

Santa Cruz County Firewise Communities

Investing In
Readiness:
2025 Stats
as of Jan 2026

Contact:

lynn.sestak@firesafesantacruzcounty.org
info@firesafesantacruzcounty.org



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

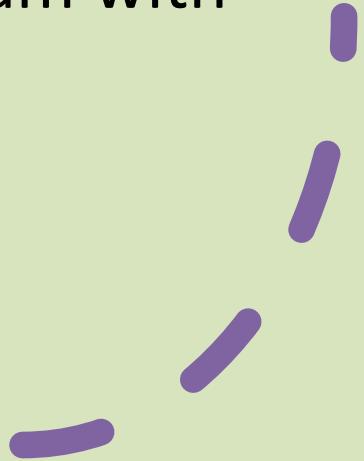


FIREWISE USA™

Residents reducing wildfire risks

Thank you!

- We thank our county's Firewise leaders and their community members for all the great work done in 2025!
- Our 2025 Statistics show strong growth in this program with your help



2025 Firewise Community Achievements

#2 in the Nation



116 Firewise
Recognized
Communities



Over 27,000 acres
wildfire engaged



\$19,959,437
Invested in
mitigation



8,402 homes
Participating



160,703 cubic yards
of hazardous
vegetation removed



359,052 hours spent
mitigating



FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks



FIREWISE USA™

Residents reducing wildfire risks

What is Firewise USA?



- Firewise USA - NFPA program
- Volunteer framework, neighbors collaborate to reduce wildfire risk
- Non-profit FireSafe Councils promote through education, coaching
- Firewise USA Recognized communities:
 - lower risk for fire fighters
 - increase defensible space
 - focus on saving lives, hardening homes

Santa Cruz County

Everyone Doing Their Part



Investments for 2024:

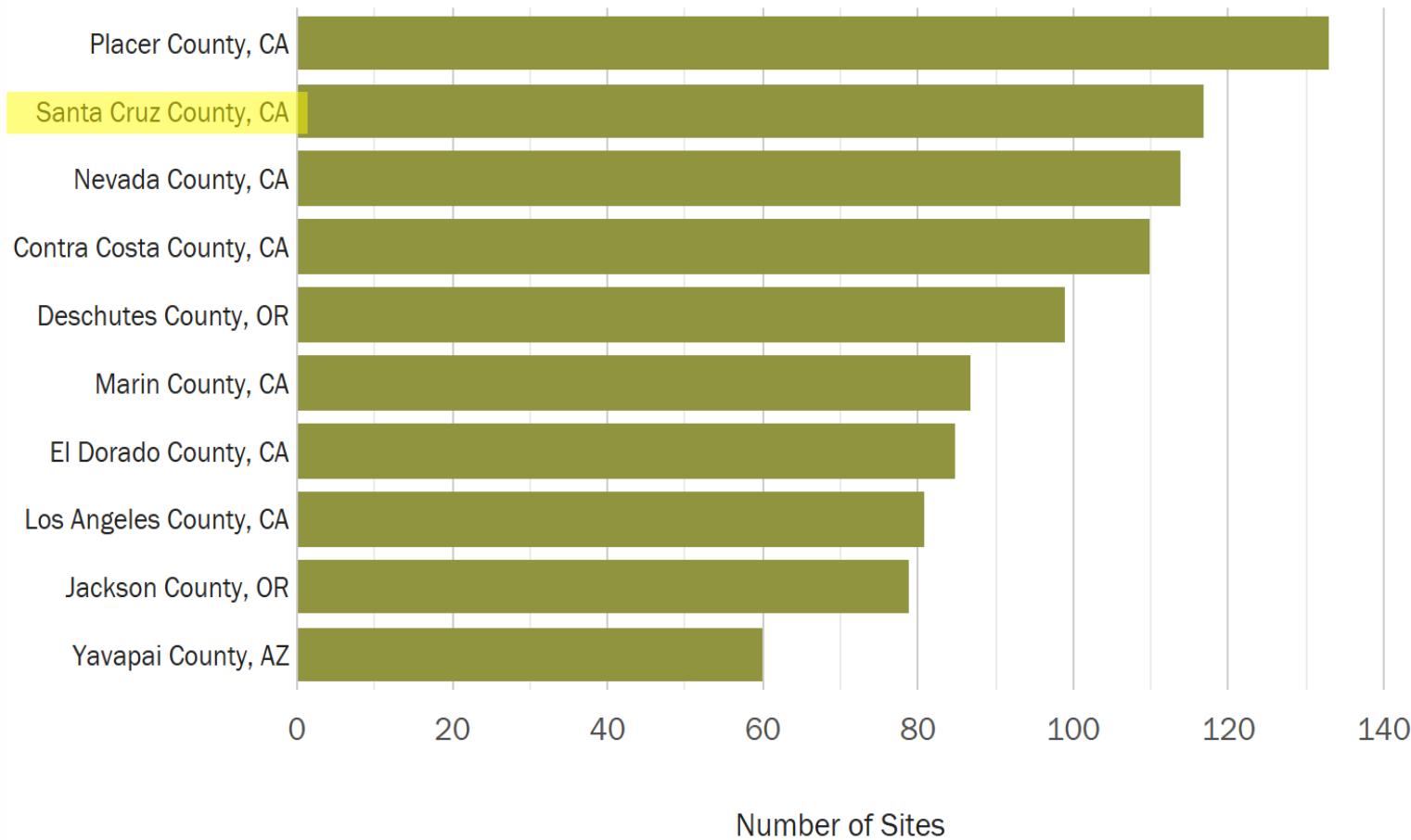
- 81 communities, 6549 homes
- \$18.4 Million personal money
- 183K volunteer hours

