



Photo Credit: Novato Fire District

CCNB Crews Join a Multi-Agency Fire Fuel Break Project in Novato

While fire season can be year-round these days, work to prevent widespread damage from future fires is currently in full swing, especially in late Summer and early Fall. As part of our ongoing partnership with the Novato Fire Protection District, and thanks in part to funding Conservation Corps North Bay has secured from the state, CCNB crews will work alongside District staff, Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, FIRE Foundry recruits, and a variety of contractors to create a 60-mile-long, continuous shaded fuel break that will create a protective area around both incorporated and unincorporated Novato. The 200 to 300 foot-wide break will border 5,200 residences and cover more than 3,400 acres.

For our portion of the project, CCNB corpsmembers will reduce fire fuels by constructing fuel breaks, preparing areas for prescribed burning, removing invasive plants, thinning shrubs to reduce density, limbing trees, felling unhealthy trees, and clearing dead and downed woody material. Corpsmembers will also receive training from the Marin County Fire Department and will earn certificates in S-212 chainsaw and Basic 32 Wildland Firefighter training. Those who continue to successfully complete the Arduous-Level Work Capacity Test (a.k.a. “the pack test”) will earn a certificate equivalent to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group’s Firefighter Type 2, which qualifies applicants to join a variety of fire crews in an entry level position.

We are proud to be a part of such an important effort that ties so closely to our mission to develop youth and conserve natural resources for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable community. This project enables CCNB to contribute to our ongoing goals to help protect our region from the effects of climate change. It also creates an opportunity for corpsmembers, many of whom are Novato residents themselves, to invest in their neighborhoods while gaining the skills and experience they will need to accomplish their career goals.

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Corpsmember Spotlight: Angelica

Angelica joined the program seeking to develop leadership skills and learn English. Since joining Zero Waste, she has gone above and beyond to demonstrate her drive to reach her goals.

Angelica was promoted to Assistant Crew Leader (ACL) in June. When the position opened, Jimmie Thornton, Lead Zero Waste Supervisor, said it was only natural to promote Angelica. “She takes any challenge we throw at her very seriously. She shows great initiative and motivates the whole team to get involved,” he said.

As an ACL she hit the ground running. She organized and leads a weekly crew meeting to engage fellow corpsmembers. “I like to contribute and give back what I have learned,” said Angelica, “here I am learning leadership skills and how to give directions. I feel my crew is more connected after having the meetings.”

Angelica’s drive and commitment is nothing short of inspiring. She has earned multiple certifications, and most recently she received her Driver’s License! We are very proud of the progress Angelica has made at CCNB, and how much she gives back to fellow corpsmembers for whom she has become a leader and role model.



Corpsmember Spotlight: Daniel

CCNB prides itself on providing corpsmembers a space to develop skills to embark on their next venture. But it is specially rewarding to see corpsmembers like Daniel who, beyond perfecting skills and obtaining certifications, also feel encouraged to pursue careers in fields that get us closer to a more sustainable, equitable world.

Daniel has demonstrated great disposition working toward every challenge presented to him at CCNB. He has earned multiple certifications working both for Zero Waste and Natural Resources, and he holds an Assistant Crew Leader position. “I’ve tried to take advantage of everything CCNB has offered me,” said Daniel. Most importantly, he shared that he now feels encouraged to aspire for more. “In previous jobs, I didn’t even think about aiming for higher positions,” he said.

Since joining Natural Resources crews, Daniel has found a passion for forestry. “I feel a responsibility to protect the environment now,” he said, “trees help the world more than you think.” He has experience building and maintaining trails, and he knows about invasive and native plants, as well as forest management. “There’s nothing like Natural Resources for me. It cuts the cake,” he said.

Daniel is surely on his way to reaching his goal of attaining a job in forestry or a related field that allows him to showcase the skills and passion he has garnered while at CCNB!

Waste Diversion Services at Graton Rancheria

Our Zero Waste Department provides a variety of waste management services, such as E-waste, mattress, and solar panel collection for recycling. But Zero Waste also handles the basics: helping events sort their waste into recycling, compost, and landfill materials. Our crews provide these services at events with partners, including our most recent engagement with The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR).

The result of an ongoing collaboration, our Zero Waste Department provided E-waste collection to members of the tribe and the surrounding community last Fall. Most recently, FIGR hosted an event for their members and enlisted CCNB's Zero Waste crews to provide waste management. Our Zero Waste Department offers this service to different events, and they ensure that waste is sorted properly to minimize what ends up in landfills.

Corpsmembers and their skills in waste management allow us to serve partners and facilitate the proper disposal of waste in our communities, ensuring events are as green as can be.



You're invited!

We are pleased to share that for the first time since the pandemic started, our high school graduation ceremony will be returning to the Carole Ellis Auditorium on SRJC's beautiful Petaluma campus.

This event represents such an important milestone for corpsmembers who have invested in themselves while on their paths to achieving their career goals, and we can't wait to see their friends and family cheer them on.

We hope you can join us in celebrating the 2023 graduates of John Muir Charter School at 680 Sonoma Mountain Parkway from 3 - 5 PM on Saturday, September 16th. Light refreshments will be served before the ceremony.

Please RSVP to development@ccnorthbay.org. Can't make it? Consider celebrating the graduates by making an online donation at [ccnorthbay.org/donate](https://www.ccnorthbay.org/donate).



GREEN NOTE:

Fish are Picky:

Before reaching for the chlorine cleanser, try baking soda. As a gentle abrasive, it works great on lots of items—coffee cups, porcelain sinks, sun damaged plastic headlights, and more. Combined with vinegar and boiling hot water, baking soda can also unclog drains. Its uses are nearly endless, and you could save a fish from suffocating with damaged gills.

CONSERVATION CORPS NORTH BAY



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About CCNB

Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB) is the oldest local nonprofit youth conservation corps in the country. Serving Marin and Sonoma Counties since 1982, CCNB has helped thousands of young people achieve their goals through education and job skills, while serving the environment and community. Our mission is to develop youth and conserve natural resources for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable community.

Follow us on your favorite social media channels to stay up-to-date on all our projects, corpsmember spotlights, and program announcements!



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