



Why Go Firewise? Overview



Birdo Photo.



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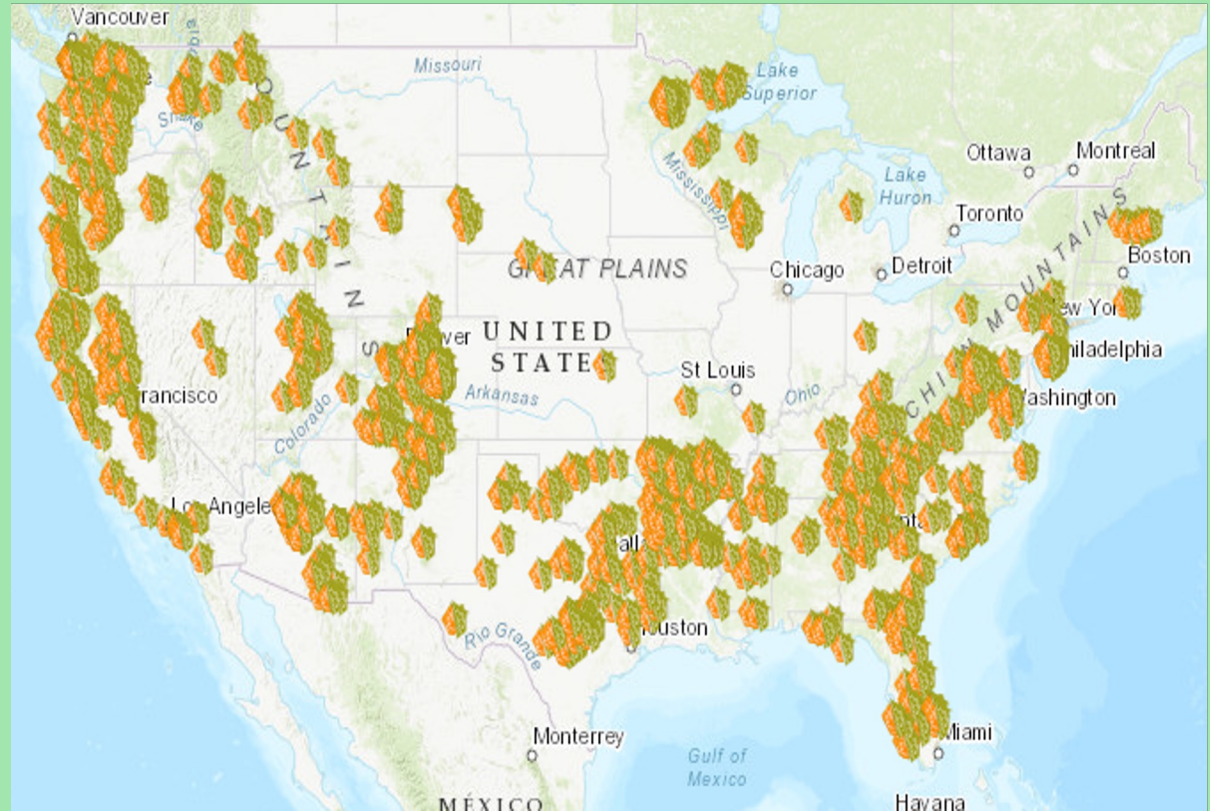
Some material Courtesy
of Santa Clara County
FireSafe Council





FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

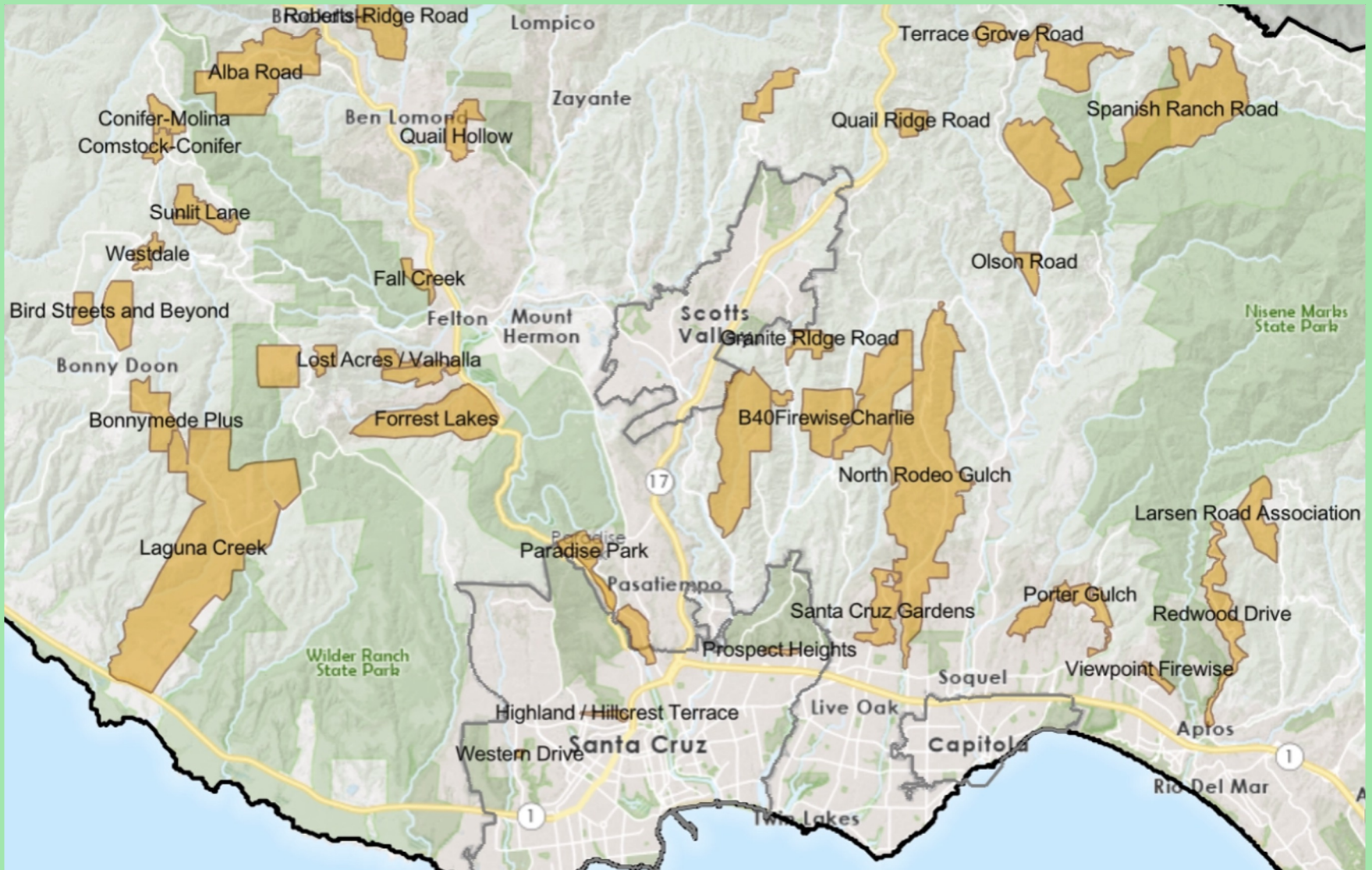
- National Program with 2255+ sites
- 744 Sites in CA
- Goal: keep homes, lives & neighborhoods safer from wildfire



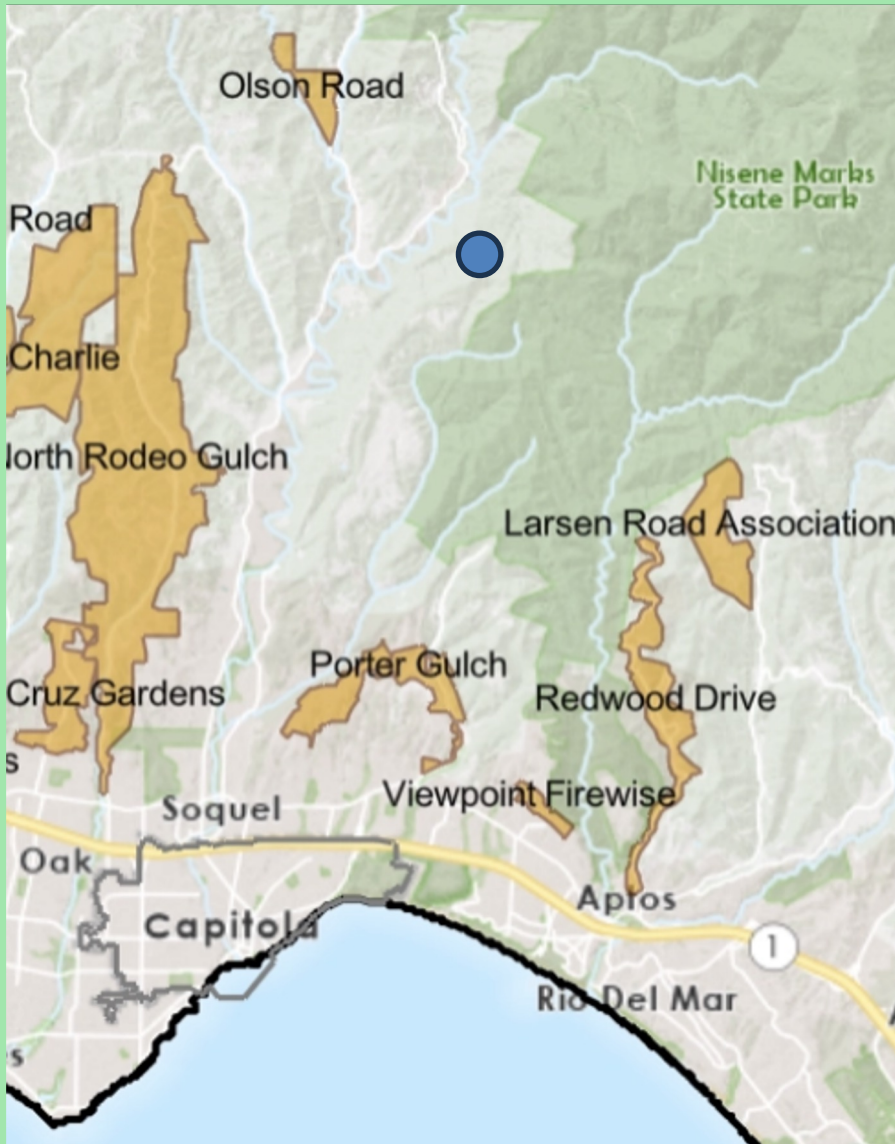
Full list of Santa Cruz county Firewise communities:

