



FIREWISE USA™
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA® RECOGNITION PROGRAM

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Community of Governors Park Neighborhood
Portland, Oregon
5/29/2024

1) INTRODUCTION

The Firewise Communities/USA program is designed to provide an effective management approach for preserving wildland living aesthetics. The program can be tailored for adoption by any community and/or neighborhood association that is committed to ensuring its citizens maximum protection from wildland fire. The following community assessment is intended as a resource to be used by the Governors Park Neighborhood for creating a wildfire safety action plan. The plan developed from the information in this assessment should be implemented in a collaborative manner and updated and modified as needed.

Community members and environmental specialists worked collaboratively to assess the community and gather data when considering Governors Park Neighborhood area as a Firewise community candidate. Jen Warren, Oregon State Fire Marshal Fire Risk Reduction Specialist, Rachel Mauch, Oregon Department of Forestry, Kim Kosmas, Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R), and Maha Guliani, Ecologist for Portland Parks & Recreation were the participating members of the assessment event. The following residents of the Governors Park Neighborhood also participated in the community assessment: James Boehnlein & Mary Carr, John Conner & Emily Powell, Julie Doberne, Craig Koon, Joahna Kuiper, Neale Langman, Pam Maxon, Mark Melman, Julia Saltamacchia, Roger Smith & Vicki Hess-Smith and Edward Stojakovic

2) DEFINITION OF THE HOME IGNITION ZONE

Governors Park Neighborhood is located in a wildfire environment. Wildfires will happen--exclusion is not a choice. The variables in a fire scenario are when the fire will occur, and where. This assessment addresses the wildfire-related characteristics of the Governors Park Neighborhood area. It examines the area's exposure to wildfire as it relates to ignition potential. The assessment does not focus on specific homes but examines the community as a whole.

A house burns because of its interrelationship with everything in its surrounding home ignition zone - the house and its immediate surroundings. To avoid a home ignition, a homeowner must eliminate the wildfire's potential relationship with their house. This can be accomplished by interrupting the natural path a fire takes. Changing a fire's path by clearing a home ignition zone of receptive fuels is an easy-to-accomplish task that can result in avoiding home loss. To accomplish this, flammable items such as dead vegetation must be removed from the area immediately around the structure to prevent flames from

contacting it. Reducing the volume of live vegetation will affect the intensity of the wildfire as it enters the home ignition zone.

Included in this assessment are observations made while visiting the Governors Park Neighborhood area. The assessment addresses the ease with which home ignitions can occur under severe wildfire conditions and how these ignitions might be avoided within the home ignition zones of affected residents. Governors Park Neighborhood area residents can reduce their risk of destruction during a wildfire by taking actions within their home ignition zones. This zone principally determines the potential for home ignitions during a wildland fire; it includes a house and its immediate surroundings within 100 to 150 feet.

The result of the assessment is that wildfire behavior will be dominated by both the residential and recreational use characteristics of this area. The good news is that by addressing community vulnerabilities, residents will be able to substantially reduce their exposure to loss. Relatively small investments of time and effort will reap great rewards in wildfire safety.

3) DESCRIPTION OF (SIZE AND NATURE OF) THE SEVERE CASE WILDLAND FIRE CHARACTERISTICS THAT COULD THREATEN THE AREA

Fire intensity and spread rate depend on the fuel type and condition (live/dead), the weather conditions prior and during ignition, and the topography. Generally, the following relationships hold true between the fire behavior and the fuel, weather, and topography.

- Fine fuels ignite more easily and spread faster with higher intensities than coarser fuels. For a given fuel, the more there is and the more continuous it is, the faster the fire spreads and the higher the intensities. Fine fuels take a shorter time to burn out than coarser fuels.
- The weather conditions affect the moisture content of the dead and live vegetative fuels. Dead, fine fuel moisture content is highly dependent on the relative humidity and the degree of sun exposure. The lower the relative humidity and the greater the sun exposure, the lower will be the fuel moisture content. Lower fuel moistures produce higher spread rates and fire intensities.
- Wind speed significantly influences the rate of fire spread and fire intensity. The higher the wind speed, the greater the spread rate and intensity.
- Topography influences fire behavior principally by the steepness of the slope. However, the configuration of the terrain such as narrow draws, saddles and so forth can influence fire spread and intensity. In general, the steeper the slope, the higher the uphill fire spread and intensity.

The community of the Governors Park Neighborhood is exposed to wildfire concerns because of several variables.

- Governors Park is bordered along the North side by SW Myrtle St., on the East side – partially bordered by SW Myrtle Dr. and on the South side by SW Broadway Dr. and the Marquam Nature Park, which is categorized as a Wildfire Hazard Zone (WHZ). The West side is bordered by SW Elizabeth St. and SW 15th Ave. One-third of the neighborhood is surrounded on the South end by SW Broadway Dr. and the Marquam Nature Park. The area is vulnerable to the ignition sources produced by vehicles - such as car fires, catalytic converter failures, human foot traffic, improperly discarded smoking materials and dragging chains from vehicles. The SW section of the neighborhood also has Governors Park nestled directly in the center of the area, surrounded by residential properties. The natural areas are vulnerable to potential human caused ignition sources from within and surrounding the forested natural areas that are bordering approximately 60 percent

of the community that spans from the middle to the top of the slope. The Western, Northern and Eastern sides are the areas that are not fully bordered by natural areas.

