



# River Park Defensible Space Program Recap

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# Pre-Planning Activities



- Ride-alongs with fire agencies
- WCEM designed River Park Program website
- Partner meetings for participation



# Work That Was Done To Find Area



3 ride-alongs:

- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Sparks Fire Department
- Reno Fire Department



1 Meeting with:

- Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District



# Research



Research on:

- Neighborhoods highlighted during ride-alongs
- Neighborhood demographics
- Historical fires in area



# Area Selected: River Park Neighborhood



# Timeline: August - October 2025



**Planning:** Ride-alongs, Research, Kick Off Meeting

**Outreach:** Doorhangers, Mailers, Community Meeting

**Action:** Opt-In, Inspections, Vegetation Removal

**Closure:** Revegetation, Survey, Hot Wash

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Kick Off Meeting



August 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>  
Distribute door hangers  
and mail postcards

August 30<sup>th</sup>  
Community Meeting @  
Brewer's Cabinet





# CERT Distribution of



- On 8/20, 229 Doorhangers were hung on all resident's doors within the River Park neighborhood
- 14+ volunteers
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) treated this as an evacuation exercise
- Took an hour and a half to distribute all materials



# Postcard Mailers



- On 8/20, postcard mailers were sent to every home within River Park (229)



Washoe County Emergency Management has selected your neighborhood for a defensible space pilot program in September. For more information, and to opt-in to this program, please scan the QR code or visit [www.readywashoe.com](http://www.readywashoe.com).

El Departamento de Gestión de Emergencias del Condado de Washoe ha seleccionado su vecindario para un programa piloto de espacio defendible en septiembre. Para obtener más información y participar en este programa, escanee el código QR o visite [www.readywashoe.com](http://www.readywashoe.com).





# Community Meeting



- 8/30 - 40 attendees
- A few presenters from different programs
- Q&A period with lots of involvement
- Sign-ups for the program
- Sign-ups for Smart 911



# Defensible Space



- 39 homes (17%)
- Had 3 lead agencies, 1 supporting agency
- 2-day project, 7 hours total
- 6 properties passed inspection



# Interior Home



- 23 homes (10%)
- 101 smoke alarms replaced
- 46 people served



## **Free Smoke Alarms & Home Fire Safety Education**

The Red Cross and its partners are pleased to offer free smoke alarm installation and education sessions on Home Fire Safety for residents of the Nevada and Utah Region.



# Vegetation Removal



- 24 homes (10%)
- Completed over a 2-day period:
  - Saturday - 12 volunteers
  - Sunday - 6 volunteers
  - Total hours: 107.5 volunteer hours
- 80 cubic yards of green waste was collected





# Revegetation: Moana



- Each coupon was good for 3 no-cost firewise perennials
- Total of 117 perennials donated by Moana Nursery



# Revegetation: Education



- 32 buckets and coupons (14%) distributed to residents by CERT in 30 minutes
- Supplies:
  - Buckets included: Kneeling pad, hand pruners, soil, safety glasses, and weed erosion barrier
- Education:
  - Links on WCEM site for videos and resources (LWF, Moana Nursery)





