

Fact Sheet



Bay Area State Parks and the Wildland Urban Interface

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) maintains wildland parks in order to preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic features for the people of California. Many of these native ecosystems contain plants that can become flammable under specific environmental conditions of high wind, high temperature and low humidity. These ecosystems inevitably burn either from natural or human causes.

State Parks policy permits vegetation modification on Department lands only when, 1) required by state law to clear around its structures/facilities, 2) previous legal commitments have been made to allow the creation and maintenance of fuel modification areas, 3) it is critical to the protection of life or park resources, or 4) park vegetation up to 130 horizontal feet from a non-Department habitable structure must be modified for a neighbor's defensible space.

What you can do as a State Parks Neighbor

Buildings constructed adjacent to park units in the wildland-urban interface zone are at risk from wildland fires. The design and maintenance of the structure itself is the most important factor in building survivability during a wildfire. Defensible space and hardening your home (i.e., making your home less ignitable) will dramatically increase the chance of your house surviving a wildfire and help protect firefighters.

Contact your local Fire Agency to obtain Home Hardening and Defensible Space guidelines for your property and ensure your property meets those guidelines.

Determine your defensible space zone by measuring the distance from the closest exterior wall of your home to the property line. If this distance is 100 feet or greater, all of the defensible space can be created on your property. If this distance is less than 100 feet it may be desirable, depending on the type of vegetation present, to create some of the defensible space on neighboring property. If so, determine who owns the neighboring land.

As a State Parks neighbor, you or your contractor can conduct vegetation work in the State Park through our Boundary Vegetation Modification Right of Entry (BVMROE) Permit process.* The BVMROE Permit is intended to give State Parks neighbors that share a common boundary with a State Park permission to temporarily access State Park land to conduct vegetation work along the boundary in order to achieve defensible space for their home. Homeowner groups can also pool resources and obtain one permit for multiple contiguous properties along a park boundary.

To learn more about obtaining a State Parks Boundary Vegetation Modification Right of Entry permit to complete defensible space for your home, please contact:

Cyndy Shafer, California State Parks Bay Area District
(707) 769-5652 x208

* A permit fee may be required. It may take up to a week to respond to inquiries regarding permits and processing a permit usually takes several weeks.



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