- Most of the park areas are highly used recreational areas, enjoyed by many of the residents and outdoor enthusiasts. The concerns include but are not limited to any incidents that would include smoking materials, residential fires extending to the forested and natural areas and other human causes such as unsanctioned houseless camping which has been a challenge for many years in the Marquam Nature Park area and the City of Portland as a whole during the humanitarian crisis.
- The Governors Park Neighborhood area is bordered on the South side by the Marquam Nature Park, which is 204.87 acres in size. Governors Park, which is 5.74 acres in size, is located within the neighborhood that's situated midslope and runs up towards the top of the slope. These two natural areas are owned by the city and managed by Portland Parks & Recreation, along with many privately-owned properties in the area. There are more than 31.45 acres of mostly steep slopes with many invasives throughout, along with some areas of forested hillsides that range with up to 460 feet of elevation change. The parks and portions of the understory in the forested areas managed by Portland Park & Recreation are mostly well kept, but there are locations in some of the natural areas that unsanctioned campers live and use warming and cooking fires on a regular basis. The unsanctioned camping fire incidents have caused many fires at the lower end of the slope near the downtown area. The Parks Bureau has worked to decrease the camping by conducting patrols with their Park Rangers to move people out of the natural areas and into shelters. This occurs directly at the base of a large draw in the topography below homes and has a significant amount of invasives. These areas have invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry, Scot's broom, clematis, English hawthorn, holly and ivy. Heavy fuel laddering, an abundance of recreational use year-round, houseless unsanctioned camping, and the more recent warming trends have created an increased fire hazard and risk for the community.
- The forested areas within the Governors Park Neighborhood area can create an increased fire hazard through needle drape, needle cast and leaf litter. These fine fuels have been left unchecked and contribute to both fuel laddering and contiguous fuels leading to structures.
- The community of the Governors Park Neighborhood area is situated mainly from the middle to the top of steep slope aspects throughout the neighborhood. A maximum slope of 41.7° and an average estimated slope of 18.5° was observed throughout the natural areas and within the neighborhood as well. The steepness of the slopes will increase uphill fire spread rates and intensity. Many of the steepest areas are also natural chimneys, that will carry the heat from a wildfire and dry out upslope fuels, which lead directly to structures. The community is mostly on slopes and can be greatly affected by the potential of a wildfire in the area.
- It was observed during the assessment that the density of the homes within the community would have the potential of becoming an urban conflagration under certain conditions.
- The distances between structures, auxiliary structures on lots, wooden fences, storage, etc. represent a significant density of fuels that can impact fire spread. In many cases, directly contribute to the ignition of additional structures, propagating fire throughout the community. Fire hazard mitigation in the wildland-urban interface is a true balance between reducing exposure and increasing structure hardening. (NIST Technical Note 2205)
- In the fall, the Governors Park Neighborhood area experiences a significant drying east wind event. This drying event has resulted in extreme fire potential. The Governors Park Neighborhood area has

seen Relative Humidity values below 20% and 100-hour fuel moistures below 15%. These conditions combined with wind/slope alignment has significant potential for a catastrophic large fire. While the Governors Park Neighborhood area only sees a few days a year with these values, the potential for a high intensity, short duration fire is present. However, due to the recent development of milder winters, and weather warming trends, the ongoing increased temperatures will decrease humidity levels, decrease fuel moisture levels, and increase the potential for wildfires to occur.

4) SITE DESCRIPTION

Governors Park Neighborhood area is approximately 31.45 acres in size and was established as a community of Portland in the late 1960's, which is located in Multnomah County.

Governors Park Neighborhood is bordered along the North side by SW Myrtle St., on the East side – partially bordered by SW Myrtle Dr. and on the South side by SW Broadway Dr. and the Marquam Nature Park, which is categorized as a Wildfire Hazard Zone (WHZ). The West side is bordered by SW Elizabeth St. and SW 15th Ave. One-third of the neighborhood is surrounded on the South end by SW Broadway Dr. and the Marquam Nature Park. All of the surrounding natural areas and parks are prime areas for possible fire starts. There is a lot of public access throughout all of the park areas. The houseless population typically finds refuge in the lower portion of the Marquam Nature Park by the water tanks, located off of SW Sam Jackson Park Rd. This is an area at the base of a draw in the park that has steep sloped areas and draws that funnel into many areas leading to the neighborhood above. This area has been managed well by the Parks Bureau, yet there are vegetation fuel loads in majority of the boundary areas that abut the neighborhood. This arrangement of natural areas abutting structures creates a need for strong defensible space along the boundary of the community.

