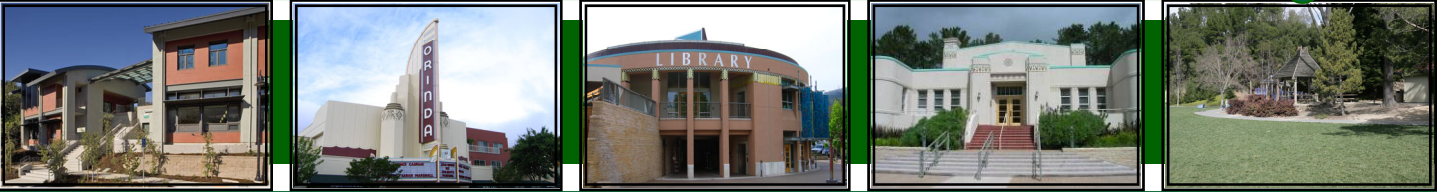


# The Orinda Way



The **National Fire Danger Rating System** (or the 'Fire-Danger-Today') signs can be found outside of fire stations, forest ranger stations, as well as various street corners. The 'snapshot' status displayed on those signs can indicate suggestions of actions or precautions to take based on what the signs are referring to.

**Low:** What does it mean to be in Low Fire Danger? – Essentially, it is difficult for things to ignite. This is often the case when it's cool and rainy outside or has been raining continuously for a while.

**What should I do?** – Have a backyard BBQ or roast marshmallows. The danger is low, enjoy it.

**Moderate:** Moderate is telling you that cured grasses and small twigs might be dry enough to ignite but probably won't spread well beyond live or shaded fuels.

**What should I do?** – Like low danger, most activities are probably safe, but some extra vigilance and preparation (like making sure you have a garden hose hooked up and ready to extinguish any errant sparks) is encouraged.

**High:** Fires can spread well along the ground, and most grasses that are dried out can pre-heat live trees and brush. The presence of ladder-fuels (shrubs, vines, saplings, growing close enough together that could allow a fire to transition from ground cover to mid-story shrubs, and then from mid-story to the tree canopy,) can become very dangerous as pre-heated vegetation can be available for a fire to ignite.

**What should I do?** – Avoid activities that would spark a fire, like use of certain power tools, etc.

**Very High:** Conditions are such that small fires can become out of control very easily. Additionally, when those small fires become larger, they tend to shoot embers and create new fires. While this is possible any time there is a fire, the likelihood of it escalating quickly is also 'Very High'.

**What should I do?** – Get flammable items away from the outside of your home.

Move patio furniture, children's toys, and welcome mats either inside the home or farther out into the yard and at least five feet from the structure.

Connect garden hoses to spigots, and if you have a ladder, set it outside on the ground near the building. (Firefighters can use these tools to quickly stop small spot fires.) Turn off propane tanks; if an outdoor grill or fireplace is connected to a gas line, find the shut-off valve, and close it.

*(continued on page 3)*



Visit the City's website at [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org) to sign up and receive email meeting notifications and the Orinda Outlook!

On the City website, click the "Notify Me" button to select which meeting notifications you are interested in receiving. Click the button just below that one to sign-up and receive the weekly "Orinda Outlook" electronic newsletter for the most up-to-date City news.

# Measure R

The City of Orinda is committed to providing excellent service to the community—and a key element of that is protecting residents and businesses from the threat of wildfire.

The Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission (SSTOC) recently published the second Annual Report, summarizing accomplishments, goals, and the fiscal impact of Measure R from July 1, 2021 –June 30, 2022 Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and beyond.

Based on the SSTOC recommendation the City Council authorized, the hiring and training of an additional dedicated City staff member to provide direct action support for wildfire risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and home hardening efforts. In response, the City of Orinda welcomed a new Outreach and Education Coordinator, James Duff, in November 2022.

In order to encourage residents to begin the process of removing hazardous vegetation, the City also established a [Fire Fuels Reduction Incentive Pilot Program](#), which provides reimbursements for residents who hire fuel reduction and vegetation management services and remove fire fuels out of Orinda. In compliance with MOFD Fire Code, the City of Orinda continues to clear City property of fire fuels.