Investments in 2025:

- **116 communities, 8402 homes**
- **\$19 Million personal investment**
- **359K volunteer hours**
- **160K cubic yds Vegetation removed**

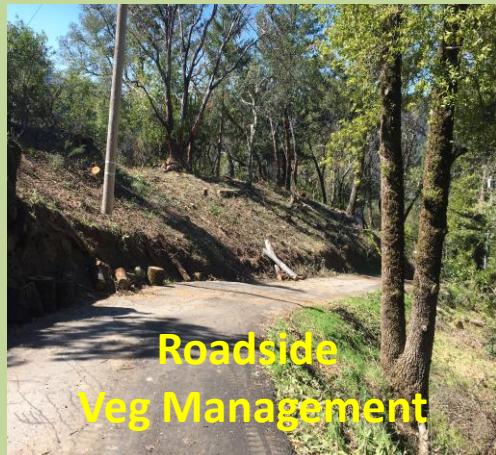


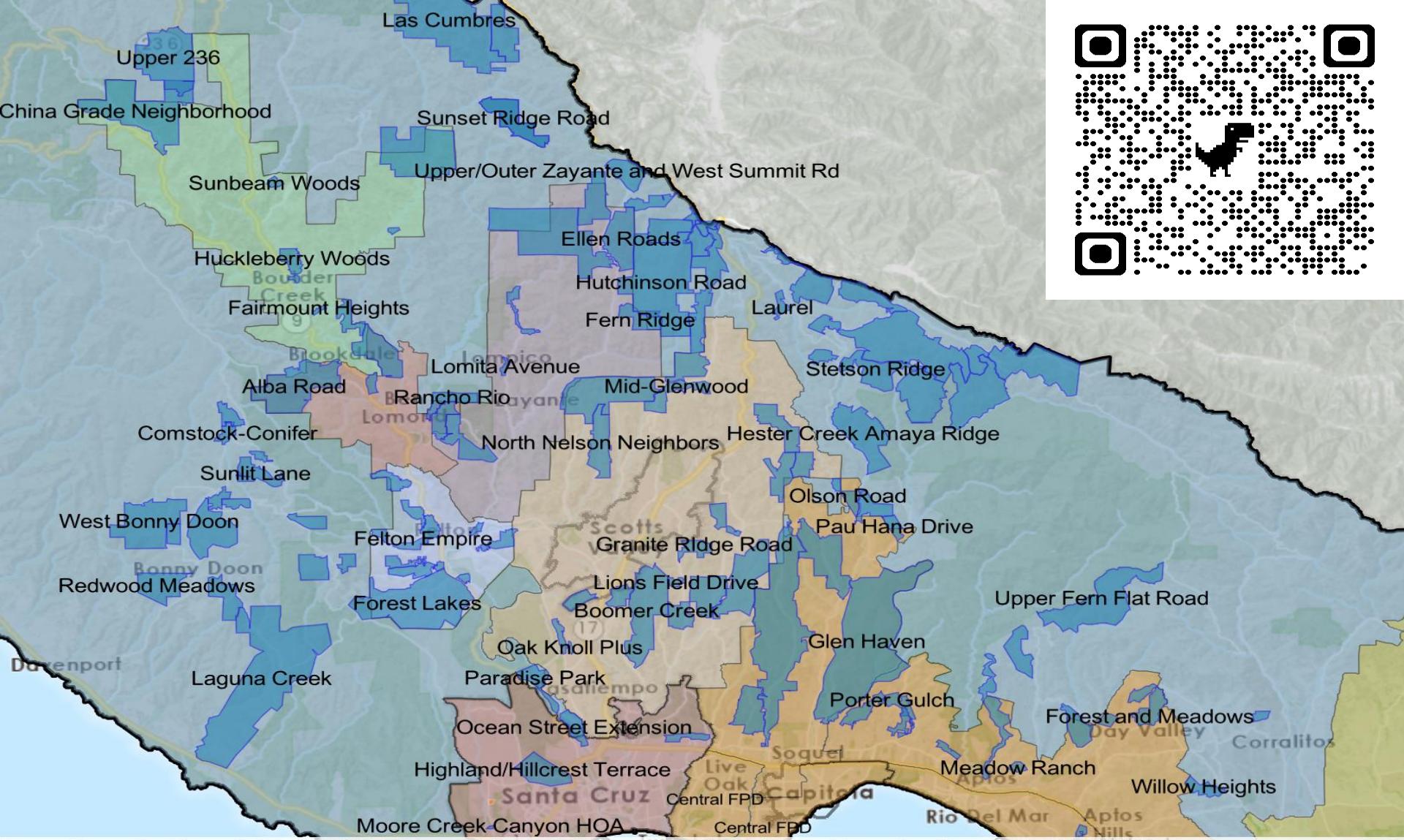
Top 10 ranking of Firewise USA® sites by county



We are #2 nationally for number of Firewise communities

Firewise Communities in Action





Our 2025 investments

Thank YOU for all your Support!

How can you continue to help?

Encourage local communities to become Firewise USA recognized. FireSafe Councils can help coach these communities

Engage with existing Firewise Leaders and their communities. They want to hear your guidance for wildfire readiness

Help advocate for vegetation management programs e.g. Free chipping services, free brush disposal days at local dumps

Local Fire: Help with Firewise Community Assessment Walk throughs for new communities

116 communities, 8402 homes
\$19 Million personal money
359 K volunteer hours
160 K cu yds veg. removed



Backup SlidesB



FSCSCC Firewise Stats Summary

- Jan 2021:
 - 9 Firewise communities, 1200 homes
- April 2022:
 - 26 Firewise USA recognized communities, 3027 homes
- December 2022:
 - 43 Firewise USA recognized communities, 3871 homes
- December 2023:
 - 55 Firewise USA recognized communities, 4532 homes
 - Another 10-12 communities in progress
- December 2024:
 - 81 Firewise USA recognized communities, 6549 homes
 - Another 15+ communities in progress