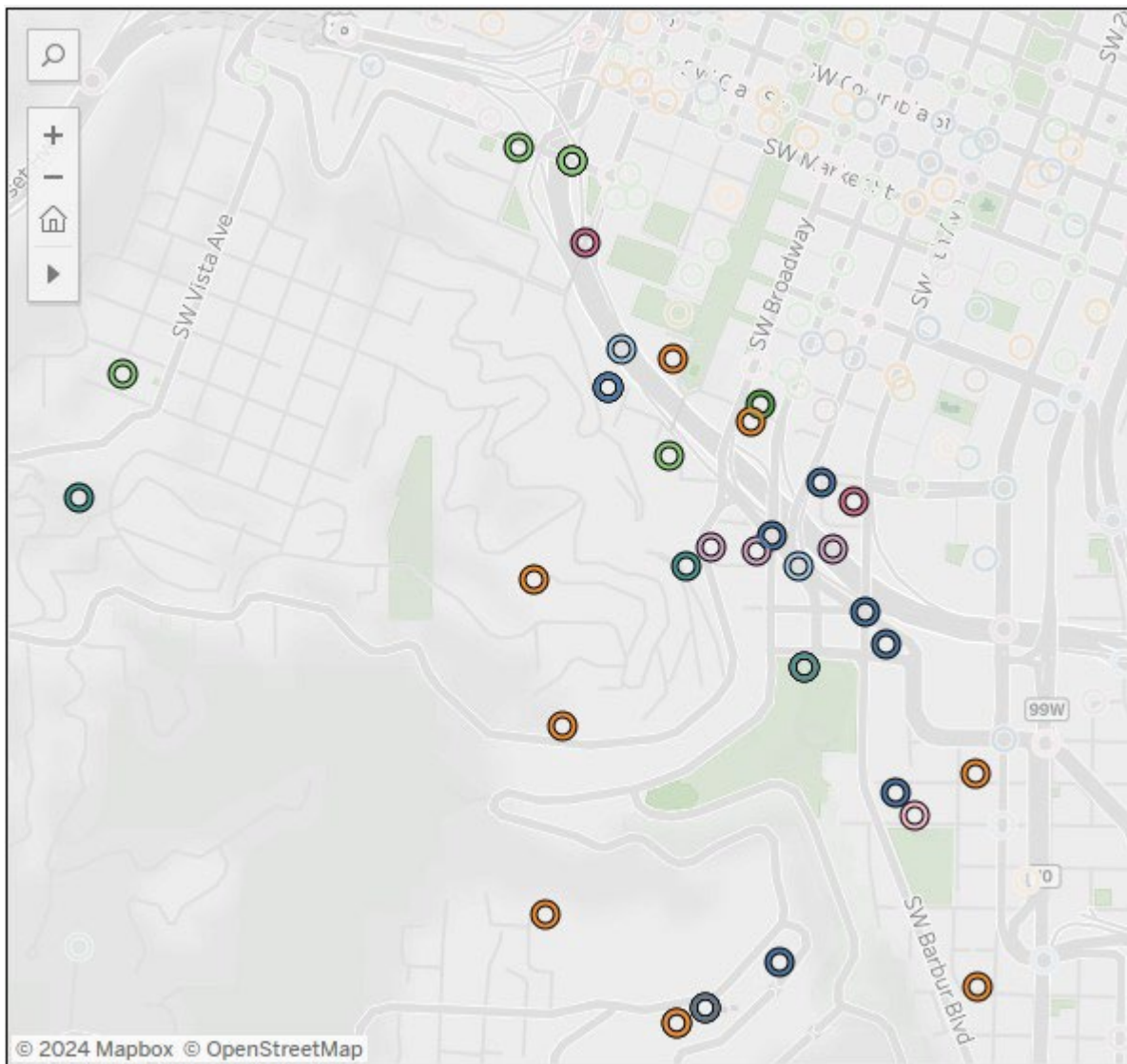
As of the 2020 census, there were approximately 270 people living in 108 homes in the designated area shown on the map. Please note that the designated area of the Governors Park neighborhood is just a portion that's included in the effort to become a recognized Firewise Community. Many of the homes in this area range from the mid-span to the top of the steep slopes throughout the community. Governors Park Neighborhood area is positioned in a Wildland-Urban Interface environment as it is adjacent to forestland, parks, and developed land. The focus of this assessment is within all areas of the Governors Park Neighborhood boundaries.

Fire History: The West Hills community does have a history of wildland fires and does have a risk. On Aug. 17, 1940 a wildfire forced 150 families to evacuate, destroyed 11 homes and burned more than 3,100 acres in the Bonny Slope area, along the McDaniel and Laidlaw roads between SW Skyline Rd. and Cedar Mill area. This occurred during a wind event that quickly spread the fire up the steep slopes. A second fire started that same weekend in the West Hills area near SW Capitol Hwy and Lesser Rd. and burned 100 acres and destroyed three farm buildings.

