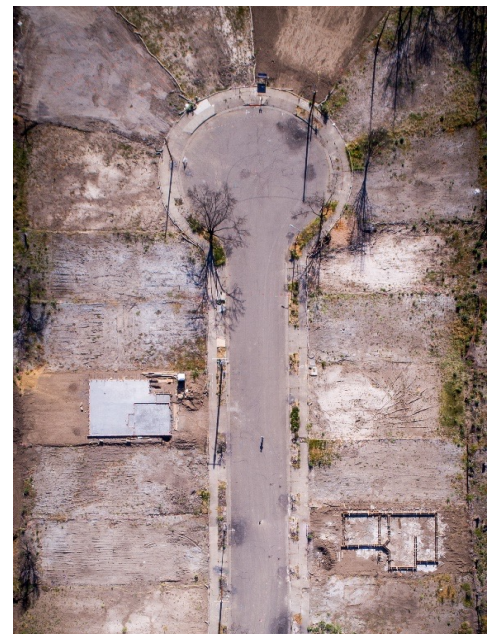


# Increasing Community Resilience to Wildfire: *Wildfire Risk Reduction Buffers*

In 2018, Paradise suffered devastating losses. Like Paradise, many other communities throughout California and the western US are facing wildfire risk that makes their resilience and economic viability uncertain. New approaches are needed to help provide more sustainable paths forward. One such approach is the use of wildfire risk reduction buffers, or areas of reduced fire fuel, such as green space or community parklands, to protect communities and lives.

**Research shows that the use of such buffers can reduce risks for communities and provide economic benefits that increase community resilience to wildfire.**



## Background

Following the 2018 Camp Fire, the Paradise Recreation and Park District collaborated with researchers at The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Biology Institute to explore how green land uses could help increase Paradise's resilience against wildfire. Their study explored how fire risk in Paradise would change over time if key parcels around the perimeter were used for new parks and green spaces – known as “wildfire risk reduction buffers” or “WRRBs” – instead of as sites for new housing. They found that by not building back on parcels in the highest risk areas, there is a potential to reduce future losses and improve community resilience to wildfire.

## The Many Benefits of WRRBs for Paradise

- By concentrating homes together within a buffered area, WRRBs make it easier for fire-fighters to access and defend the community, while providing a staging area for fire crews and a temporary refuge area for residents.
- Containing housing within buffered areas allows wildfire risk reduction measures – such as controlled burning to reduce fuel loads and minimize risks of future catastrophic fires -- to be implemented on wildlands that are adapted to frequent fire.
- By helping to limit human intrusion in wildlands, WRRBs help to protect wildlife habitat and support biodiversity.
- Research from The Nature Conservancy and risk strategy expert Marsh McLennan shows that strategically placing WRRBs in Paradise could significantly reduce both wildfire ignition rates and fire severity. Curtailing risks improves survivability for people and homes, and furthermore, by lessening the risk of property damage, strategic WRRBs also improve insurance affordability, which is necessary for post-loss economic recovery.
- Investments in community-scale mitigation measures, such as WRRBs, can also be linked to community-based insurance (CBI). This new approach involves arranging for or making coverage available by the community for homes within its jurisdiction. The pricing of insurance through a CBI program can help to capture the financial benefits of risk reduction measures and potentially improve pricing for insureds in the community.

## Join us for a conversation about wildfire, risk reduction, and insurance

### HYBRID EVENT DETAILS

Friday, September 23, 2022 | 09:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
Terry Ashe Recreation Center (TARC)  
6626 Skyway, Paradise, CA

Register here: <https://tnc.jotform.com/222503494632958>

Meeting will be accessible virtually by Zoom for those who cannot attend in person (link to be sent out following registration).

