

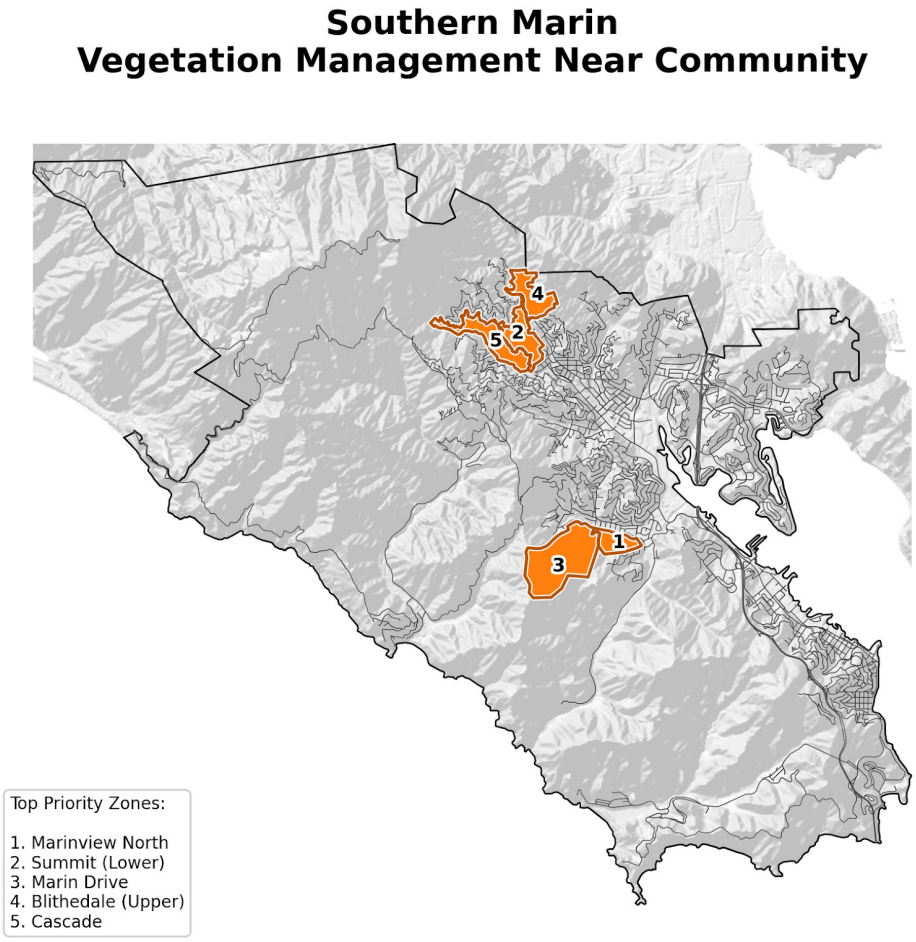
2026 Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
Southern Marin Summary

In Southern Marin, the confluence of closely spaced homes, the potential extreme fire behavior and fire pathways, and difficult-to-navigate roadways highlight the importance of additional risk-reduction initiatives throughout the zone. The Throckmorton Ridge, West Edgewood, and Summit evacuation zones exhibit among the highest projected wildfire behavior in Marin County, with modeled flame lengths of more than 20 feet. Vegetation management adjacent to communities and targeting watershed and infrastructure assets could reduce the impacts to adjacent neighborhoods, and targeted roadside clearance would further improve operational safety and reduce evacuation risk. While detection is not a primary gap in this zone's preparedness profile, enhanced alerting could strengthen the ability to safely evacuate areas where demographic factors may limit residents' ability to receive, interpret, or act on emergency notifications. Furthermore, due to the complex road network in this zone, enhanced evacuation planning is recommended to ensure resident safety during mass evacuation from a fast-moving fire. Analysis of fire behavior characteristics and defensible space inspection program data indicates that residential risk reduction would be beneficial in addressing the combined effects of active fire behavior, unresolved on-parcel vulnerabilities, and tightly spaced structures on residential parcels.

This zone-specific summary provides a brief description of the highest-priority zones within the Southern Marin JPA zone. These recommendations are intended to be interpreted in conjunction with local knowledge and expertise to develop effective risk-reduction strategies in Southern Marin.

