



**Firewise Landscaping
and Zoning**

Be Prepared for Wildfire

A Comprehensive Resource Guide for Summit
County Homeowners provided by the
members of Leadership Park City Class 25

The Age of Megafires

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We are living in the era of megafires, forest blazes ten times bigger than ever seen before. Since 1988, fires have broken records in nine states and several have burned over half a million acres each. Scientists say we should brace ourselves for more and more of these fires in the coming years.

Factors, such as drought, climate change and Forest Service policy focused on suppression have led to a buildup of fuels in our nation's forests. As a consequence, when fires ignite, there is a lot more to burn than historically seen. This often results in catastrophic wildfire that threatens lives and destroys communities, wildlife, and watersheds at great cost to local, state and federal economies.

Park City and Summit County, situated in the wildland urban interface and surrounded by national forest full of dead timber caused by drought and bark beetle infestations are particularly at risk for megafire.

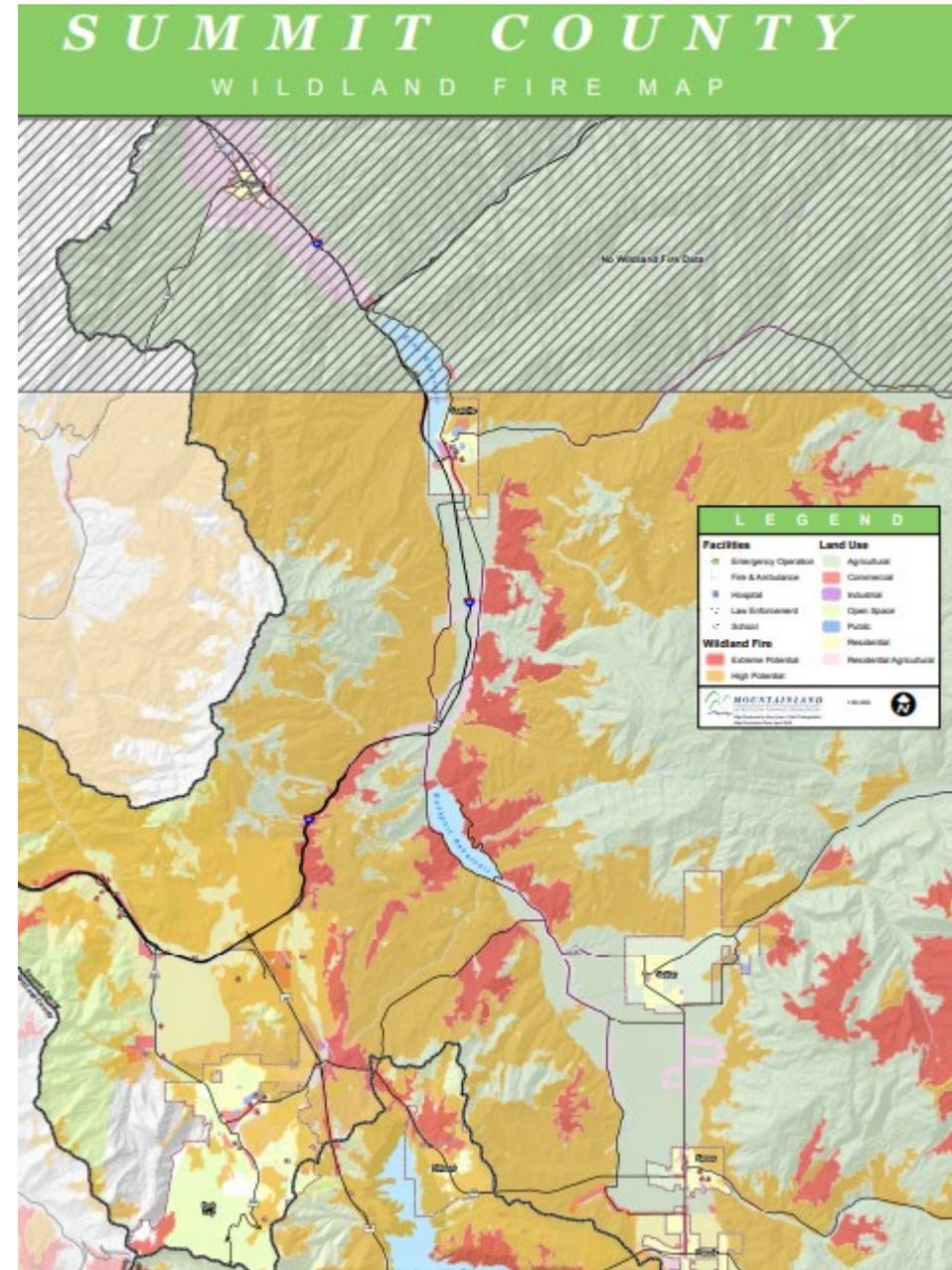
There are many actions homeowners can take to make their homes more resilient to wildfire, such as creating defensible space around their home, using fire resistant landscaping and fire resistant roofing and siding, home hardening, and more. These measures have proven effective in protecting individual homes and reducing the potential for wildfire to spread to neighborhoods and the community at large.

