



Office of the City Manager

May 11, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: 2021 Fire Fuel Remediation

This report provides City Council with information about four fire fuel removal programs that have started or will start in the next 30 days. These programs represent over \$500,000 of dedicated funding for fire fuel remediation in Berkeley.

Hazardous Vegetation/Ladder Fuel Removal on City Property

For the last several years the City Council has funded a crew that is solely dedicated to removing hazardous vegetation and ladder fuels on City right of ways, parks and other City properties. This crew is primarily focused in the hill areas, and began work in mid-April and will continue through the end of October. Council allocated \$100,000 from the General Fund in FY21 to cover this work.

Hazardous Tree Removal on City Property

Under the supervision of City staff, tree removal contractors started taking out trees posing particular fire danger in March of this year. By the end of June, they will have removed over 100 and pruned over 50 of these, making the hills safer. This includes, but is not limited to, trees at the following locations:

- Wildcat Canyon Road, Fairlawn Drive, Shasta Road, Cragmont Avenue
- Live Oak, John Hinkel, Glendale-Laloma and Codornices Parks
- Tanglewood, Columbia and Harding Paths

Funding for this annual program is relatively new and was first identified by City Council in FY19. Council allocated \$150,000 from the General Fund to cover this work in FY21.

Fire Fuel Chipper (FFC) and Vegetation Debris Bin (VDB) Program

These programs were created in 1992 as part of a Fire Assessment District which funded fuel abatement and inspection programs in the Berkeley hills. Although the assessment district expired in 1997, with the passing of California Proposition 218 in 1996, the FFC and VDB programs funding was picked up by the City of Berkeley Zero

Waste Fund and is offset by a Fire Surcharge that is part of the annual Alameda County assessments for refuse. This year, \$174,000 are budgeted in the Zero Waste Fund for these programs.

This year these programs begin on June 7, 2021 and are offered through late-September. The Fire Fuel Chipper program is operated by the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department's Urban Forestry Unit. This program includes the use of an on-site chipper to dispose of vegetation that has been assembled by residents and left near the street. The Vegetation Debris Program, which is operated by Public Works' Zero Waste Division, offers delivery and pick-up of 30-cubic yard bins to neighborhoods that have a larger need for green waste disposal. Both programs allow residents identified in the Fire Surcharge Area to dispose of hazardous vegetation/fire fuels. Please see the attached brochure (Attachment 1) that explains the details of each program and will be mailed to every eligible resident the week of May 10, 2021.

For information or questions about any of these programs, please phone 510-981-7270 between 8:30am and 4pm or email trees@cityofberkeley.info.

Attachment 1

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
David White, Deputy City Manager
Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department
Liam Garland, Public Works Director
Abe Roman, Interim Fire Chief
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager

2021 Chipper Schedule

Have all vegetation ready by **Sunday night**, as the City crew will **only make one pass**, within the week of dates listed below (all streets within the perimeter of listed borders and street centerlines). Please refer to the table below and map for the scheduled chipper/pickup dates for your area.

Areas & pass dates	Borders & street centerlines
1 (1) JUN 7-11 (2) AUG 2-6	Spruce, Marin, Sunset to City limit (odds), Grizzly Peak (evens)
2 (1) JUN 14-18 (2) AUG 9-13	Grizzly Peak to City limit (odds), Sunset (evens)
3 (1) JUN 21-25 (2) AUG 16-20	Euclid, Rose, Shasta, (odds), Marin, Grizzly Peak (evens)
4 (1) JUN 28-JUL 2 (2) AUG 23-27	Euclid, Cedar (odds), Shasta, Rose, UCB, Grizzly Peak (evens)
5 (1) JUL 6-JUL 9 (2) AUG 30-SEP 3	Henry, Rose, Spruce, Cedar, Scenic, Hilgard, Euclid, Hearst to UCB (odds), Cedar @ La Vereda, Euclid & Eunice (evens)
6 (1) JUL 12-16 (2) SEP 7-10	Sutter, Eunice (odds), Marin, Euclid (evens)
7 (1) JUL 19-23 (2) SEP 13-17	Arlington, Marin (odds), Spruce (evens)
8 (1) JUL 26-30 (2) SEP 20-24	North: Canyon, Piedmont, Dwight to end (odds), Bancroft (evens) South: Domingo, El Camino Real, Claremont to City limit (odds), The Uplands (evens)

The crew will chip branches and collect bagged vegetation placed on the side of the road.