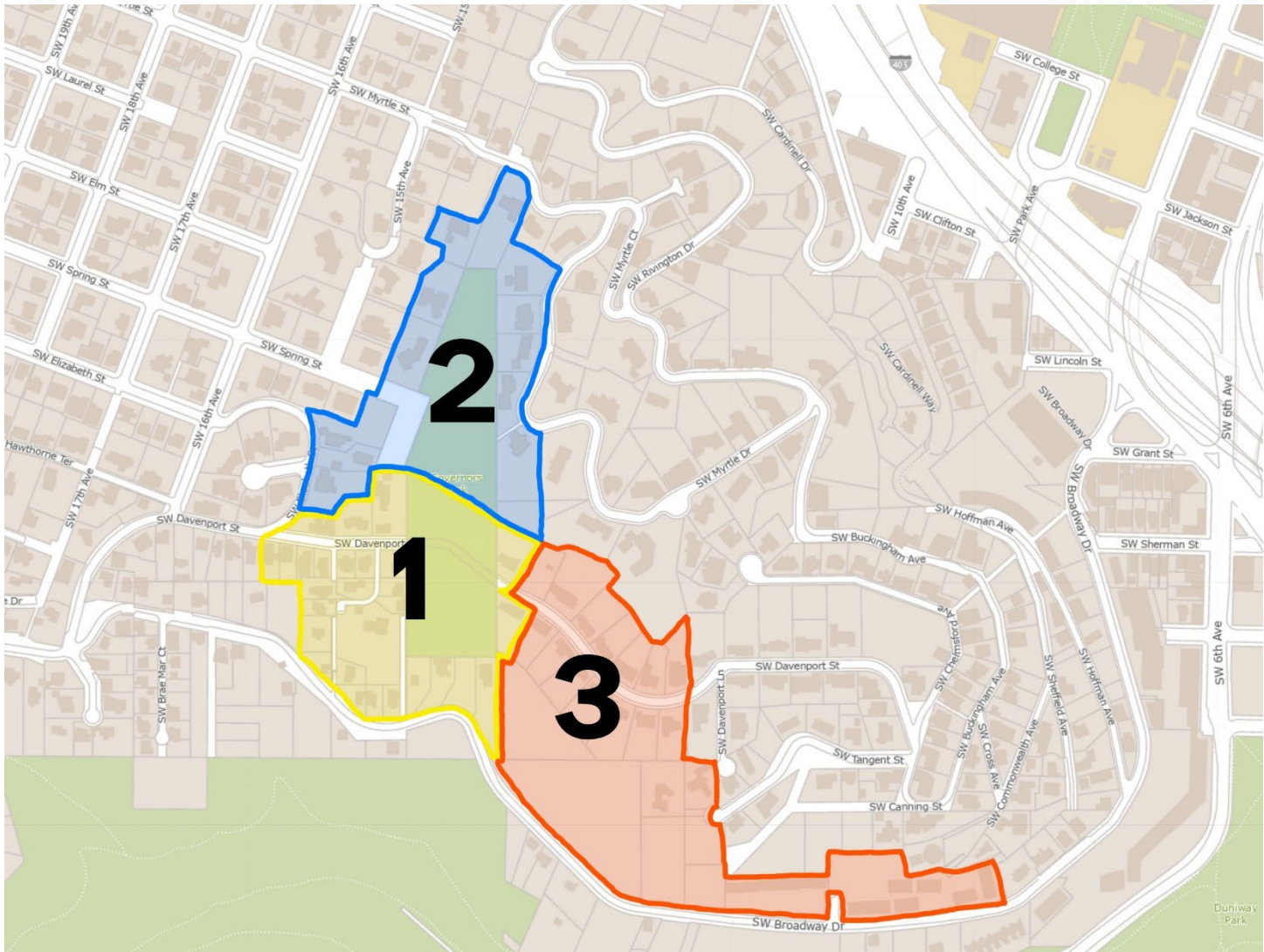
The area has 41 incidents of fires started by the houseless population spanning from Jan. 2021 through July 2024. There have also been over 43 fire incidents in addition to the houseless caused fires since Jan. 2021. The additional incidents were caused by vehicles, mechanical failures/malfunctions, children playing with fire, dumpster fires, structure fires, arson, etc. Majority of the residents maintain their yards but there are pockets of unmanaged areas. These areas are overgrown with invasives, on steep slopes and have a high human presence. These elements increase the risk of a wildland fire event in the community.

There has been a total of 84 fires that have occurred in the area within and surrounding the Governors Park neighborhood since January of 2021. Yet, 41 of the fires were caused by houseless unsanctioned camping. This equates to 49% of the fires being caused by houseless camping. It's not a question of if a fire may occur, but only a matter of time before a large wildfire will occur in a WHZ.

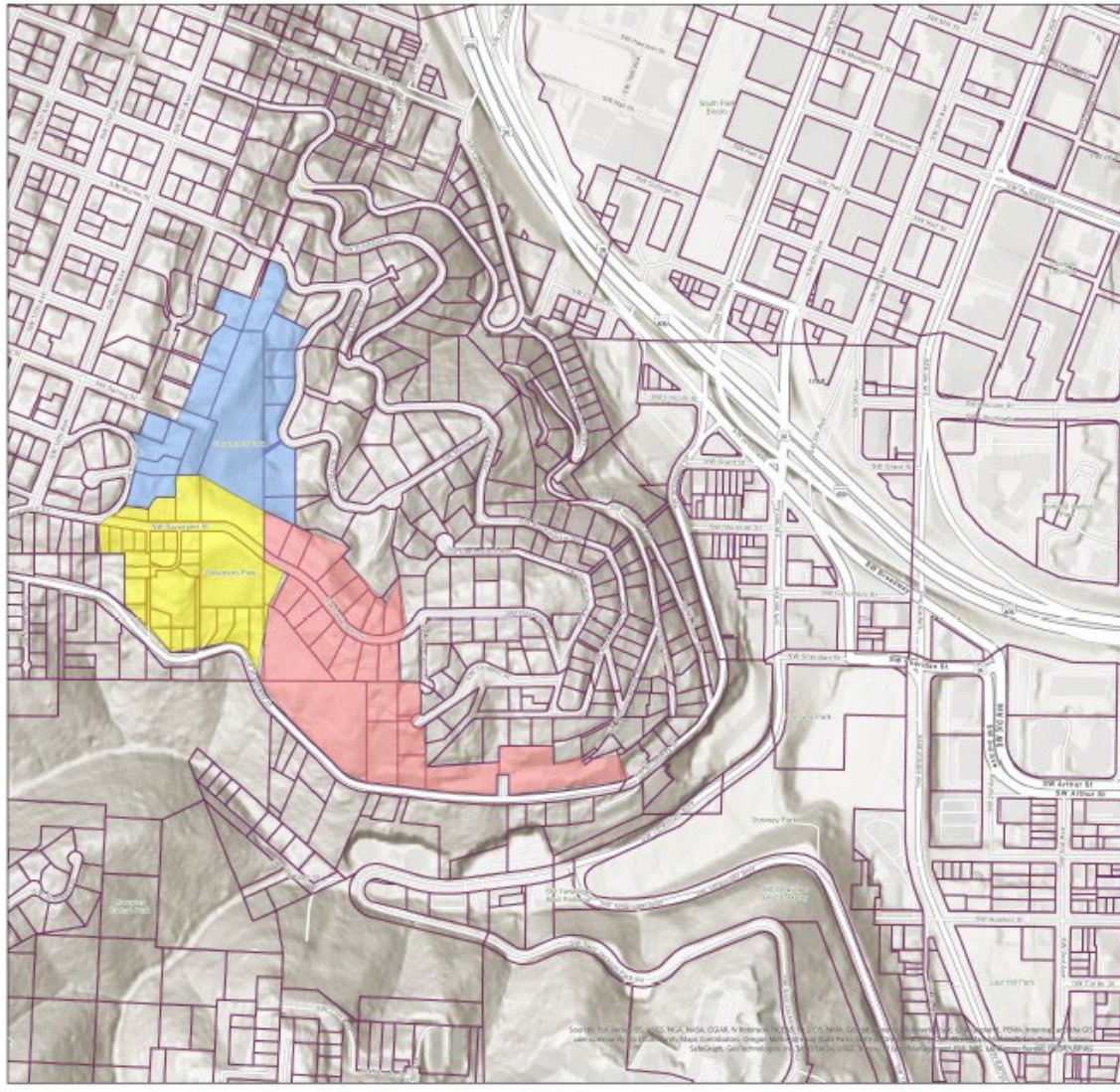
Unsanctioned Houseless Camping History: Portland Fire & Rescue has responded to an overall 50% increase in houseless caused fires over the last few years. Due to drought, extreme wildfire conditions, and record-high temperatures a 2021 ordinance was approved for barring unauthorized camping in Portland's designated WHZ. PF&R works with stakeholders and community partners to relocate unauthorized campers from high-risk wildfire hazard areas during wildfire season and burn bans. The amount of houseless caused fires that PF&R has responded to city wide are the following: 2021 – 2,048 fires, 2022 – 1,959 fires, 2023 – 1,896 fires and in 2023 incident data shows that there were 277 fires out of 3869 fires in the city that were in or within 500 feet of a WHZ.