# Before





# During





# After





# Post Revegetation





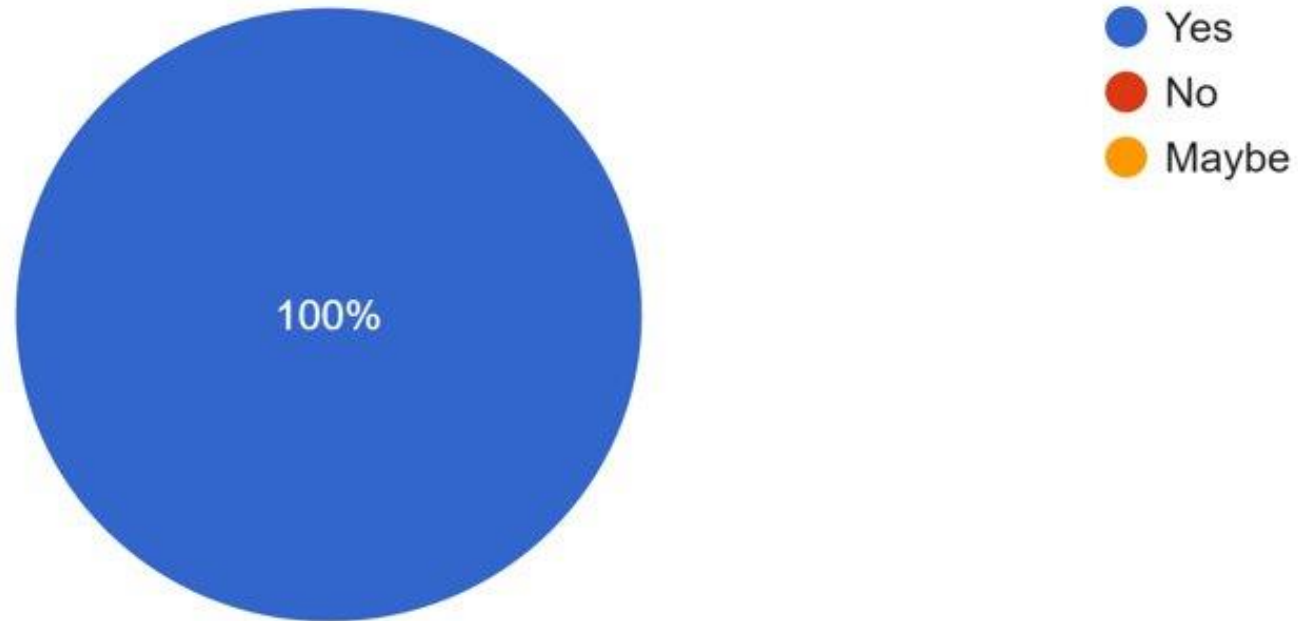
# River Park: Homeowner Survey

# Survey Results



Would you participate again if a program like this were to be offered in the future?

23 responses



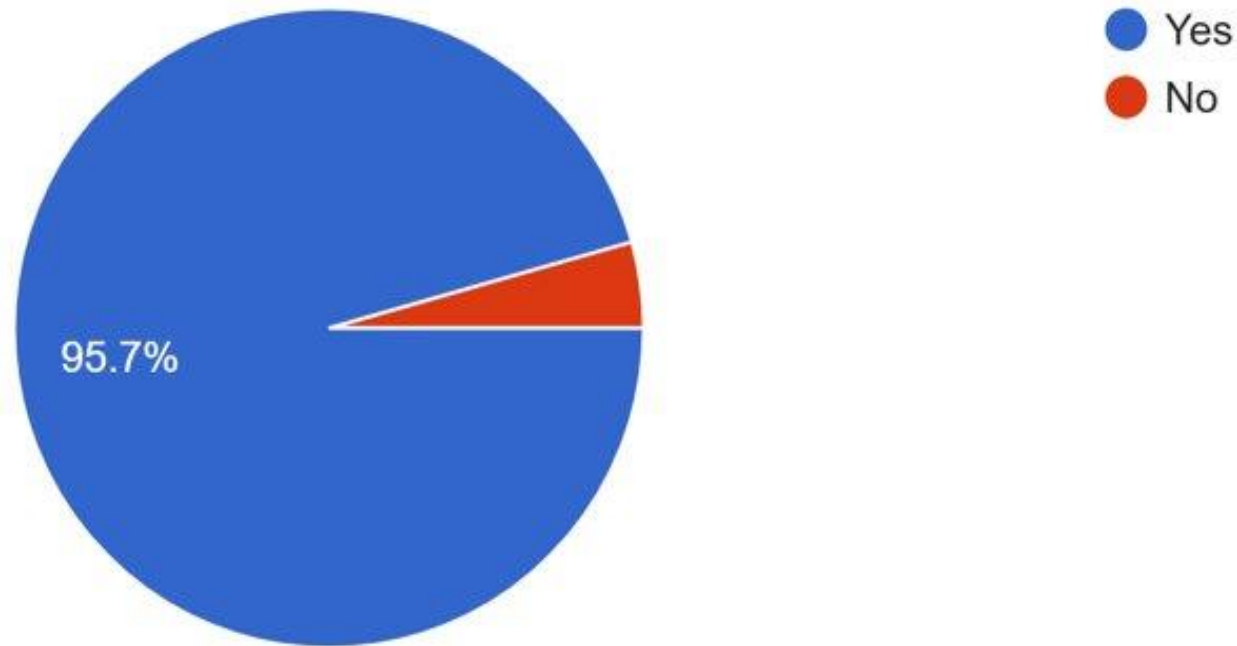


# Survey Results Continued



Did this program provide adequate education on defensible space and home hardening efforts?

23 responses



# Next Steps



Created a guidebook for replication in other areas within the County when funding is available.



# Thank



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