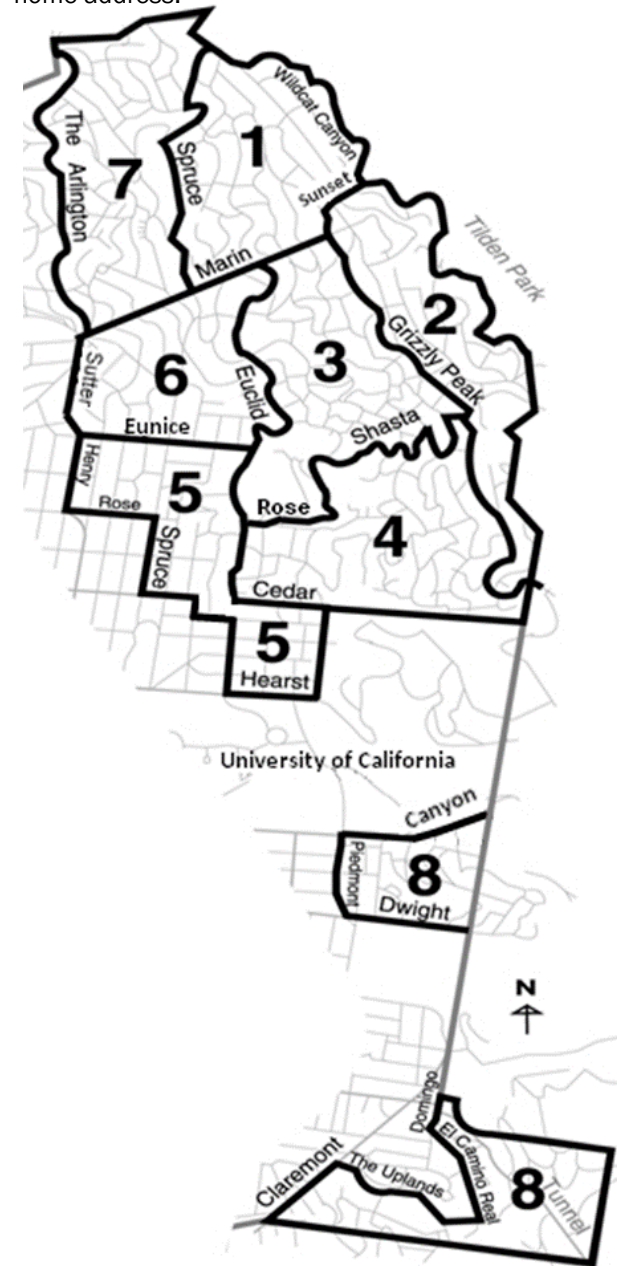
To find out what area you are in, go to: www.cityofberkeley.info/fire_fuel_program, click on **ArcGIS Interactive Map** and type in your home address.

Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department
Parks Division - Forestry Unit
1326 Allston Way, Bldg A
Berkeley, California 94702



The Fire Fuel Chipper Program will begin on **Monday, June 7th** and end on **Friday, Sept 24th**. Vegetation Debris Bin Program is slated to begin June 7th and tentatively end on Sept 24th.

To find out what area you are in, go to: www.cityofberkeley.info/fire_fuel_program, click on **ArcGIS Interactive Map** and type in your home address.



2021 Fire Fuel Chipper Program & Vegetation Debris Bin Program

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAGGING Vegetation

- 1 **Free compostable plastic bags (only one roll per residence)** may be picked up outside of the following four City of Berkeley Fire Stations and the City's Corporation Yard. These offices will be closed to the public. If bags are not available outside these locations, they are out of stock.

