



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
PARKS AND SUSTAINABILITY
COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 08/04/2025

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: July 31, 2025
TO: Parks and Sustainability Commission
FROM: Nicolle Burnham, Parks and Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Receive a Report on the Town's Open Space Wildfire Mitigation Work for 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a Report on wildfire mitigation work completed in Town Parks and Open Spaces in 2025.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Los Gatos has been working on a vegetation management program since 2020. To support this work, the Town was awarded funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for vegetation management in the Town-owned open spaces of La Rinconada Park, Worcester Park, Novitiate Park, Heintz Open Space, and Santa Rosa Open Space.

The open space vegetation management project implements the Vegetation Management Plan¹ that the Town Council adopted in 2021. In October 2024, Town Council authorized an agreement with Anvil Builders, Inc. to perform this work. This project thinned underbrush and small trees and removed dead and dying trees to improve open space health and wildfire resilience.

DISCUSSION:

Work was started on March 17, 2025 in La Rinconada Park and concluded in mid-June at Heintz/Santa Rosa Open Space Area.

The work completed will:

- Establish healthy, resilient fire adapted ecosystems to protect and conserve the Town's natural resources;

¹ https://www.losgatosca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/36713/Los-Gatos-Veg-Mgmt-Plan_20210616

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Title: Director, Parks and Public Works

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- Reduce wildfire risk at residential properties adjacent to Town open spaces; and
- Reduce the severity of catastrophic wildfire by removing and thinning overgrown fuels in the open spaces.

Treatment activities consisted of mechanized work in areas with less than 35% slope. Work included using skid steers and tracked chippers to remove dense stands of understory vegetation and using chainsaws to thin live trees less than eight-inches in diameter and dead trees up to 12-inches in diameter. Understory will be retained for wildlife habitat and soil erosion control in accordance with all required CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) requirements.

The agreement with Anvil includes two years of maintenance vegetation management in these spaces, and maintenance is planned for Spring of 2025 ahead of next fire season.