<https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/firewise-usa-recognition-program>

57 Firewise USA Recognized Communities in Santa Cruz County



Your Neighboring Firewise Communities



Pau Hana (Coming Soon!) ●

Olson Road (2023)

North Rodeo Gulch (2021)

Santa Cruz Gardens (2021)

Upper Fairway (2022)

Porter Gulch (2022)

Viewpoint Road (2021)

Redwood Drive/Cathedral (2020)

Larsen Road Association (2022)

(2/27/2024)

Everyone Doing Their Part



Investments in 2023

- 57 communities, 4532 homes
- \$11.2 Million personal money
- 112,466 volunteer hours



Investments in 2022

- 43 communities, 3871 homes
- \$6.1 Million personal money
- 78,538 volunteer hours



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RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

- Framework to reduce wildfire risk for your community and first responders.
- FREE to apply
- Voluntary participation
- Education focused
- Next step beyond individual home hardening is community collaboration.
- Get neighbors working together.
- 6 step application process



Neighbors Working Shoulder-to-Shoulder



Benefits – Why Participate?

- Community-building and collaboration
 - vegetation management
 - evacuation readiness
 - emergency communication
- Build goodwill with your local fire professionals
- Access support from FireSafe Councils, OR3, Resource Conservation District
- Potential grant funds
- Potential home insurance discounts (USAA, State Farm, others)



Sunset Ridge work party

6 Steps to Achieving Firewise USA Recognition

1. Form a board/ steering committee comprised of neighborhood residents and other wildfire stakeholders, to organize and drive the process.
2. Complete a wildfire risk assessment. Ideally including input from the Fire Department with your jurisdiction, if resources are available.
3. Host a minimum of 1 wildfire risk reduction educational event or related activity per year.
Example: Wildfire Evacuation workshop

6 Steps to Achieving Firewise USA Recognition cont.

4. Develop a Three-year action plan based on the site's risk assessment and priorities
5. Meet the minimum wildfire risk reduction investment- 1 hour (or ~\$27.20) per residence per year. Ex: home defensible space, road work parties for brush clearing
6. Create a Firewise USA® Portal account and submit an application to your state Firewise USA liaison

More details: <https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/firewise-usa-recognition-program>

Examples of Neighborhood Activities (for investment hours)

- Chipping, Brush clearing & Chain saw days
- Fire hydrants – clear surroundings, **blue reflective dots** in street, wrap in blue tape
- Road and driveway clearance for fire engines (14 x 14)
- Mark turn around locations for emergency vehicles
- Create GIS map (houses and water sources)
- Emergency Communication plan
- Evacuation drills



Communities in Action

Sunset Ridge: neighborhood work parties with chippers, mower and good lunches



Recognize and Celebrate



What's next?

- Assess community interest in pursuing Firewise USA recognition
- Identify a steering committee for your community (typically 3-5 people)
- Define your community boundaries (map)
- Ask for a follow up presentation with more details for your steering committee to get started
- Contact info@firesafesantacruzcounty.org or Sally Mack shermanto@gmail.com

Firewise Local Resources

Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County

<https://www.firesafesantacruz.org/>

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

<https://sccfiresafe.org/learn/what-is-firewise-usa/>

FireSafe Marin

<https://firesafemarin.org/firewise>

FireSafe Monterey

<https://www.firesafemonterey.org/>

CA Insurance companies offering discounts:

<http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/105-type/95-guides/03-res/Insurers-Currently-Offering-Discounts.cfm>