

Hi Neighbors

Last weekend, we presented our progress on the Trail Safe initiative at the annual DANA meeting, and now want to share that discussion more widely.

We have successfully cleared 1.5 miles of the 7 miles of easements in Diamond A, improving the fire safety of that area, and providing better access for emergency workers, crews and vehicles in the event of a fire. We are entirely donation-based, so none of this would have been possible without community contributions. Thank you.

We prepared a short video to show the region we have successfully cleared. Follow the yellow line on the video as it flies over our community.



Link to the Trail Safe movie [\[click here\]](#)

We have hundreds of photos and dozens of videos, but these two tell the story best:  
BEFORE → AFTER



The first photo is a formidable thicket of poison oak and briar. We didn't think it was passable, and might not have been without the talent of our trail building crew. The second photo is how that area looks now.

### **Aligned with Fire Department**

Our work is aligned with best practices of the Sonoma County Fire Department. By establishing Fuel Breaks along existing easements according to fire department protocol we are helping:

- Remove ladder fuels
- Establish “control lines” to stop/slow fire growth
- Create “safe zones” for fire crews to advance retreat
- Allow access for “hose lines,” personnel and equipment
- Provide “event command” to expand defensive goals
- Improve overall health of trees



### **Financial Accountability**

We raised \$15,791 and have so far spent \$10,987 on 7,389 linear feet for a cost of \$1.49 per linear foot, well within our goal of \$1 to \$2 per foot we set after the initial phase along the west ridge that borders Triangle G. We quickly realized this was not a volunteer-only effort. We needed professional assistance to scale and tackle areas beyond our collective ability. Two local landscape professionals now work weekends and account for ~ 80% of costs. In addition to your contributions, we have support from Grove Street Fire Council, the Diamond A Water Company, Friedman's, and Sonoma County Fire District.

### **Next Steps**

In the next few weeks (weather permitting), we will complete the initial 1.5 mile loop to the Rec Center, connecting the existing walking path around to Rec with the “swale” by the water pump (a shallow depression that gathers water). We want to provide access from the Rec, so that

members of our community – with a wide variety of mobility – can witness the progress of our work.

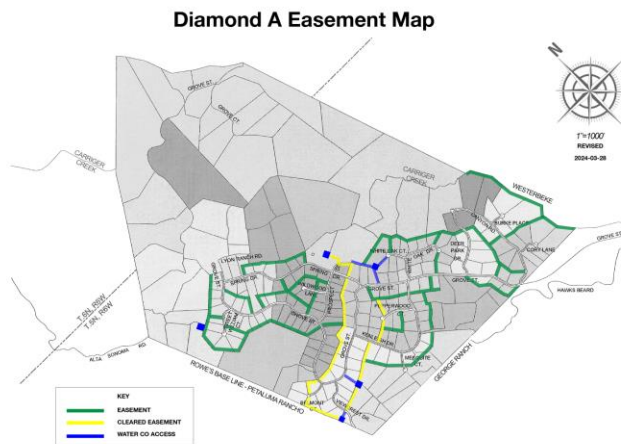
We will continue to clear easements along the outer lower perimeter of Diamond A, forming concentric rings, according to fire department best practices.

## Community Engagement

At last weekend’s annual DANA meeting, we also discussed access to the trails. We encourage access, since the trails need to be maintained and access acts as an early-warning system for potential fire hazards. We cleared the trails to allow access for fire crews, but also to continue to provide safe access for horses. These existing easements give us a unique advantage for building a fire safe community and access for all.

We also discussed lower insurance premiums and the specter of insurability at the DANA meeting. While this is a complex topic, we agreed that fire remediation in the community is progress we can all benefit from.

Here’s a good overview of the existing easements. We look forward to turning more of those green easements to yellow.



Thank you for your continued support. Contributions can be tax deductible. The Trail Safe group is part of the Grove Street Fire Safe Council. You can write a check to Grove Street Fire Safe Council with a note to “support Trail Safe volunteers” (mail to: Grove Street Fire Safe Council, 4032 Grove Street, Sonoma CA 95476). Or click the Donate button below that takes you to the donation page on [grovestreetfsc.org](http://grovestreetfsc.org), which accepts PayPal or credit cards. Don’t forget to click the “Write a note” option below the dollar amount to “support Trail Safe volunteers.”

Grove Street Fire Safe Council is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Your support of our efforts to reduce risk in our community is essential; contributions are tax-deductible.

[Click here to DONATE](#)

Working together, we can continue to build a fire-safe community.

Mike Nelson  
Chris Coleman  
Robert May  
Tom Jones  
Will Glesnes