This community resource guide, developed by Leadership Park City Class 25, is intended to provide Park City and Summit County homeowners with information and tools to make their homes more likely to survive a wildfire, including how to assess their home's fire risk level, mitigate fire hazards, and take steps to harden home structures and create defensible space.

Leadership Park City is a yearlong program to identify, encourage and train new community leaders. Each year around 35 individuals are selected for the class and participate in monthly education and training sessions. In addition, each class plans and completes a service project that benefits Summit County in some way. Class projects are proposed and selected by the class in March. This resource guide is a product of Class 25's service project to bring awareness about Summit County's wildfire risk and encourage homeowners to take measures to make their homes more resilient to wildfire.

We're all at risk . . .

- The wildland-urban interface (WUI) is the zone where structures and other human development meet and intermingle with undeveloped wildland.
- All developed areas of Park City and Summit County are in a WUI zone.
- Most of Summit County faces high or extreme risk of wildfire.



What can we do?

Defensible Space, Fire Resistant Landscaping, and Home Hardening . . .
IT WORKS!



This home was well prepared for wildfire.



This home was not.

Home / Lot Assessment

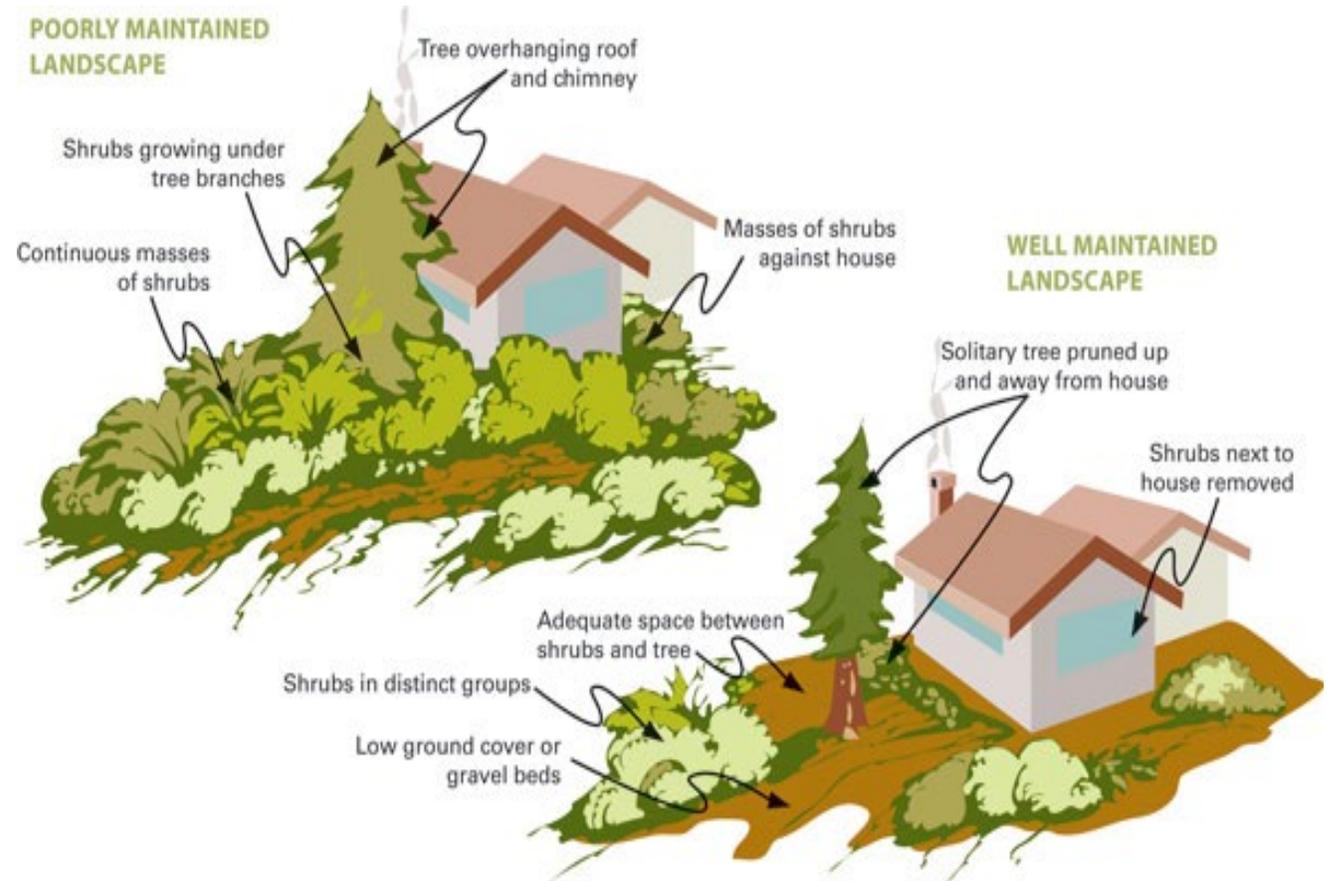
Wildfire Hazard Lot Assessment CHECKLIST

- Use this [Wildfire Hazard Checklist](#) to conduct an assessment of your own home and lot.
