

Tewksbury's first chipping day

The Tewksbury Heights neighborhood is nestled in the hills of Richmond, California near the Park Avenue entry to 2,430-acre Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, east of San Francisco Bay. From this entry McBryde Avenue winds 0.8 mile providing access to approximately 100 parcels before it reaches a dead end above Wildcat Creek.

McBryde Avenue neighborhood chipping project began when a few concerned neighbors attended the East Richmond fire safety workshop sponsored by Contra Costa Supervisor John Goia. They heard about what they could do to make their neighborhood more defensible from wildfires and about potential funding for community projects. After the workshop these few individuals began to talk to their neighbors. They asked if Supervisor Gioia would sponsor a workshop for their community. On April 26, 2010 approximately 25 neighbors filled the tiny community clubhouse at the bottom of the slope to learn about wildfires and talk about what they might do on their properties.

Next, eleven neighbors put their heads together and completed the application to participate in the DFSC Defensible Space Program. They received the ok for \$5,000 funding to support the neighbors efforts and began organizing their first chipping day. On just a few weekends these neighbors and others had cut brush, pulled vines, pruned the lower limbs of trees from around their homes and stacked piles along the edge of McBryde Avenue.

On a bright Thursday morning in mid November two Davey Tree Service workers began to make their way down the avenue. Within just a few hours all of the piles were gone. Chips were distributed where neighbors requested. All that was left were a few scattered leaves and twigs to tell the story of the Tewksbury neighborhood's first chipping day.

Thanks to all the neighbors who helped make the day a success! There are still funds in the Tewksbury neighborhood allocation for more neighborhood work.



For more information see our website at www.diablofiresafe.org