The goal of the Resilient Landscapes Coalition is to encourage fire-wise landscape design and management in the defensible space zone, while at the same time enhancing biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and conserving resources.

The Coalition formed for several reasons:

- **To ensure** that wildlife habitat and biodiversity are protected and enhanced while meeting County and State code requirements and fire-wise recommendations within the defensible space zone.
- **To promote** sustainable practices to save energy and water.
- **To provide** specific design and plant selection recommendations at different distances from the house, encouraging the use of native plants, and identifying native plant communities as the framework for plant selection.
- **To highlight** the importance of working as a community to be fire-wise, sustainable, and to protect and enhance wildlife habitat.
- **To engage** the fire-protection community along with the environmental communities to create an integrated and holistic message.

The Resilient Landscapes Coalition Partnership

Visit us!

SonomaResilientLandscapes.com

With funding from the Sonoma County Vegetation Management Grant Program

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Harden the home and minimize or eliminate plantings within 5' from the structure: the highest priority for protecting your property!
- Plant in “islands” to provide habitat.
- Remove “ladder” fuels that allow fire to move into the canopies of trees.
- **Hardscape**: non-flammable landscape features made of brick, gravel, or stone.
- Maintenance is critical and required by law! On an ongoing basis, keep plants free of dead material, avoid unnecessary hedging, and maintain plants with adequate irrigation.
- Work with your neighbors. Recognize that your Zone 2 may be within their Zone 1.
- Mow annual grasses and other weeds to 3-4” in the summer. It’s the law!
- In Zones 1-2, allow leaf litter to enrich the soil in winter and spring, but minimize it in Zone 1 in the summer.
- Avoid “gorilla hair” mulch. Arbor mulch is a good mulch material where appropriate.

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE MYTHS**
- Do we need to have a “moonscape”? No! Diverse groupings of mostly native plants are beautiful and provide habitat. Native plants are adapted to our climate and easier to hydrate.
- Do we have to cut down our trees? No! Trees are important habitat elements, but we need to remove ladder fuels. Maintain a distance to the lowest branches of 3x the height of plants below, for a minimum of 6’ or 1/3 the height of smaller trees. Rigorously remove debris from roofs and gutters.
- What are the best fire resistant plants? All plants burn. It’s much more important to place plants in the right location and with their ultimate size and requirements in mind. Native plants conserve water and provide habitat.