Near-Community Vegetation Management

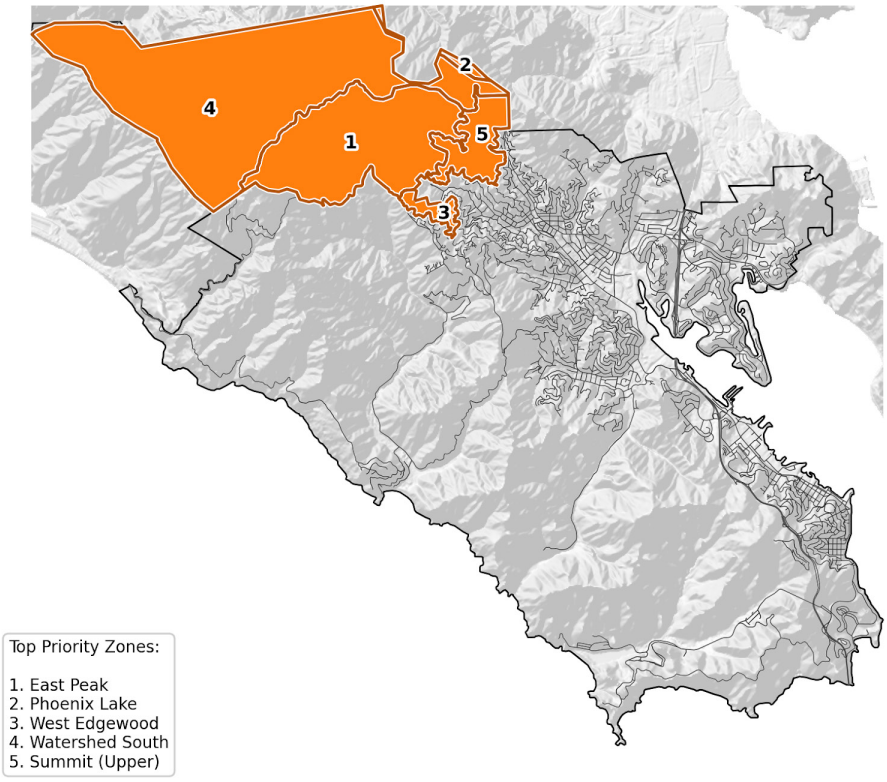
The highest-priority areas for Near-Community Vegetation Management in Southern Marin are those where fire pathways intersect closely spaced residential neighborhoods. Marinview North, Lower Summit, Marin Drive, Upper Blithedale, and Cascade rank highest for this theme. Modeling highlights the potential for active fire behavior, including high rates of spread and flame lengths exceeding 10 feet. Recent vegetation management projects, including the Summit/Ralston and the Homestead/Tamalpais Fuel Breaks, have reduced fire behavior profile in these zones, although some residual risk remains. Planned projects, including the Greater Southern Marin Shaded Fuel Break, are expected to further reduce transmission risk in several high-priority zones, particularly along the Blithedale Avenue corridor.



Vegetation Management in Open Space

Vegetation Management in Open Space is most strongly recommended on the slopes of Mount Tamalpais, including in the East Peak, West Edgewood, Watershed South, and Upper Summit zones. Although Marin Water has completed extensive fuel-reduction treatments in the watershed, analysis of current conditions indicates that additional management would further reduce transmission risk to adjacent communities. Fire-behavior modeling suggests that the areas north and west of Mill Valley exhibit some of the highest potential fire behavior in the county. Flame lengths may exceed 30 feet in some areas, and canopy fire activity is likely under severe fire weather. Widespread recreational use also increases the likelihood of new ignitions in these areas. Fire pathways are expected to move through these zones into Mill Valley and other neighboring communities during both northeast and west wind events. Strategically located SPLATs could moderate fire growth and reduce downstream exposure. These areas also contain critical water, electric, and communications infrastructure; targeted vegetation management around these assets would support continuity of service during a wildfire incident. Finally, the Mount Tamalpais Watershed is a primary source of drinking water for Marin County residents, and a high-severity fire could impair water quality; vegetation management projects to reduce fire severity could have beneficial outcomes on the drinking water supply.

