

# Parks and Recreation Department

## Open Space Brush Management Program

January 16, 2025

Erika Ferreira, Deputy Director  
Laura Ball, Project Officer II

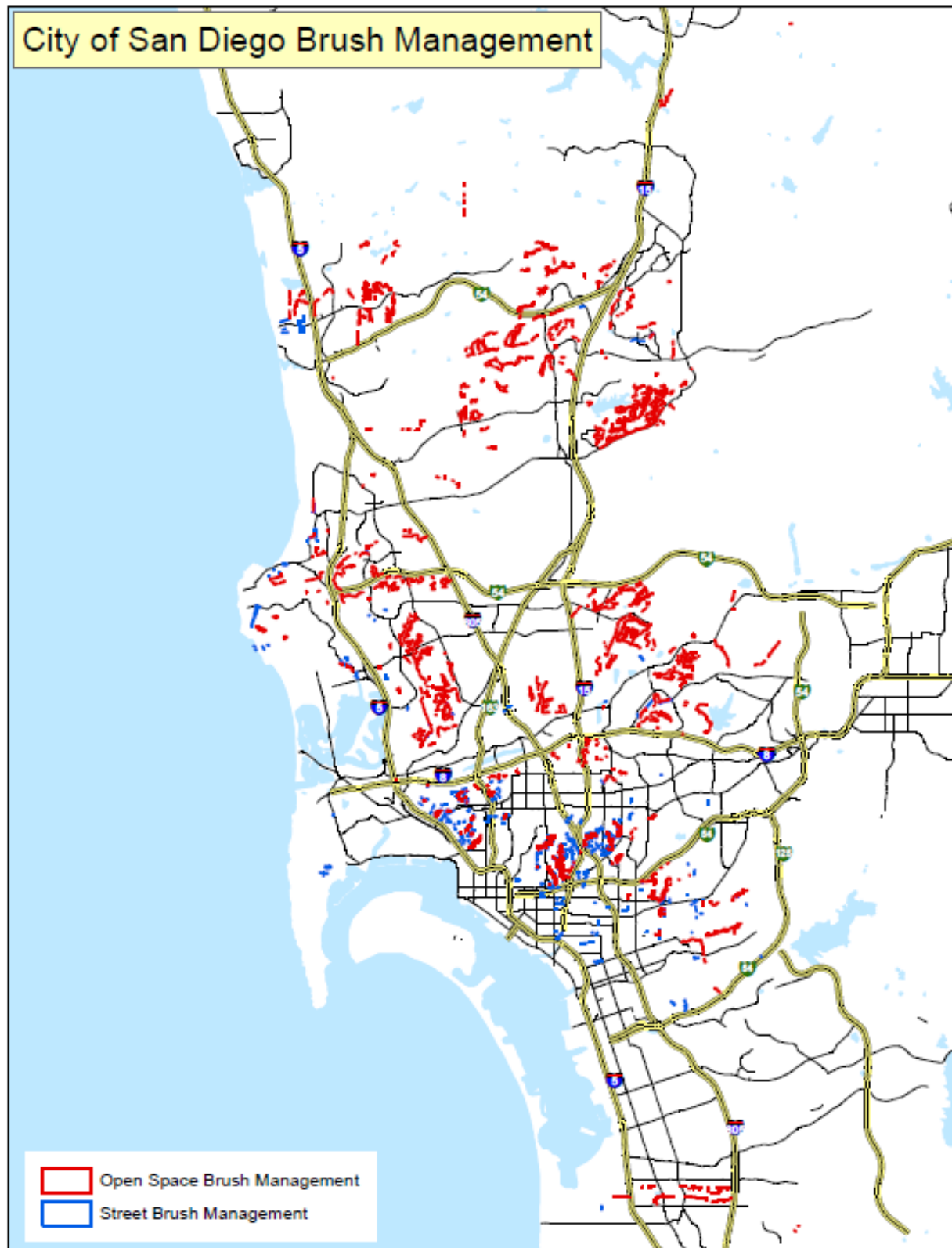


# Responsibility for performing Brush Management

Managing Departments for City Owned Land are responsible for conducting their own brush management in accordance with the City's Regulation.