- A lot assessment identifies your home's fire risk level and helps you learn what you can do to make your home more resilient to wildfire.
- For more information, visit the [Summit County Fire Warden](#) webpage, or call (435) 640-2075.

Lot Evaluation				
Is vegetation thinning required?	Y=1	N=0	Suggested % of Vegetation Removal:	
Is Limbing Up Required?	Y=1	N=0	If Yes, to what height?	
Slash Disposal Needed?	Y=1	N=0	Is there an Accumulation of Dead Fuel?	Y=1 N=0
Recommended Type of Disposal:	Burn	Chip		
Is there a Water Source?	Y=0	N=1	If Yes, What Type?	
Lot Evaluation Score:				
Access Evaluation				
Do Roads Have Adequate Width?	>20ft=0	<20ft=1	Do Roads Have Adequate Turn Around?	Y=0 N=1
Does Driveway Have Adequate Width?	>12ft=0	<12ft=1	Does Driveway Have Adequate Turn Around?	Y=0 N=1
Are Bridges Wide Enough?	Y=0	N=1	Weight Carrying Capacity of Bridge in lbs	
Are Gates Wide Enough?	Y=0	N=1	Are Gates Accessible by Fire Personnel at all Times?	Y=0 N=1
Access Evaluation Score:				
Structure Evaluation				
Roof Type (based on WUI Code)?	Class A=0	Class B and C=1	If Wood (i.e. Shake Shingle) = 6	
Eaves Closed In?	Y=0	N=1	Vents Screened ¼" or less?	Y=0 N=1
Chimney Screened?	Y=0	N=1	Rain Gutter Type?	
Are Gutters Clean and Free of Debris?	Y=0	N=1	Siding Type?	
Is Fence (wood or vinyl) Attached to Structure?	Y=1	N=0	Is Deck (if wood or composite) Attached to Structure?	Y=1 N=0
Is Deck Enclosed?	Y=0	N=1		
Crawl Space Enclosed?	Y=0	N=1		
Electrical Service:	Above Ground=1		Below Ground=0	
Propane Tank?	Y	N		
Structure Evaluation Score:				
HAZARD RATING*				
Total Score:				
EXTREME (27-19)		HIGH (18-10)		MODERATE (9-1)