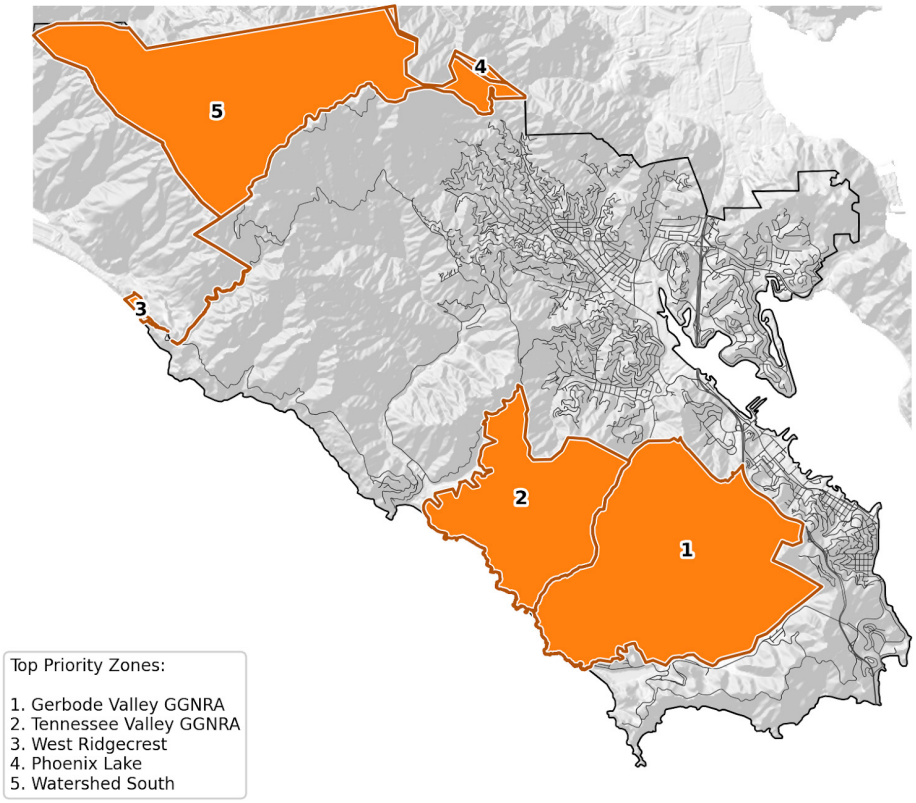
Southern Marin
Vegetation Management Open Space



Detection

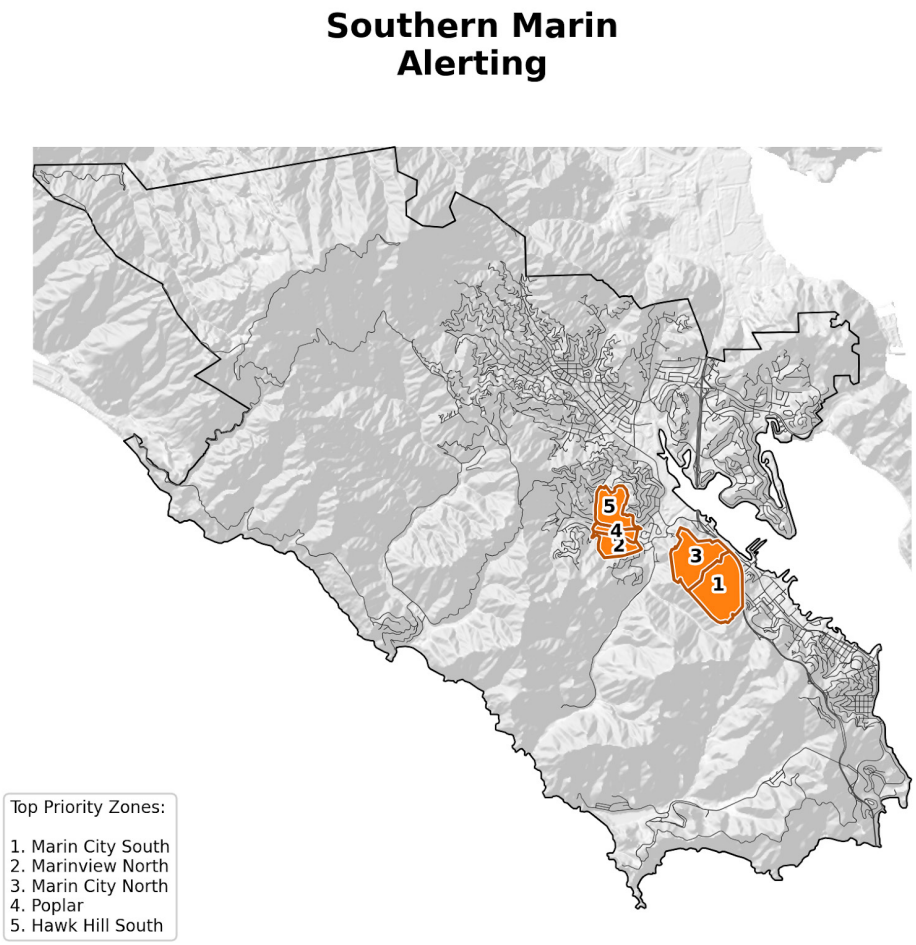
Much of Southern Marin boasts strong detection coverage, supported by an extensive road network and few fire detection camera blind spots. With cameras located at East Peak, Muir Beach, and Wolfback Ridge, only a small portion of the JPA Zone falls outside current camera viewsheds. As a result, Detection is a lower priority in this JPA Zone relative to other zones in the county. However, portions of the Marin Headlands, including Gerbode Valley GGNRA and Tennessee Valley GGNRA, as well as parts of the Watershed South Zone, have limited road access where resident reporting through 911 is less likely. Targeted enhancements to detection capabilities in these areas could improve situational awareness and support more rapid initial attack.

