

Wildfire Resiliency - HVLTL & Firewise - Update #8

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Pointers for Organizing a Neighborhood Wildfire Fire Mitigation Program

- HVLTL-Firewise Neighborhood Chipper Days - Madrone Park Circle

What we did on Madrone Park Circle (MPC) over 3 ½ months:

- organized 27 participants among 30 parcels, covering ~ 7 acres
- secured ~ \$30,000
 - \$17,400 in owner payments for contractor labor on owner's parcels,
 - \$6,800 raised for "common funds" - disbursed mostly among MPC neighbors
 - \$5,500 contributed by HVLTL-Firewise & SMFD
- several owners cleared own properties at their own cost or sweat equity
- aggregated biomass along MPC road
- took 7 days of 5-man team with chipper to complete

RESULTS: transformed our neighborhood, created defensible spaces, opened new vistas, and significantly reduced wildfire risk

How did we do it?

- identified one local person to coordinate program
- secured commitments from 12-15 neighbors to participate
- worked with HVLTL-Firewise - utilize their guidelines, templates, external resources

How did we "Market" it?

- gathered, compiled contact info for every household
- created a map, identified parcels, designated required work and problem areas
- informed participants about the HVLTL-Firewise Neighborhood Chipper Days
- ensured that everyone is informed, solicited, and treated equally
- explained roles what will be done, why, how, when, by whom, financials, schedule, etc.
- updated often about objectives, progress (e.g., fund-raising, progress, momentum)
- set expectations for execution: traffic blockages, work hours, chipper tasks, noise
- be diplomatic, patient, cooperative, friendly, and firm
 - "Join us. Do your part." It works!

How we communicated - shared mutual financial benefits & incentives

- described benefits: chipper services, contractor labor, refuse bins, improved road access
- used tested approach: pay for your own work-effort, get free chipper services & labor

- owners benefit from bulk quotes, volume rates, experienced labor
- worked with HVLТ-Firewise (e.g., guidance, coordination-prep & execution, contractors, etc.)

How did we pay for it?

- solicited voluntary "common funds"
 - we suggested \$200 - \$600 ...and received it from every owner!
- offered reimbursements from common funds facilitating participation from costly parcels
- reimbursements helped make the jobs affordable and collaborative among neighbors

How was it structured - financially?

- collected "common funds" for reimbursements, contractors, tools, supplies, expenses
- delegated 1-person (NOT the coordinator) to collect "common funds" (i.e., separate account)
- solicit requests for quotations: "Find out how much it will cost to clear your own parcel."
- provided preliminary quotations: estimates, scope of work, time, manpower
- get commitments, or adjust quotes for scope-of-work, costs (e.g., ~25% need adjustments)
- collected payment checks: 50% deposit to start work, 50% upon completion
- secured checks (i.e., in organizer's possession) before contractor work begins
- organized to schedule, direct labor, ensure scope-of-work is fulfilled, disburse checks
- calculated program costs, disburse reimbursements

Helpful Spreadsheets:

- contact/resident information: names, addresses, e-mails, phone
- "common fund" contributions, reimbursements, volunteers
- jobs (planned, completed), quotations, hired labor, self-work
- expenses, disbursements

Miscellaneous

- take before/after photos
- keep records, copies of checks
- track needs per parcel
- ...hold hands ...work hard

Reference/Guidance Templates

- HVLТ-Firewise has a copies: neighborhood maps, e-mails, spreadsheets, flyers, etc.
- very useful/helpful as template for creating similar programs in other HV neighborhoods

Wildfire Is Coming!!!