

# Greenhorn Firewise Community News

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors—Saving Lives**

<https://greenhornfirewisecommunity.com>



**January 2021**

## Happy 2021, Greenhorn Neighbors!

2020 was the first full year for the certified Greenhorn Firewise Community (GFC). With snow and rain falling in abundance as January draws to a close, this seems like a good time to take stock of what our community accomplished in 2020, and take a look at our goals for 2021.

### What's a Firewise Community?

The national Firewise program provides a collaborative framework to help neighbors in a geographic area get organized and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and community and to reduce wildfire risks at the local level. Nevada County has a number of certified Firewise Communities, loosely affiliated under the umbrella of the [Nevada County Fire Safe Council](#) and the [Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities](#).

The GFC is led by volunteer Vicki Deam, and is organized into 14 "sections," each with a volunteer leader who lives there (Note: three sections are currently without leaders—any volunteers?). These volunteers make up the GFC Committee, whose role it is to provide information to residents of the area, and engage the community in projects to increase fire safety in our area. The committee also connects with local fire departments, the County and elected officials, the Fire Safe Council, and the Coalition to gather information for the community and advocate for projects along the Greenhorn corridor.

### 2020 Goals

In January 2020, the committee developed three goals for the upcoming year. One of the biggest concerns in our community is the number of households with a single county-maintained road (Greenhorn) to evacuate by. With the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise heavy on everyone's mind, development of alternate evacuation routes was the top priority. The three goals were to:

1. Work with Hansen Brothers on an evacuation route at the east end of Greenhorn.
2. Develop a fundraising campaign to support costs for upgrading alternate routes.
3. Develop an outreach program to connect with those living in the GFC—to provide information about defensible space, home hardening, and safe evacuation; to solicit volunteers for projects, and to raise funds.

## Section Leaders Needed!

The Greenhorn Firewise Community currently has three sections that need leaders.

- *Section 2: Tim Burr, Gem Lane, Star Drive, Hollydale, Hollydale Branch.*
- *Section 6: Baccarat Ct.*
- *Section 14: Meadow Way, Fritillary Way.*

The time commitment is pretty light! If you live in one of these sections and are interested in helping your community become more fire safe, please contact us and attend a meeting (currently via Zoom)!

[Donate/Volunteer | Greenhorn Firewise Community](#)

## Schedule Your Free Defensible Space Advisory Visit!

Now is a great time to assess your property so you can do defensible space and home hardening work, as weather allows, before the fire season.

Advisory visits are conducted by Paul Tebbel, a Fire Safe Council-trained volunteer serving on the GFC committee. Paul lives on Manion Canyon and is extremely dedicated to helping others understand how to harden their homes and create defensible space around their home and other structures.

More information: [Defensible Space Advisor | Greenhorn Firewise Community](#)

You can contact Paul at (916) 215-6172.

## Evacuation Routes

Unfortunately, the eastern Greenhorn route turned out to be prohibitively expensive to repair. However, Hansen Bros. did donate rock to improve the Lost Lake Rd. alternate evacuation route. With volunteer labor, including backhoe work by Keith Thomasson, this route was completed. Another route was identified beginning at Jones Ridge.

The committee developed, purchased, and installed signage for the alternate routes—both on Greenhorn (in each direction) and on the routes themselves.

## Fundraising

After tracking down names and addresses for the 600+ parcel owners in the GFC, members of the committee developed and mailed a fundraising letter in the spring. An account was set up at River Valley Community Bank, as well as PO box to receive donations. By the end of the summer, the committee had collected over \$9,000 in donations. **Thank you neighbors!** Most of the expenditures so far were for signage, reflectors, and production and mailing of flyers. There is a current balance of just over \$6,000 to spend on future projects.

## Outreach

The committee developed multiple ways to reach members of the community, including:

- A website (<https://greenhornfirewisecommunity.com>).
- A Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/GreenhornFirewise>).
- This newsletter (<https://greenhornfirewisecommunity.wordpress.com/tag/newsletter/>)
- Flyers mailed to each resident regarding evacuation routes.
- Flyers posted on shared mailbox banks and community bulletin boards.
- Direct communication by section leaders (email if available) with their neighbors.
- Postings on NextDoor.

## Other Accomplishments

- Our Defensible Space advisor, Paul Tebbel, conducted 27 advisory visits.
- GFC-led volunteers conducted several work parties to clear defensible space along roads and pull Scotch broom.

In order to be recertified as a Firewise Community, we needed to document \$19,022 in time and money spent on appropriate work. We were able to document \$341,862, and we are quite confident that many times this amount was completed, but not documented.

## We're All in This Together!

In addition to work organized by the GFC Committee, we know there are countless neighbors on the Greenhorn corridor improving defensible space that helps us all—by organizing their own work parties and improving their own properties, as well as hardening their homes and identifying their own local alternate evacuation routes. **Thank you for your hard work to help keep us all safer!**

## So What's Next?

Potential projects for 2021 include:

- Identifying and mapping water sources in our community that could be used by firefighters.
- Finding volunteer leaders for the three sections that don't have one.
- Providing fire safety information to new property owners.
- Assistance (limited) with defensible space for those unable to do it themselves.