Houseless Unsanctioned Camping incidents in the Governors Park Neighborhood area



Governors Park Neighborhood Firewise Map



**Governor's Park
Neighborhood
Firewise Map**

- Legend**
- Section 1
 - Section 2
 - Section 3
 - Statewide
Tax Lots

Report by Rachel Mauch
Community Wildfire Forester
ODF - Forest Grove
Protection Unit



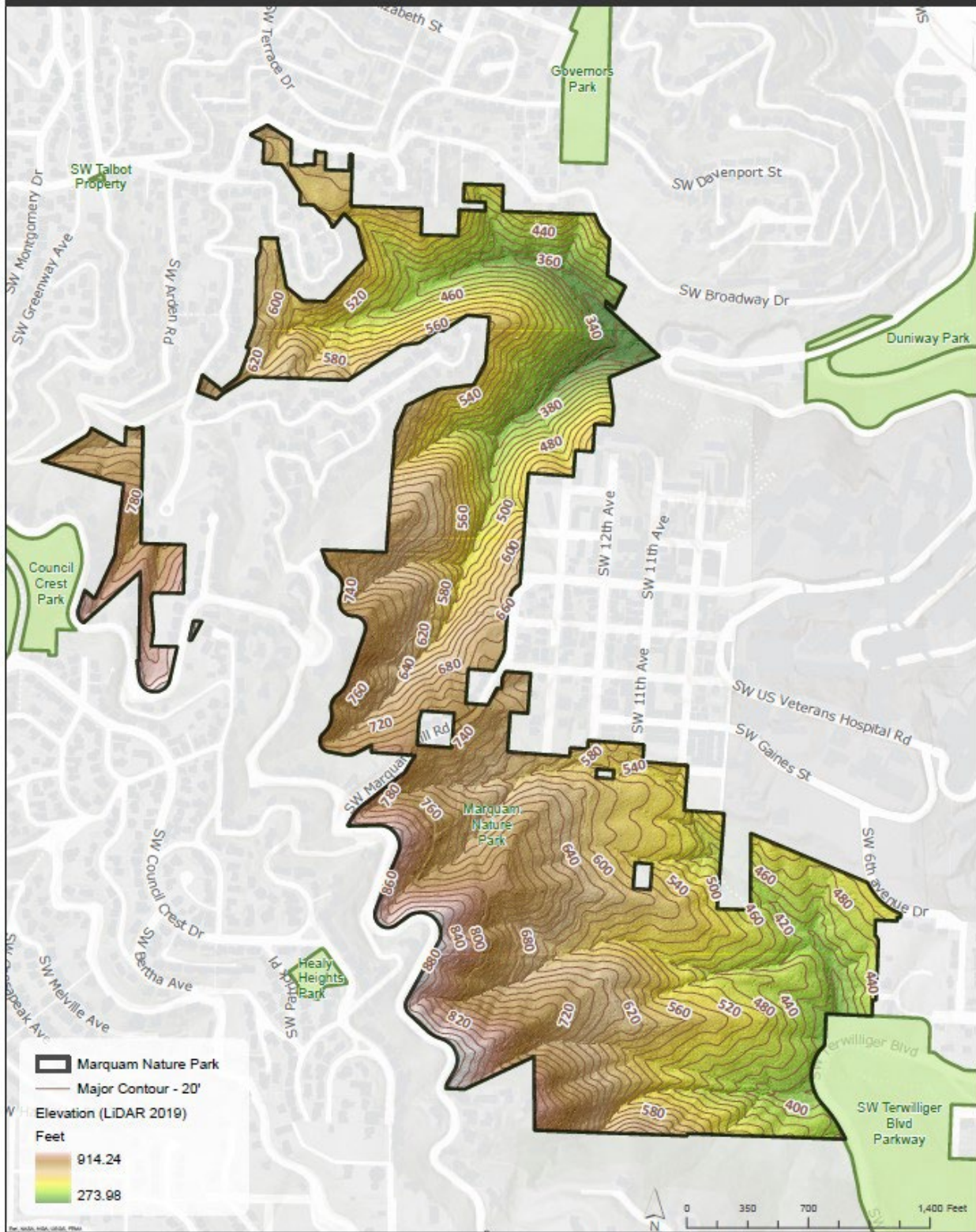
Governors Park Map by courtesy of the Oregon Department of Forestry