Southern Marin Detection



Alerting

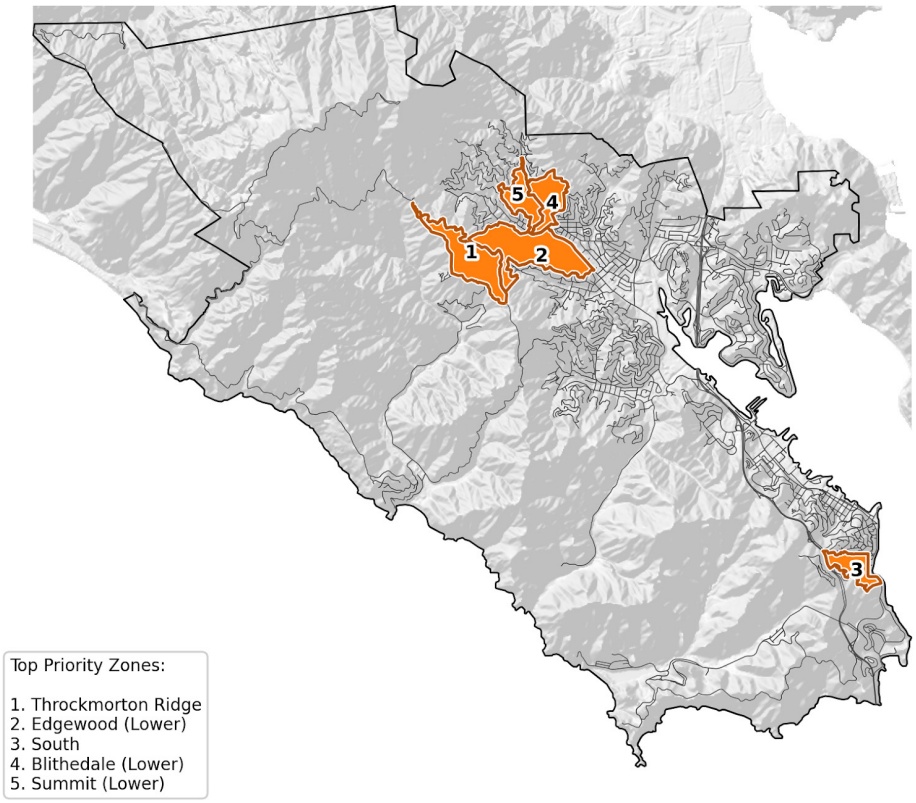
Initiatives to enhance Alerting systems are most strongly recommended in Marin City and in the Tamalpais and Homestead Valley communities. These zones exhibit a confluence of a high concentration of residents with access and functional needs with fire pathways and high modeled rates of spread that could make evacuation difficult. AlertMarin enrollment is low in these locations, particularly in Marin City. In several Marin City zones, fewer than 40% of residential parcels have an active AlertMarin subscription. Targeted outreach, enrollment campaigns, and supplemental notification strategies could improve warning reach and effectiveness in these communities.



