

Fire Safety Tips

- ✓ Maintain a 30-foot clearance on the side of your home exposed to open space areas.
- ✓ Plant fire resistant shrubs, plants, or ground cover. Check with a nursery for these types of plants.
- ✓ Trim tree branches so they don't touch the ground. They should be no lower than 6 feet from the ground. Some oak trees are protected, so contact the Community Development Department for verification.
- ✓ Clean all leaves and needles from your roof and gutters.
- ✓ Remove and discard any dead, overhanging tree branches from around your home.
- ✓ Maintain your yard by routinely discarding old construction materials and other debris.
- ✓ Clear out the areas below wooded decks, and do not store flammable or combustible materials there.
- ✓ Repair or replace old or rotting deck material.
- ✓ Use caution when storing firewood. Store away from the structure if possible.
- ✓ Have a garden hose with spray nozzle attached readily available at all times.

The City of Rocklin is committed to fire prevention, erosion control, open space protection, and public safety. It is our hope that you find the information in this brochure informative and educational regarding wildland fire protection in open space easements, wetlands and hillsides.

If you have any special concerns relating to fire prevention and/or safety, please do not hesitate to contact the **City of Rocklin Fire Department at 625-5300.**

The City of Rocklin



Open Space Easements, Wetlands & Hillsides

Whose Property is it?

Most open space areas and/or hillsides adjacent to your home are privately owned, and are the responsibility of the property owner to maintain.

If you are unsure about property ownership, maintenance, aesthetics or have concerns regarding any open space area, contact the **City of Rocklin Community Development Department at 625-5160.**

Property Guidelines

Current development requirements limit how most open space areas and hillsides are maintained or altered.

Open spaces designated as wetlands and vernal pools are protected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These areas are to be untouched and left in their natural state, unless specific approval is obtained through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

What is an Open Space Area?

Open space easements, wetlands and hillsides are a natural part of the landscape in the city of Rocklin.

The purpose of an open space easement is to keep the identified property in a condition that preserves its significant topographic features, as much as is reasonably possible, for the benefit of the land and for public enjoyment.

Several open space areas have been designated Wetland Preserves and/or Vernal Pools. These areas are protected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in an effort to preserve wildlife habitats.

Fire Protection:

The City of Rocklin understands the concerns regarding potential fire danger on hillsides and in open space areas. It is because of these concerns that the following steps have been taken

- The City of Rocklin has submitted a plan and received approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for maintaining specific fire access roads within certain wetland and preserve areas.
 - Current regulations require fire retardant roofs on all new and remodeled buildings. It is common practice for contractors to include noncombustible siding and roofing materials in fire-prone areas.
 - Residential setbacks of homes located adjacent to hillsides and open space areas are reviewed and established prior to subdivision map approval.
 - During the initial review of subdivision maps, fire access points are designed and geographically located to allow access for fire fighting operations.
 - Specific procedures designed for fighting fires in limited access areas have been established
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- ✓ It is important to protect the natural runoff features of the land. Improper maintenance of open space areas could possibly create an erosion problem, which could affect the residents both above and below hillsides.
 - ✓ Do not cut weeds down to bare soil. This can upset the natural runoff, creating erosion problems during the rainy season. Try to maintain at least 4-6 inches of natural growth on sloping terrain and/or hillsides.