Governors Park Firewise Community Area



Governors Park Neighborhood map provided by courtesy of Portland Parks & Recreation

Marquam Nature Park Topography



Marquam Nature Park map provided by courtesy of Portland Parks & Recreation

5) ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On May 28, 2024, a pre-assessment virtual meeting was held with the group participating in the assessment to inform them about the data gathering process and how the information would be combined to create the Firewise Community Assessment report for the Governors Park area. The following day, on May 29th, the group viewed pre-identified locations and completed individual assessments for each selected area. The data was then compiled to create a representation of the community. The process started with looking at the homes and identifying the concerns from the structures first and then working out towards the shared community areas and lastly looking at the infrastructure of the community in the lens of responding resources and egressing residents.

6) IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

The Firewise Communities/USA program seeks to create a sustainable balance that will allow communities to live safely while maintaining environmental harmony in a WUI setting. Homeowners already balance their decisions about fire protection measures against their desire for certain flammable components on their properties. It is important for them to understand the implications of the choices they are making. These choices directly relate to the ignitability of their home ignition zones during a wildfire.

Governors Park Neighborhood is an established community that, over the years, has developed high fire risk and hazards within the community but many of these hazards are correctable with simple mitigation efforts.

(Pictures were taken with resident privacy in mind, therefore direct photo examples of homes will be rare.)

Continuity of fuels:

The assessment group observed continuous fuel base over several areas that reach many areas next to structures throughout the community. In numerous cases there's a vertical fuel arrangement associated with ladder fuels that have been allowed to grow freely. In many places, steep slopes (above 1:1/45 degree/100%) compound the risk and hamper the removal of fuel.



Invasive laurel on slopes next to homes



Trees overgrown by clematis, holly & ivy

Solution:

Provide the community with education, fuel mitigation strategies, and contact information to City Bureaus (Building Development Services and Urban Forestry) for information on when tree or other vegetation management permits are required. There are exemptions written in the Zoning Code that allow for tree pruning and other vegetation management in certain circumstances, such as removal of non-native vegetation and pruning of any tree within 10 feet of a house or other structure. Different restrictions and exemptions apply depending on a property's zoning designation, such as whether it is within an Environmental Zone or not. PF&R is also working with Urban Forestry to update Title 11 and increase the defensible space for homes, which is currently allowed up to 30ft. within wildfire hazard zones.

Steep slopes, and saddles:

The group observed that many homes are located along many aspects of the slopes in the area exposing them to many levels of potentially extreme fire conditions. A number of the homes are classified in a steep slope hazard area that identifies any property that is located on a 20% slope or greater. The topography consists of steep slopes, several draws, drainages, and ladder fuels making firefighting efforts difficult and exposing the hillsides to concentrated upslope winds.



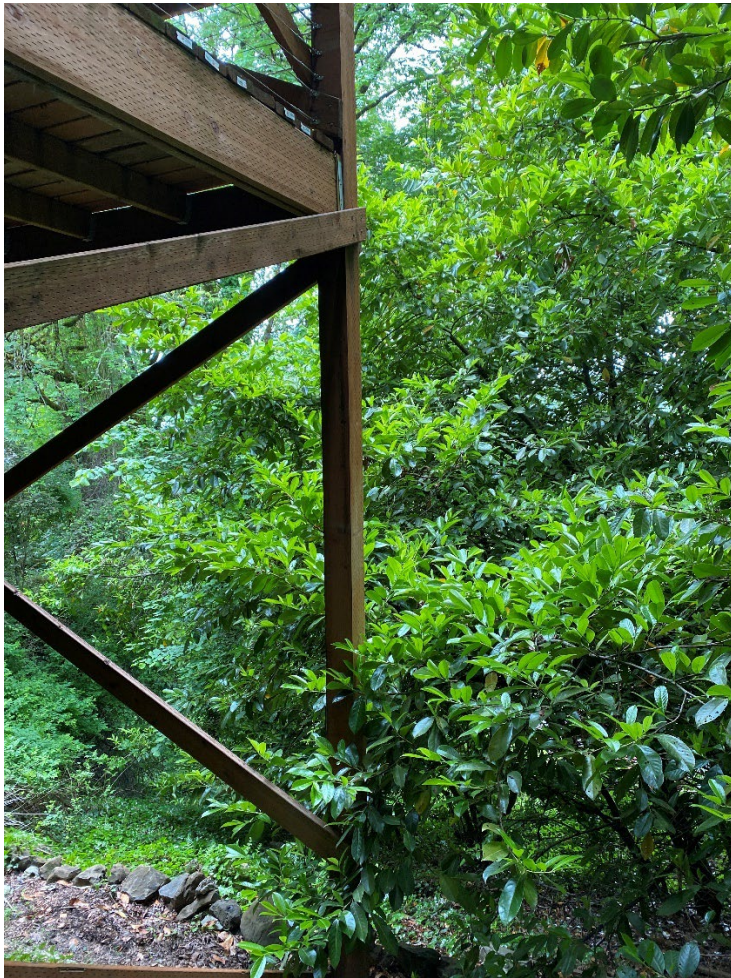


Solution:

Early emergency notification and evacuation is an essential component of being prepared for wildfires. Education of homeowners is essential on how to harden their homes against wildfire and create defensible space, while addressing erosion issues as well. Work with the community to identify areas that abut homes and can benefit from hazardous fuels reduction.