- San Diego Municipal Code
- Brush Management Regulations and Landscape Standards

# City of San Diego Brush Management



# Open Space Brush Management Program

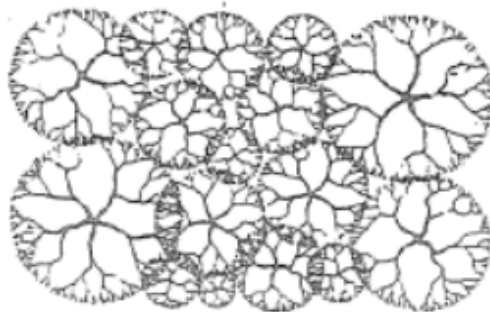
- Training
- Flagging
- Pre-biologist surveys (during and outside of nesting season)
- Crews complete brush thinning
- Post biologist surveys
- Any discrepancies are addressed
- Signoff on map

# How is Brush Management Conducted?

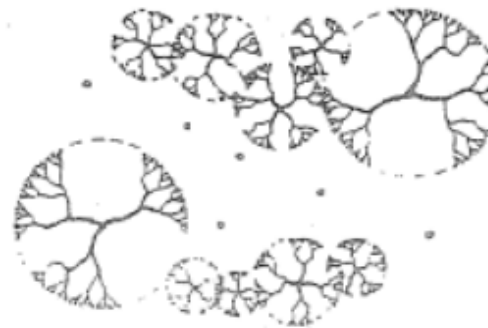
## Thinning to 50% cover in Brush Management Zone 2

- Nesting bird surveys during nesting season
- Protocol CA Gnatcatcher surveys in CAGN habitat during nesting season
- The progression of work should proceed as follows:
  1. Remove dead plants
  2. Thin out brush management areas to the required coverage by removing non-native invasive species, non-natives, natives and then lastly sensitive species, in that order.
  3. Prune remaining plants
  4. Dispose of mulch debris and trimmings