Beginning in FY 2022, residents enjoyed an [expanded Orinda Chipper](#), which now utilizes gridded scheduling for all neighborhoods. Those living in north Orinda also experienced an expanded pilot program for No-Parking-on-Red-Flag-Days to include local evacuation routes, along with signage updates.

Orinda staff created, printed and disseminated educational materials in an array of media formats to serve the full-spectrum of Orinda residents. These resources include: [Orinda Fire Evacuation Guide and General Information pamphlet](#), Chipper Program, Fire Marshal’s Hazard Compliance Guidelines, Red-Flag-Day parking restrictions, Social media campaigns using original graphic design and video content, and community engagement and outreach efforts—producing events like the upcoming Wildfire Prevention and Safety Fair, which will be held this year on April 22 from 9am - 3pm at Orinda Community Park.

To facilitate educational outreach efforts, residents may now visit a dedicated [“Emergency Preparedness” webpage](#), linked on the City’s homepage. This landing page serves as a comprehensive guide to the previously mentioned community resources and more.

Orinda property owners, residents, City staff and other local stakeholders have collaborated to reduce wildfire risk and ensure the safety and preservation of our community. Though there have been significant accomplishments already to removing fire fuels, we must all continue to uphold the highest standards for wildfire mitigation efforts.

Much of Orinda is in High or Very High Fire Severity Zones. As a result, we all share responsibility in reducing risks. The City asks you to continue to maintain your property through periodic maintenance (e.g. limbing up trees) and one-off projects (e.g. home hardening). Learn more about how to protect yourself and your neighbors from wildfire at [www.cityoforinda.org/535/Emergency-Preparedness](http://www.cityoforinda.org/535/Emergency-Preparedness).

There are still openings to apply for on the following City Commissions and Committees:

Planning Commission , Finance Advisory Committee or County Connection Citizens Advisory Committee.

If you have an interest in any of these volunteer positions, we encourage you to apply by filling out a Statement of Interest on the City’s website.

Interviews will be scheduled with the City Council in early April.





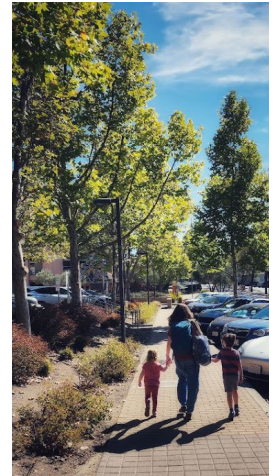
## City Council Approves Plan Orinda!

Over the past three years, Orinda staff members have been working with the Orinda community and decision makers on the Plan Orinda project, engaging with the public through the PlanOrinda.com website, regular email updates to nearly 400 interested parties, multiple surveys, as well as over 40 public meetings and workshops with the City Council, the Downtown and Housing Subcommittee, and the Planning Commission. On January 31st, the City Council certified the Plan Orinda Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and approved:

1. The Downtown Precise Plan (DPP);
2. The 2023-2031 Housing Element Update; and
3. The Safety Element Update.

### What's next for Plan Orinda?

Each component of the Plan Orinda project has its own next steps:



1. **Downtown Precise Plan (DPP)** - Next steps for the DPP will include amendments to the City's existing documents to reflect the vision and guiding principles of the DPP and the draft Objective Design Standards. This will include amendments to the City's General Plan, General Plan land use map, the Land Use Element of the General Plan, and Orinda Municipal Code.
2. **Housing Element Update** – In adopting the Housing Element update, the City Council also authorized its submittal to the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for a 60-day review and certification period on February 1, 2023. If the City obtains a letter of substantial compliance from HCD after the 60-day review, next steps will include rezoning and General Plan amendments to comply with the policies and programs of the Housing Element.
3. **Safety Element Update** - Following adoption of the Safety Element, the City will implement the goals and policies within the updated Element.

## National Fire Danger Rating System (cont.)

**Extreme:** Very low humidity, high winds, drought conditions, and sunbaked and cured organic material. This is a time for a very high level of vigilance. The oscillations of fire weather may cause the rating to dip back down to very high. Unless that dip is precipitated by an opposite and lengthy weather event, the threat is just on the uppermost precipice of Very High, verging on going back to Extreme.