Fire Resistant Landscaping

- Landscaping choices are key to protecting your home in the event of a wildfire.
- Choose fire resistant plants and trees where feasible (see link on this page).
- Prune tree limbs up 6-10 feet from the ground.
- Follow the advice on creating defensible space on the following pages.



These online resources will help you create defensible space with smart landscaping choices:

<https://extension.usu.edu/ueden/ou-files/Firewise-Landscaping-for-Utah.pdf>

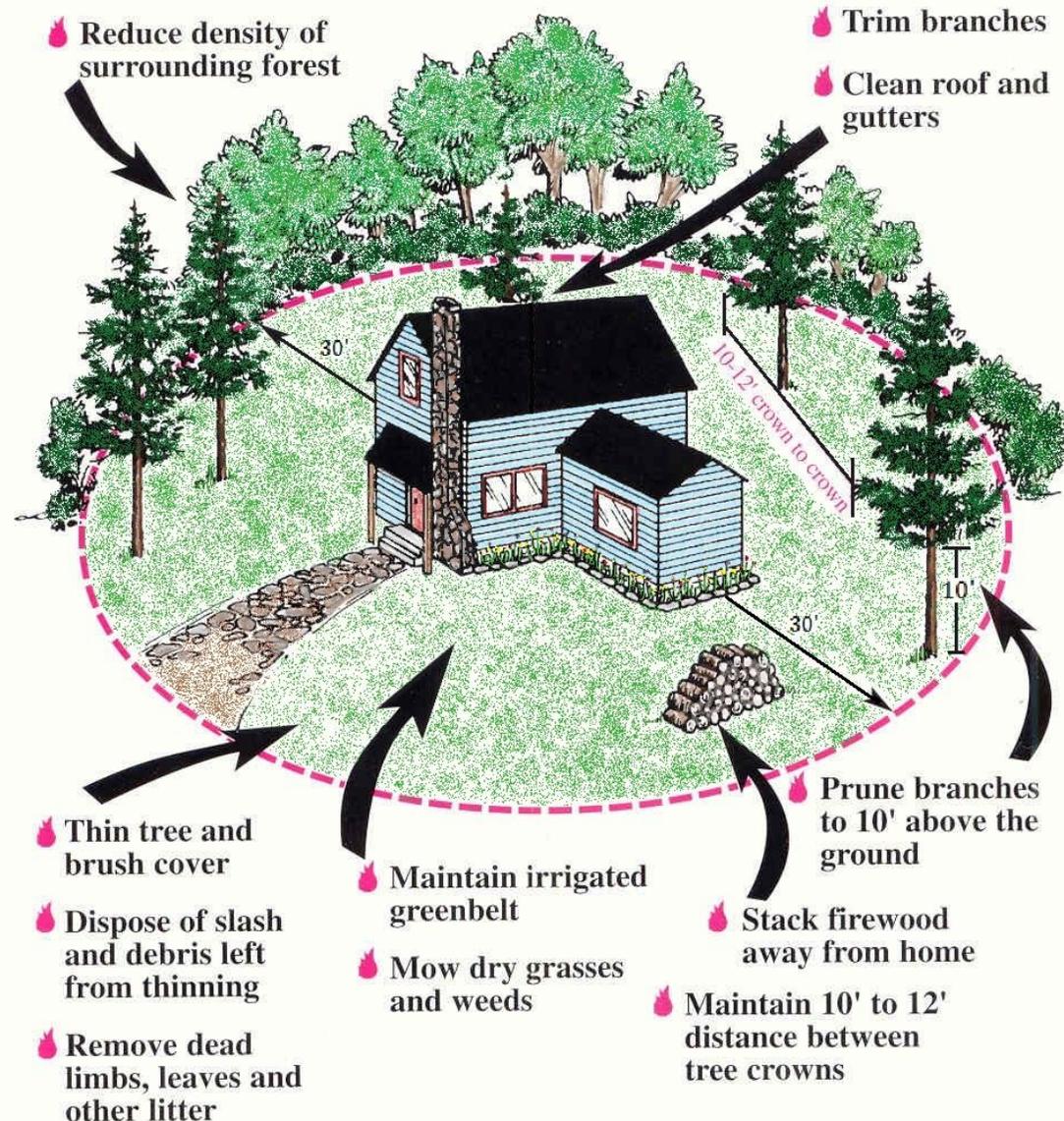
<https://www.slc.gov/fire/wp-content/uploads/sites/47/2019/04/Utah-Firewise-Plants.pdf>