Fire Receptive Landscaping:

Throughout the community there are residences that have landscaping features, with fire prone vegetation leading up to the structure.



Laurel next to structure



Invasive bamboo leading up to structure

Solution:

The Governors Park neighborhood is working on ways to reduce the risk of wildfires through fuel mitigation education and practices. Defensible space education provided by PF&R has helped to reduce this problem and are integrating a “best practices” fuel management agenda community wide. Resources, such as the OSU Extension Service Fire-resistant Plant Guide, are provided to educate homeowners about the different options available to change the characteristic of the vegetation surrounding their homes.

Wooden accessory structures, screens, fences and firewood:

The group observed that most homes in the assessment area have open void spaces, decks and wooden fences attached to dwellings. It was recommended to install either 1/8 inch metal screening or metal birdstop screens to prevent ember entry of the openings. Education about skirting the open void spaces, such as decks that are close to the ground, and replacing sections of fence that attach to the structure with a noncombustible option is ongoing. Recommendations were also given on moving firewood a minimum of 30 feet from the structure or removing it all together. Other tips provided were to choose the option - in the case of an evacuation order - to open the wooden fence gate to break the connection from the structure, along with moving garbage/debris receptacles, etc. 30 feet away from the home.



Defensible space:

Private land vs. City owned areas - This picture shows an area of City owned land that abuts privately owned residential properties. Governors Park is maintained by the Parks Bureau. They have greatly reduced the amount of invasive growth that used to be in this forested area of Governors Park. Yet, some invasives remain on the boundaries of the park area that abuts residential properties. All non-native invasive plants are a constant challenge for homeowner's and their property. It is recommended to create non-combustible pathways, made of gravel, rock or pavers, etc. to break up the continuity of vegetation that could lead a wildfire up to the side of a structure, essentially providing a "fire break." Several areas within the community are well managed and considered a healthy forest. Yet, the boundaries of the community that abut the Park areas, contain common invasive species such as ivy, non-native blackberry, clematis, and "weedy trees" such as holly trees, English hawthorn, and laurel. The invasive plant growth creates an ongoing challenge to maintain defensible space in many forested areas throughout the city.



Governors Park – managed by Portland Parks Bureau

Fuel Mitigation Actions Maintained:

The pictures below show some areas in Marquam Park. The Parks Bureau conducts regular fuel mitigation in areas such as this to maintain a healthy landscape. Along with other maintenance such as ivy removal from the trees, and the removal of invasives at certain times of the year. It is recommended to conduct fuel mitigation in areas on the boundaries of the park, that abut the surrounding neighborhood. It's recommended to either chip downed limbs, cut them up so the branches lay down flat on the ground, or remove the smaller limbs to reduce the fuel load that has accumulated over the years. This is especially the case if no fuel mitigation has ever been conducted in these areas.



Marquam Park entrance off of upper SW Broadway Dr.



Mother Tree in Marquam Park

Fuel Mitigation Actions Recommended:

The picture below shows some areas with large accumulations that are backed up to some of the homes that abut the park property. Fuel mitigation would be beneficial in areas such as this, to create separation from the ivy growing on the trees and the forest floor, removal of other invasives such as non-native blackberry, clematis, holly, english hawthorn, and laurel. Techniques like this break up the ladder fuels, including cutting down dead standing trees, cutting up or chipping the downed limbs so they don't add to the pathway for ladder fuels to grow upon, and reducing the fuel load.



Area in Governors Park above home on steep slopes managed by Parks Bureau.

Fuel Mitigation Actions Recommended (continued):

Winter storms have caused incredible amounts of damage with the failure of trees in the natural areas and throughout the neighborhoods. Working to maintain the health of the forested areas by removing limbs and removing them. In addition to making sure that the downed trunks are in contact with the ground to assist with the decomposition, and reduction of pathways for ladder fuels to grow upon.



