district will be inspected next year

•Direct Assistance Program Overview

- Launched in 2022 by the Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District
- Provides free hazardous vegetation removal and disposal using a local, licensed contractor
- Initially focused on removing hazardous species such as:
 - Bamboo
 - Juniper
 - Italian cypress
 - Dead trees

•Program impact since inception:

- Over 100 residents have received assistance

•2025 Program Focus

- Shifted focus to Zone 0 vegetation removal and vent screening upgrades
- Added support for additional preparedness improvements
- Over a dozen homes assisted this year in preparing for wildfire resilience

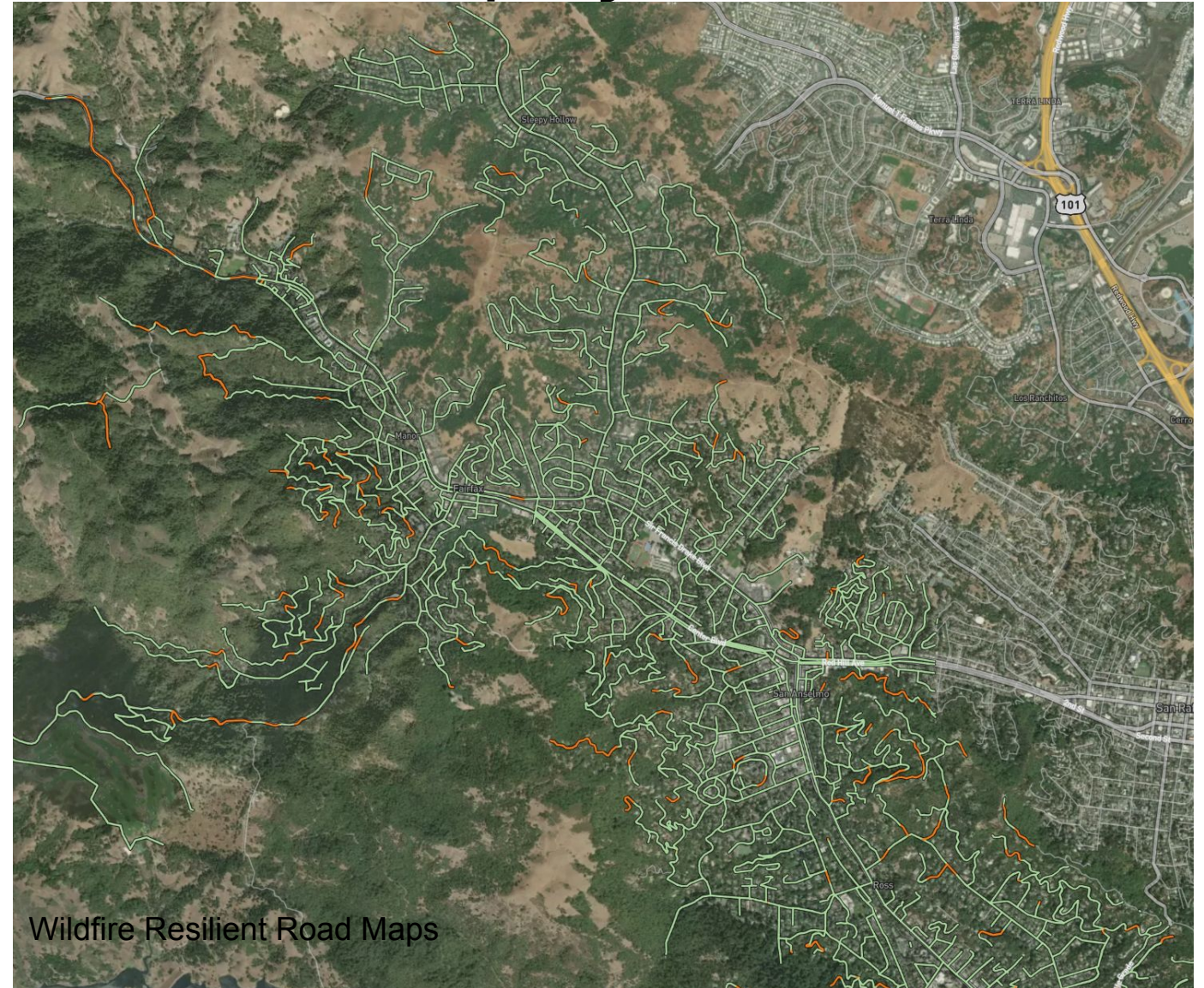


Wildfire Preparedness Projects

- Evacuation/Roadside Clearance
- Voluntary Abatement
- Larger Fuel Modification Projects

Tools to decide prioritization/location of projects

- Wildfire Resilient Roads Maps
- Genasys (formerly known as Zonehaven)
- Fire Aside
- GIS
- Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Field Observations
- Intra-Agency Relationships





Evacuation Road Clearance

Improve safety and accessibility through evacuation clearance of public roads.

Benefits:

- Increases safety during evacuations.
- Improves visibility for daily traffic.
- Potentially decreases emergency response times.

Scope of Work:

- Clear vegetation 10 feet from the edge of the paved road.
- Remove 15 feet of overhanging vegetation.

Resident Communication:

- Residents are notified by U.S. Mail before work begins.
- Invitation for residents to engage with the department and participate.

Additional Outcomes:

- Allows access to overgrown drainages and areas beyond the 10-foot clearance zone.
- Enhances road resilience and reduces fuel load for fire prevention.

Voluntary Abatement

Before



Voluntary abatement is an optional program for residents to help reduce fuel loads on private properties.

Goals & Benefits:

- Lowers fuel loads to improve fire safety.
- Assists elderly and low-income residents who may not afford or complete vegetation work.
- Removes initial vegetation work costs for participants.
- Enhances overall neighborhood safety.

Property Selection:

- Determined using multiple data sources to strategically target properties for fuel modification.
- Priority given to residents unable to afford or perform the work themselves (typically elderly or low-income).

Program Integration:

- Offered to residents with large parcels or drainages, often coordinated with roadside clearance projects.

After



Large Scale Fuel Modification Projects

Typically conducted with neighboring jurisdictions or public works departments

Purpose:

- Reduces fuel loads across both private and public properties
- Lower neighborhood fire risks
- Create safer and more accessible public spaces

Project Scope:

- Typically, large-scale open space projects
- Completed in partnership with other government agencies

Additional Benefits:

- Enhance public access
- Support broader community and environmental goals beyond fire risk reduction



Questions?

Thank you!