



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

October 3, 2018

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager *GT*

SUBJECT: Receive final report on the Town's vegetation management efforts (e.g., Chipper Days)

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report on the Town's vegetation management efforts (e.g., Chipper Days).

DISCUSSION

Given the heightened awareness of fire safety, the Town scheduled more "Chipper Day" events (six) than the previous year (four). Of the six Chipper Days, two were specifically targeted for neighborhoods that are designated or working to become a Firewise community. These two Chipper Day events included door-to-door pick-up of brush/cuttings in the Cascade and Manor Hill neighborhoods. During these two events, we discovered that some residents placed their brush/cutting at the curb after the pick-up service had concluded and/or did not RVSP for the service. As a result, the Town experienced additional costs for pick-up and chipping during the week after these two Chipper Day events.

Attached is a table which shows that in 2018, the Town collected over 60 tons (120,000 lbs.) of brush/cuttings from residents, which is more than the combined total of the last three years. The table also shows the number of participants and cost of the Chipper Day events.

The Town is also working with Ross Valley Fire Department (RVFD) to actively manage the vegetation on Town-owned properties. Specifically, the Town recently removed a significant amount of brush and undergrowth on its 1-acre property behind Bennett House. We will also be working with RVFD to identify the initial level of vegetation removal required on Center Blvd. from Pastori to the Town limits. This work is necessary because Center Blvd. is a main evacuation route out of town. The initial work will involve trimming up trees, removing some smaller trees, and/or removing brush and undergrowth along Center Blvd. Prior to starting the work, staff will inform the affected neighborhoods via Nextdoor and signage. We will also wrap ribbons around and/or post notices on any smaller trees to be removed. The initial work will probably be similar to what San Anselmo has done to date along their portion of Center Blvd.

RVFD did meet with the Tree Committee to discuss the overall vegetation management plan for Center Blvd. A future phase will involve the removal of the pine trees along Center Blvd. However, as this future work will be very costly, RVFD is trying secure grants for the removal.

PG&E has recently indicated it will be notifying residents that it will be trimming trees to maintain a 12 ft. buffer between power lines and trees.

FISCAL IMPACT

The vegetation clearance costs will be charged to the Fire Prevention budget (fund 01-421).

ATTACHMENT

Table for Chipper days

AGENDA ITEM # 8

CHIPPER DAY HIGHLIGHTS 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Pickup</u>
June 30	Sir Francis Drake & Olema	3.31 tons	\$2,832.50	25	11
July 14&15	Doc Edgar Park	21.75 tons	\$19,749.75	96	76
July 21	Deer Park	6.11 tons	\$1,721.65	32	0
July 28	Pavilion	8.34 tons	\$6,006.00	38	4
August 11	Sir Francis Drake & Olema	2.93 tons	\$3,500.00	20	1
*August 18	Pavilion for Manor Hill	17.85 tons	\$19,092.15	82	75
TOTALS		60.29 TONS	\$52,902.14	293	161