<https://forestry.usu.edu/forest-fire/firewise-landscaping-basics>

Defensible Space (Home Ignition Zones)

- Create a defensible space around your home to reduce the risk of it catching fire.
- Fire-resistant vegetation and building materials within the Home Ignition Zones can increase the chance your home will survive a wildfire.
- Landscaping around your home depends on how far the vegetation is from your house.
- Refer to the following pages for more information.

Defensible Space Guidelines



Home Ignition Immediate Zone (0-5 feet)

- Minimize all vegetation and other combustibles within 3-5 feet of the structure.
- Remove tree branches that overhang or touch the roof.
- Remove dead branches, dried leaves, pine needles, firewood, and other flammable material within this area.
- Replace decorative bark, mulch, and wood chippings with gravel, stone, or other non-combustibles.



These online resources can help you prepare your home and family for wildfires:

<https://www.utah.gov/beready/family/wildfires.html>

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Fact-sheets/FirewiseHowToPrepareYourHomeForWildfires.pdf>

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

<https://www.fema.gov/pdf/hazard/wildfire/wdfrdam.pdf>

Home Ignition Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet)

- Prune trees up 6-10 feet from ground so a surface fire does not climb the tree. For shorter trees, remove limbs on the lower 1/3 of the tree.
- Space trees for a minimum of 10 feet between branches.
- Choose deciduous trees over coniferous trees.
- Water plants, trees and lawns to keep them from drying out.
- Clear vegetation from around and under propane tanks.



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<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

<https://www.fema.gov/pdf/hazard/wildfire/wdfrdam.pdf>

Home Ignition Extended Zone (30-100 feet)

- Remove vegetation and other flammable material adjacent to outbuildings, such as garages, sheds, or barns.
- Thin trees by removing small conifers growing between mature trees.
- Thin other trees and brush to transition to wildland.
- Prevent build-up of dry vegetation by removing dead material



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<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

<https://www.fema.gov/pdf/hazard/wildfire/wdfrdam.pdf>

Free Wood Chipping Services

- Summit County and Park City Fire District offer free curbside wood chipping services.
- Stack all tree limbs under 6 inches in diameter at your curbside.
- Make sure the tree limbs are all facing the same direction.
- Sign up by clicking on the appropriate link on this page and following the instructions.



- Residents of eastern Summit County: <https://www.summitcounty.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Mobile-Wood-Chipping-Unit-4>
- Residents of Snyderville Basin: <https://www.pcfcd.org/fire-prevention/wood-chipping/registration/>

Home Hardening

- Two out of every three homes destroyed by wildfire are ignited by wind-blown embers up to a mile away from the flames themselves.
- While defensible space helps guard against contact with flames, “hardening” your home and adjacent structures can help keep embers out.
- The following pages describe several actions you can take to harden your home.



