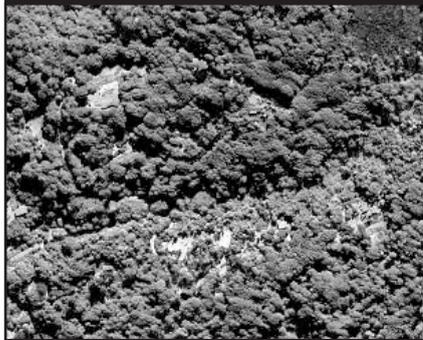


Wildland-Urban Interface Project Highlights

Fire Hazard Assessment



Many neighborhoods in Marin's wildland-urban interface are surrounded by dense vegetation. Fire hazard assessment projects identify areas within and surrounding a neighborhood where vegetation presents a

Fire hazard assessment is an important first step in developing fire protection strategies for many neighborhoods in Marin. The open spaces in this photo are homes located within a heavily forested area.

critical fire hazard. This may include vegetation along driveways, roadsides, homes or on undeveloped property.

Fire hazard assessments make recommendations for vegetation treatment which typically involves thinning understory vegetation, limbing branches and in some cases removing trees. Assessment projects in Inverness

Ridge and Bolinas neighborhoods include defensible space surveys, resulting in a hazard rating for each property.

The assessment process also considers whether road improvements are needed to improve emergency access, and whether the existing water system can provide sufficient fire suppression capacity.

Chipping & Composting

Part of fire safety is a recycling issue. County-wide we need to think about how green waste can be easily disposed of on a year-round basis.



Several projects provide programs for disposal of vegetation debris. "If we didn't have places like this, I think a lot of this stuff would get dumped in the road," commented a West Marin resident about the Olema chipping program.

In order for homeowners to create defensible space, they need a way of getting rid of all the branches, brush, leaves, needles and other vegetation removed from around their homes. As with other solid waste, there are basically three choices: burn it, landfill it or recycle it.

Burning requires permits from fire departments and the air quality board. These are most readily available during the winter.

Landfilling is costly. Many residents have favored using the disposed vegetation for mulch or compost.

Bolinas-Stinson Beach Resource Recovery Program

Open for drop off Tuesday through Saturday, Noon-5.

Located in Bolinas next to 16 Olema-Bolinas Road at the site of the old creamery.

Costs: \$15 / cubic yard for brush dropoff. \$20 / cubic yard for material to be chipped. Free chips when available. \$20 / cubic yard to buy compost.

Inverness Defensible Space Chipper Days

The Inverness Public Utility District offers door-to-door chipping to all Inverness residents with a \$40 fee for up to 10 cubic yards of material. Chips are left onsite as mulch.

Each year a notice is sent to residents offering them to sign up. Debris piles must be ready on pre-scheduled days which are usually in early August.

Olema Chipping Program

Marin County Fire Department offers free brush drop-off for 3 consecutive weekends per year at a site in Olema. Material is transported to and unloaded at the site by residents. Later it is chipped and hauled to a landfill or composting site. The chips are free for the taking.

For the past two years, the site has been located on National Park Service land at Beebe Ranch on the corner of Sir Francis Drake Blvd. and Highway 1.

Muir Beach Community Chipping Program

One day a month, free drop off of woody debris at the pump house on Frank Valley Road,

for branches up to 4" in diameter. The chipper cannot process soft material such as leaves and needles. For large loads, arrangements can be made to have the chipper brought to the residence to chip onsite. A wood splitter is also available.

Marin County Fire Dept. Community Chipper Program

The Marin County Fire Department's chipper is available for community projects within its service area. To organize a neighborhood project, contact your local Marin County Fire station to develop a plan that helps you reduce fire hazards. This service is provided year-round.

More Debris Disposal In the Future

The Department of Public Works and Marin County Fire Department are developing plans for a year-round yard waste disposal site. The site being considered is Marin County Public Works Corporation Yard on Nicasio Valley Drive where brush drop off is currently offered several weeks each summer.

"If we didn't have places like this, I think a lot of this stuff would get dumped in the road," commented a West Marin resident about the Olema chipping program.

Top: Debris disposal involves heavy equipment such as chippers and loaders.

Middle: Almost 300 truck loads of debris were dropped off this summer at the Olema site alone.

Bottom: Debris piles are separated by size at the Resource Recovery Center. Woody material is chipped. Softer material is grinded to begin the process of composting.