Evacuation Planning

Local evacuation playbooks and other enhancements to Evacuation Planning are most strongly recommended along Throckmorton Ridge, in Mill Valley (Lower Edgewood, Lower Blithedale, and Lower Summit), and in the South Zone of Sausalito. These areas are densely populated and face elevated risk of fire exposure to both residential structures and road networks, increasing the likelihood that evacuation would be required relative to other zones in the county. Complex road networks further constrain evacuation capacity: many roads in these zones are narrow, winding, and difficult to travel under emergency conditions, particularly when driver behavior becomes unpredictable and visibility is reduced by smoke. Although modeled fire probability in these zones is lower than in some other evacuation areas in the county, the combination of population density, roadway constraints, and exposure to fire pathways aligns to make evacuation operations particularly challenging.

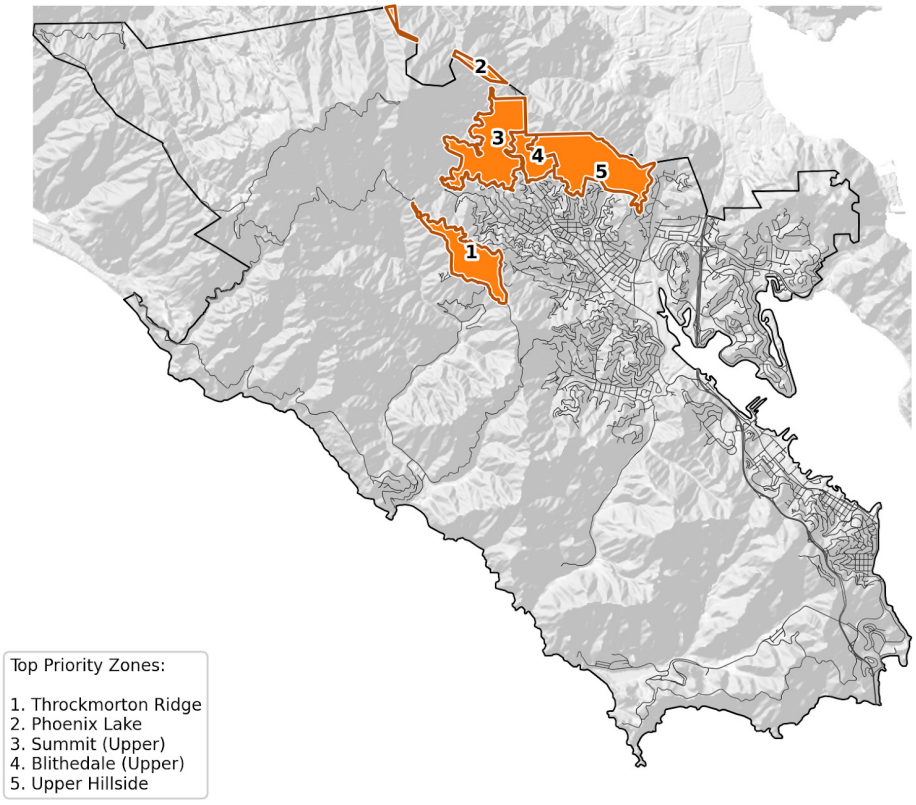
Southern Marin
Evacuation Planning



Roadside Clearance

The highest priorities for Roadside Clearance in Southern Marin occur at community edges, where roads travel through wildland vegetation and interface neighborhoods. Throckmorton Ridge, Upper Summit, Upper Blithedale, and Upper Hillside rank highest for this theme. Modeled flame lengths along roadway segments are very high (exceeding 20 feet in some locations), and the likelihood of canopy fire activity adjacent to roads is high compared with other zones in the county; as a result, these evacuation zones also contain a relatively low proportion of fire-resilient roadways. Enhanced vegetation clearance along roads in these areas would reduce risk to evacuation routes and support both civilian egress and firefighter ingress during an incident.