Roof, Eaves, Gutters, and Vents

- Avoid wood roofs.
- Repair or replace any loose or missing shingles to prevent ember penetration.
- Remove leaves, needles, and other debris from roof and gutters.
- Cover vents and other openings with 1/8 inch metal mesh screen to keep embers out.



<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/>

https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Wildfire_Preparation_-_Recovery/Building/

Decks, Fences, and Carports

- Do not store flammable materials under elevated decks.
- Install 1/8 inch metal mesh screen between a low-profile deck and the ground to block embers from accumulating under the deck.
- Use non-flammable fencing material when attaching a fence to your home's siding.
- Remove flammable items from carports.



<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/>

[https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Wildfire Preparation - Recovery/Building/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/fire/Wildfire_Preparation_-_Recovery/Building/)

Annual Maintenance

- Fire dangers develop every year as shrubs and branches grow back and leaves and tree needles die and fall on roofs and in gutters.
- Evaluate and maintain your house and surroundings on an annual basis.
- Review this checklist each spring to assess and eliminate the risks for the upcoming summer/fire season.

Annual Home Safety Checklist

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris, and pine needles that could catch embers
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles to prevent ember penetration
- Check the existence and stability of all under-eave and soffit vents and screens to prevent ember entry
- Cover all attic vents with wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering home
- Repair any damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Check the existence and stability of screens or barriers under patios and decks
- Move any flammable material away from exterior walls, including mulch, firewood, needles, and flammable plants
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches
- Remove or thin vegetation within 100 feet of your house as directed in prior slides (Use county chipping service for disposal)

City and County Resources

- Summit County Fire Warden website provides information on open burn criteria, burn permits, fire pits, safety tips, defensible space, home hardening, firewise landscaping and other helpful links: <https://www.summitcounty.org/561/Fire-Warden>
- Park City Fire District (serves Park City and Snyderville Basin, countywide ambulance service): <https://www.pcfcd.org/>
- North Summit Fire District (serves Henefer, Echo, Coalville, Upton, Hoytsville, Wanship): <http://northsummitfire.org/>
- South Summit Fire Protection District (serves Kamas, Francis, Marion, Oakley, Peoa, Woodland and unincorporated areas): www.ssfcd.us
- Summit County Emergency Management: <https://www.summitcounty.org/560/Emergency-Management>; or contact Chris Crowley, Emergency Manager at 435-333-1532, or ccrowley@summitcounty.org
- Park City Emergency Management: <https://www.parkcity.org/how-do-i/emergency-management>; or contact Mike McComb, Emergency Program Manager at 435-615-5185, or mike.mccomb@parkcity.org
- Sign up with Everbridge, Summit County and Park City's emergency alert system, to receive emergency notifications countywide at: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085613422#/login>
- Summit County and Park City Wood Chipping Service: After trimming your trees or removing brush to create defensible space around your home, schedule the chipper to come to your house to chip and carry away the branches and debris. This service is free to residents. If you live in east county, register with Summit County at <https://www.summitcounty.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Mobile-Wood-Chipping-Unit-4>. If you live in Park City or the Snyderville Basin area, register with Park City Fire District at <https://www.pcfcd.org/fire-prevention/wood-chipping/registration/>

Private Resources

Arborist: call to assess the health of the trees around your house & to trim branches.



Handyman: call to help harden your home by filling in the eaves of your house, cleaning out gutters & under decks.

Licensed contractor: call for repairs or replacement of siding, decks, fences, and other larger projects subject to building code and permit requirements.

Landscaper: call to help create defensible space by removing bushes and installing fire resistant landscaping.



Online Resources

<https://utahfireinfo.gov/>

<https://extension.usu.edu/ueden/ou-files/Firewise-Landscaping-for-Utah.pdf>

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Thank You to . . .

Summit County Fire Warden
Park City Fire District
Park City Fire District Fire Marshal
Park City Fire Marshal
Summit County and Park City
Emergency Management
Leadership Park City Class 25
AND countless others who
contributed to this Resource
Guide.