### PLAN VIEW



**100% Canopy Coverage, Solid Foliage Mass with no Spaces between Plants**



**Reduced to 50% by Combination of Thinning and Removal of Canopy Coverage**

# How is Brush Management Conducted? (Cont'd)

## Pruning after thinning



Chaparral Plant Before Pruning



Chaparral Plant After Pruning



Before Brush Management

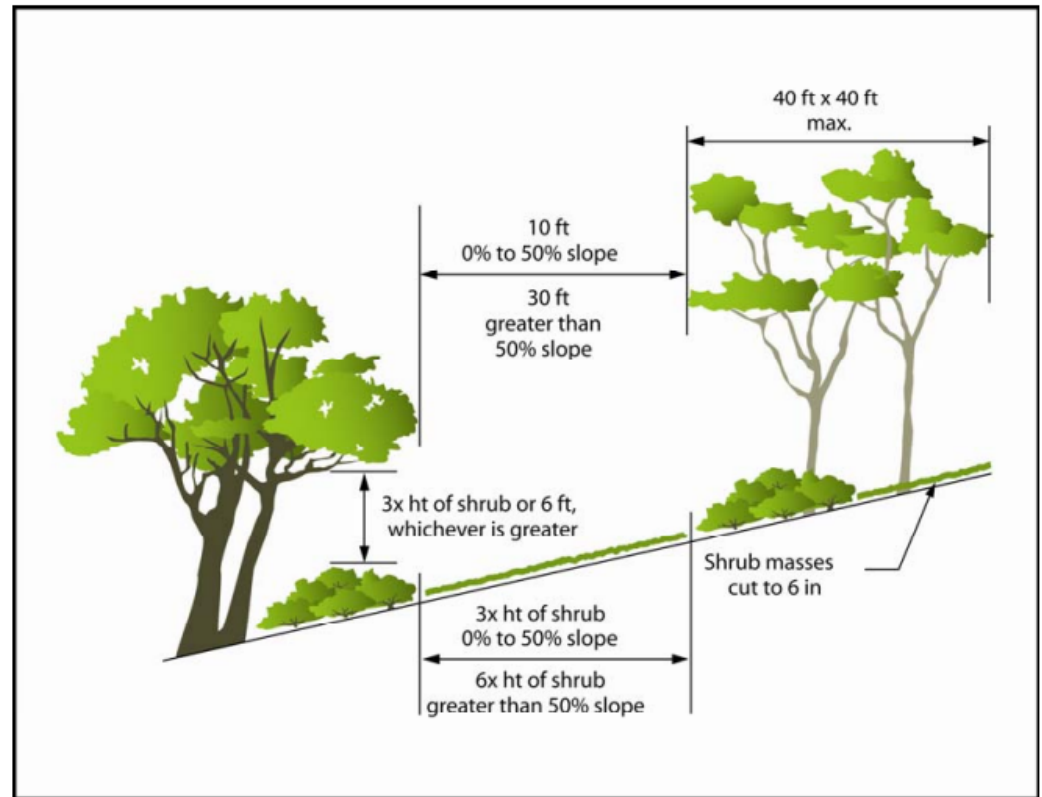


After Thinning and Pruning

# How is Brush Management Conducted? (Cont'd)

## Tree and Shrub Spacing

- Trees greater than 3 inches dbh located in Eucalyptus Woodland areas are exempt from the minimum horizontal tree spacing requirement.
- Indigenous, native trees in all areas are exempt from the minimum horizontal tree spacing requirement.



TREE & SHRUB SPACING

## Examples of Brush Thinning



Pre  
←

Post  
→





## Examples of Brush Thinning



Pre  
←

Post  
→



## Other Brush Management Options

- Right of Entry permit (ROE)– Private property owners may perform brush management on city property by obtaining a ROE
- Must follow all applicable regulations
- Application online – Allow 30 days for processing
- Contractor must have insurance requirements



# City of San Diego Brush Management Resources

Municipal Code for brush management

<https://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/MuniCodeChapter14/Ch14Art02Division04.pdf>

Clarification of brush management regulations and landscape Standards

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/fire/pdf/brushpolicy.pdf>

Parks and Recreation Open Space Brush Management program

<https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/osp/brush>

Parks and Recreation Open Space Brush Management schedule

<https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/brushprioritymaplist.pdf>

Parks and Recreation Brush Management Right of Entry application

<https://www.sandiego.gov/department/brush-management-right-entry-application>

# Home Hardening

## State Fire Marshal Low-Cost Retrofit List

1. When it is time to replace your roof, replace it with a **Class A fire-rated roof**. OSFM Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Products
2. Block any spaces between your roof covering and sheathing with noncombustible materials (**bird stops**).
3. Install a **noncombustible gutter cover** on gutters to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris in the gutter.
4. Cover your chimney and stovepipe outlets with a **noncombustible corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen** (spark arrestor), with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch openings.
5. Install **ember and flame-resistant vents**. Consult your local building official and hire a licensed contractor for this project as these modifications may reduce airflow. OSFM Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Products.
6. **Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/8-inch** around exposed rafters and blocking to prevent ember intrusion into the attic or other enclosed spaces.



# Home Hardening

## State Fire Marshal Low-Cost Retrofit List

7. Inspect exterior siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks, and warping. **Caulk or plug gaps greater than 1/8-inch in siding** and replace any damaged boards, including those with dry rot.
8. Install **weather-stripping** to gaps greater than 1/8-inch between garage doors and door frames to prevent ember intrusion. The weather-stripping must be compliant with UL Standard 10C.
9. When it's time to replace your windows, replace them with **multi-paned windows that have at least one pane of tempered glass**. OSFM Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Products.
10. When it's time to replace your **siding or deck**, use **compliant noncombustible, ignition-resistant**, or other OSFM Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Products
11. **Cover openings to operable skylights** with a noncombustible metal mesh screen with openings in the screen not to exceed 1/8 inch.
12. Install a minimum **6-inch metal flashing**, applied vertically on the exterior of the wall at the deck-to-wall intersection to protect the combustible siding material.





# Questions