IMPORTANT: You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth when visiting City facilities.

Station #2 - 2029 Berkeley Way

Station #3 - 2710 Russell Street

Station #4 - 1900 Marin Avenue

Station #7 - 3000 Shasta Road

Corporation Yard - 1326 Allston Way

- 2 Loose vegetation must be put in compostable plastic bags and weigh less than 25 lbs.

IMPORTANT

- **Use the free compostable plastic bags!**
- Bag **ALL** Poison Oak.
- **DO NOT** drag cut branches through poison oak or stack branches on areas with poison oak. Such branches will not be chipped or picked up.
- **DO NOT** include: lumber, soil, rocks, concrete or garbage. Bag vegetation only.
- **Carefully inspect the area before pruning for active bird nests.** Leave nests undisturbed and reschedule the vegetation cutting. Laws protect nests, eggs and birds.
- **Non-compostable bags will NOT be picked up.** Bags must meet ASTM D-6400 Standard Specification for Compostable Plastics.

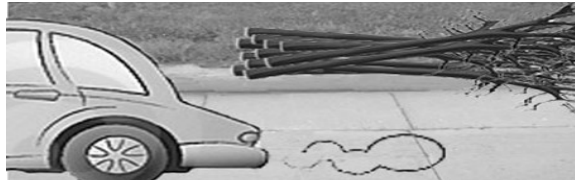


IMPORTANT

Please **DO NOT** put out additional vegetation after the crew has already serviced your street.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STACKING Vegetation

- 1 **Have all vegetation ready by Sunday night** for pickup any time during the week assigned to your area. Place all vegetation as close to the street as possible. Do not block fire hydrants. Avoid parking directly in front of the piles. Piles must be visible from street.
- 2 **Make sure all brush set out for chipping is free of metal objects** such as nails, or fencing. Metal objects run through a brush chipper could seriously injure the chipper operator and will damage the chipper.
- 3 **Branches for chipping must be less than 5 inches in diameter.** (Keep piles less than 4 feet high.) **DO NOT include any poison oak in brush piles.** Stack branches neatly, with all cut ends facing in the same direction as vehicle traffic travels. Piles from commercial pruning jobs will not be chipped.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR PILING Loose Vegetation

- 1 **Keep ivy separated from other vegetation.** Break apart piles of ivy or other vines and stack loosely (un-bagged) in a separate pile.
- 2 **Keep Palm fronds and Bamboo shoots separated from other vegetation.**

Fire Fuel Vegetation Bin Program

IMPORTANT

These bins are to be used for large volume of vegetation only – no lumber, plastic, dirt, rocks, concrete or household trash.

A limited number vegetation bins are available. All bins delivered are placed in the public right-of-way and are available for everyone in the neighborhood regardless of who ordered the bin.

- 1 To reserve a vegetation debris bin, call the Customer Service Center at **981-7270**, between 8:30am and 4:30pm. Please be prepared with alternative dates, to permit effective scheduling.
- 2 Vegetation debris bins can hold up to 30 cubic yards and will be available for drop-off on Tuesday and Friday. Bins left by 5:00pm on Tuesday will be picked up by Noon on Friday. Bins left by 5:00pm on Friday will be picked up by Noon on Tuesday.

Extra Plant Debris Info

Your regularly scheduled curbside plant debris pickup will still occur. If you have extra plant debris material for the weekly curbside pickup, pre-paid paper plant-debris bags are available at Ace Hardware, 2020 Milvia Street or the Berkeley Transfer Station at 1201 Second Street. For more info, visit www.cityofberkeley.info/PlantDebris.

IMPORTANT

Vegetation is only picked up at properties where a fire district surcharge was paid within the zero waste services fee on the tax bill. This does not apply to vacant land.

If you have any questions, please visit www.cityofberkeley.info/fire_fuel_program or call Customer Service Center at 981-7270, between 8:30am - 4:30pm or email: trees@cityofberkeley.info

Thank you for your efforts to reduce fire hazards in our community!