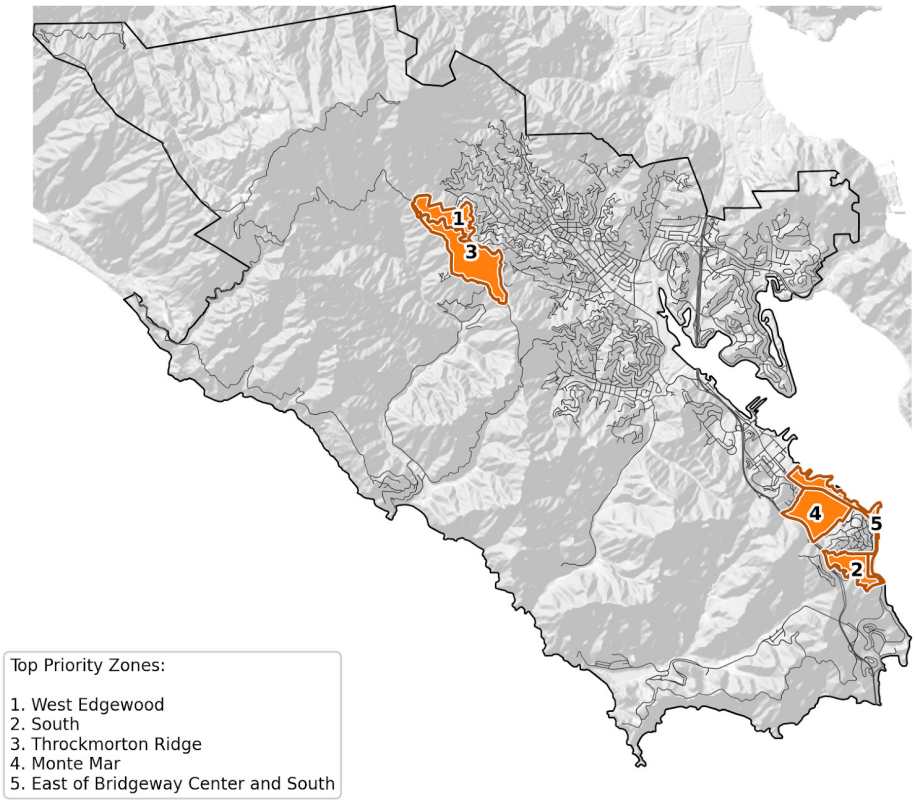
Southern Marin
Roadside Clearance



Residential Risk Reduction

The highest-priority areas for initiatives targeting Residential Risk Reduction are along the western edge of Mill Valley, including Throckmorton Ridge and West Edgewood, and in Sausalito. Parcels in these zones commonly exhibit multiple defensible-space and home-hardening vulnerabilities, in addition to active modeled fire behavior and tightly spaced structures. In West Edgewood and Throckmorton Ridge, modeled fire behavior is severe, with rapid rates of spread, large flame lengths, and significant ember exposure. These areas are also relatively difficult for responders to access, limiting suppression effectiveness and increasing the importance of parcel-level mitigation. In Sausalito, structure spacing is extremely tight. Although modeled fire behavior in these areas is lower than in other zones, small separation distances result in an elevated risk of structure-to-structure transmission should a fire become established. These neighborhoods are high priorities for targeted programming focused on defensible space compliance and home-hardening retrofits.

Southern Marin
On Parcel Risk Reduction



Countywide Comparison

The table below compares priorities in the Southern Marin JPA zone relative to the rest of the county. Unlike the summaries above, which identify the top five zones for each theme, the data in this table indicate how often high-priority zones occur within each theme.

Theme	Number of Zones at or Above 75th Percentile Countywide
Near-Community Vegetation Management	26
Vegetation Management in Open Space	12
Detection	0
Alerting	7
Roadside Clearance	14
Evacuation Planning	11
Residential Risk Reduction	6

Additional Information

For more information, please visit:

- **Southern Marin Wildfire Mitigation Projects**
- **Progress on Vegetation Management**
- **Progress on Detection Alert and Evacuation**
- **Progress on Defensible Space and Home Hardening**
- **Southern Marin Fire District**