**What should I do?** -- Have the vehicle you plan on using for evacuation well-maintained and ready to go. Make sure your vehicle has at least three-quarters of a tank of gas or battery charge available. Back into the driveway or parking spot so you are facing the roadway, and able to drive out. Lastly, leave your lights on. You will want lights on in your home and on your vehicle as you leave. As emergency responders and others will have reduced visibility from smoke.

### Things to consider regardless of fire danger:

- Budget for landscaping work, MOFD Fire Adapted Community Ambassadors can help you prioritize.
- Screen most openings and vents with metal mesh (MOFD has BrushFire® mesh available upon request free of charge).
- Make sure that your property is following the most recent MOFD Ordinances.
- Make an Evacuation Plan:

**What should I do?** Have a place in mind to stay for several days or longer? How will you connect with others who you may not be with at the time of the evacuation? Are there people near you who may need help when it is time to evacuate?

## City Council

Inga Miller, Mayor

Darlene Gee, Vice Mayor

Latika Malkani, Council Member

Brandyn Iverson, Council Member

Janet Riley, Council Member

## Administrative Staff

### CITY MANAGER

David Biggs

### CITY ATTORNEY

Osa Wolff

### CITY CLERK

Sheri Smith

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Doug Alessio, Director

### POLICE

Ryan Sullivan, Chief of Police

### PARKS & RECREATION

Todd Trimble, Director

### PLANNING

Drummond Buckley, Director

### PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING SERVICES

Scott Christie, Director

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Ginger Staton, Manager

## Directory

Administration (925) 253-4220

City Clerk (925) 253-4221

Parks & Recreation (925) 254-2445

Public Works & Engineering (925) 253-4231

Planning (925) 253-4210

Police Offices (925) 254-6820

Police Dispatch (925) 284-5010

## Save the Dates!

### Wildfire Prevention and Safety Fair

Saturday, April 22, 2023

Mark your calendar and come to the Orinda Wildfire Prevention and Safety Fair – everyone will be there! It will be a busy day in downtown Orinda with the annual Orinda Action Day event, the Orinda Teen Advisory Council/Red Cross Blood Drive as well as the Farmer's Market.

Orinda Community Park 9 AM – 3 PM.  
Food and Fun for All.



### Thursday Summer Concerts

JUN 8 Three Day Weekend

JUN 22 Opera in the Park

JUL 13 Lamorinda Idol

JUL 27 Grateful Bluegrass Boys

AUG 3 Kate Burkart Band

AUG 24 Vintage Jukebox

SEP 7 Hipster Cocktail Party

SEP 21 Patron Latin Rhythms

Orinda Community Center Park; 6-8 PM.  
Enjoy live music and delectable bites from Taste of the World Market. 5-8 PM

### Youth Summer Recreation Camps Register NOW!

June 5 – August 11 Ages 3-14;

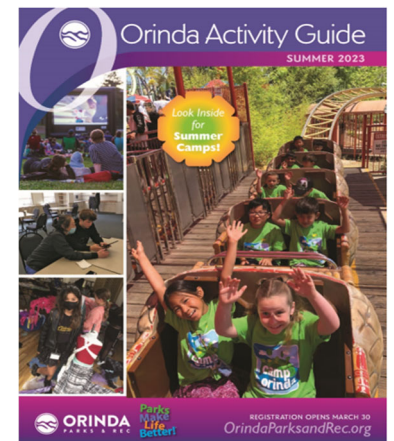
AM, PM, and All Day Sessions

Something for Everyone!

[www.OrindaParksandRec.org](http://www.OrindaParksandRec.org)

### Part-time Summer Camp Positions

Available: Visit [CalOpps.org](http://CalOpps.org) and enter "Orinda" in the search bar.



## Housing Resources

A new Housing Resources page is now available on the City's website! The Housing Resources page provides links to resources available from Contra Costa County, EBMUD, PG&E, and the state. These resources include financial assistance for first time homebuyers and low-income homeowners, rebates and free water-conservation items to help residents save water and money, and discounts for qualifying water bills and electric bills.

To access the Housing Resources page, use your mobile device camera to scan the QR code or visit <https://www.cityoforinda.org/569/Housing-Resources>

