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 13th, 2025
Kick Off Meeting

August 18th - 20th
Distribute door hangers and mail postcards

August 30th
Community Meeting @ Brewer's Cabinet

THE BREWER'S CABINET
RENO, NEVADA

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)

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

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

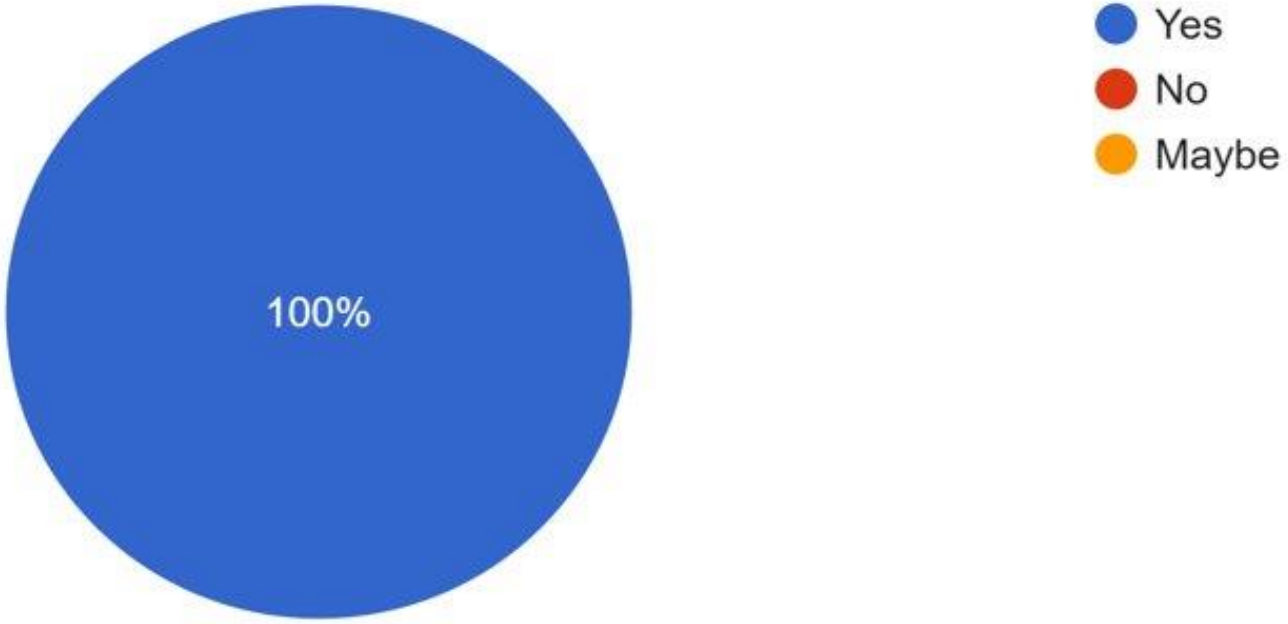
Post Revegetation

River Park:
Homeowner Survey

Survey Results

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

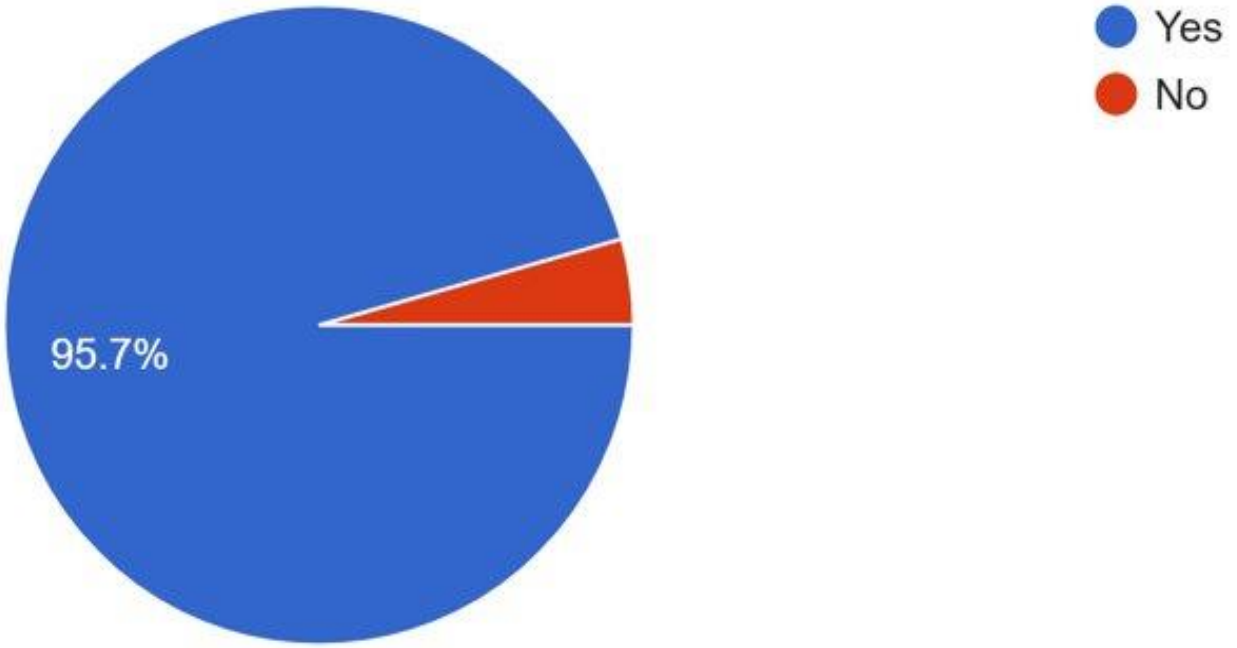
23 responses



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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