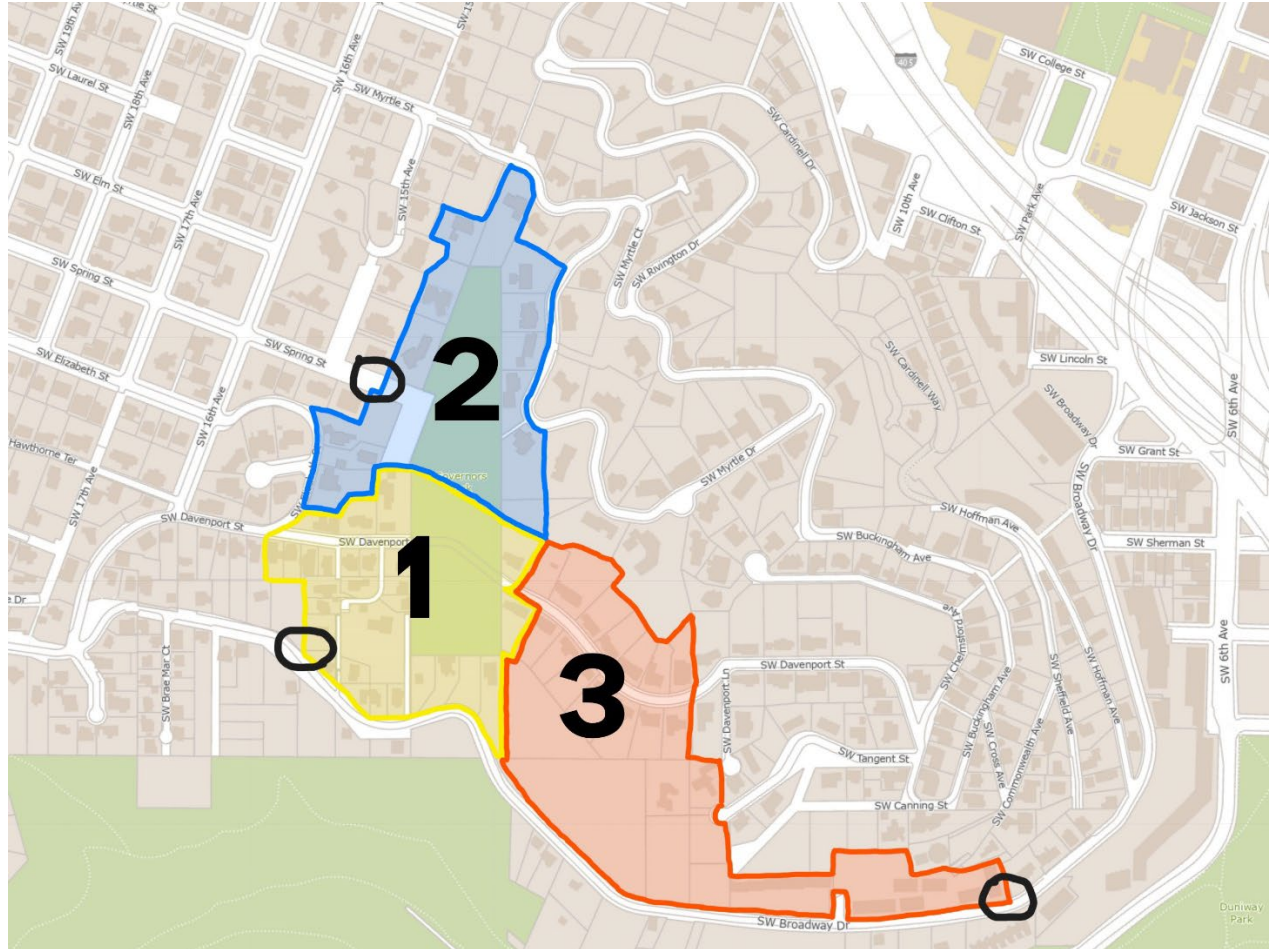
Root base of fallen tree



Winter storm tree fall (same tree in picture on left)
– caused damage to home below

Access and egress:

A concern for this neighborhood, due to the dense population, is the select number of main evacuation routes that lead out of the neighborhood. Majority of the surface streets and main egress routes lead out the neighborhood. Yet, the Governors Park Neighborhood roadways would potentially become very congested, and “bottle neck” during an evacuation.



Solution:

Early notification and education on evacuation procedures. We recommend people living in this area to evacuate earlier than later, and not wait for the formal Level 1-2-3 evacuation notices. It’s recommended to evacuate at a level 2 (Get Set), instead of waiting for level 3 (Go Now) orders. All residents are encouraged to sign up for PublicAlerts.org, which is a county specific early notification system, and to also turn on government notifications for their cell phones. A reverse 911 system is also in place for homeowners that have a landline.

7) OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The community of Governors Park Neighborhood is unique, yet very similar to other communities that are intertwined with the wildland-urban interface. The residents of Governors Park Neighborhood live primarily upslope from Marquam Park, and intermixed with Governors Park, which is located in the middle of the neighborhood. The community is bordered by approximately 60 percent of the natural forested areas, with a select few main thoroughfares. This could potentially create challenging ingress and egress for residents and challenging access for first responders. In the event of a wildland fire, first responder response time could possibly be delayed because of the limited access due to evacuation efforts by the residents. It is imperative that residents create fire-resistant landscapes to prevent fire jumping from environmental fuels to the structures. Ultimately this will lower potential fire intensity and spread. Additionally, it will improve survivability and resiliency for the structures, and the community as well. This proposal sets goals of making home sites “stand alone” so in the event of delayed response, the structures could survive a wildfire without any intervention.

With mixed forest species, the group noticed that there were many examples of leaves and needle cast laying against homes and on roofs and in gutters. Homes with fire receptive fuels on or against the structures were identified during the assessment. Flammable ornaments, patio/yard furniture, construction debris, and yard gardening equipment stored against homes were observed. There were many instances of fire receptive ornamental plants observed within home ignition zones, overhanging and touching structures.

Recommendations for wildfire risk reduction in the Governors Park Neighborhood Community:

- Encourage residents to clean roofs and gutters of leafy and woody debris in the fall after trees shed needles and leaves, and again before wildfire season begins, such as April or May.
- Assist residents in identifying fire prone vegetation that is within 10 feet of structures. Replace these with fire-resistant native vegetation.
- Remove or relocate flammable ornaments, patio furniture and other combustible materials to a protected area, or 30 feet away from the footprint of the structure. Encourage residents to replace items used around exterior of home with non-combustible products so there isn't a long “to do list” in case of an evacuation.
- In coordination with PF&R, identify and reduce ladder fuels, such as invasive species and “weedy trees” on residential lots that abut the natural forested areas. Fuel mitigation will assist in breaking up pathways of continuous vegetation and prevent wildfires from reaching residential structures or climbing into the trees along the boundary of the natural areas, and within the Governors Park Neighborhood.
- Trees are allowed within the 30-foot area of defensible space around structures. Recommended to trim up limbs on trees in this area, so that the end of the branches are 6-10 feet above the ground.
- Remove and/or chip dead limbs from trees, including downed limbs and litter regularly to reduce the fuel load.
- Utilize planned Firewise community events throughout the year to work on reducing invasive fuels, and “weedy trees” in community areas and break up fuel continuity. The first year Governors Park will work on creating a fuel mitigation plan and schedule that will occur on an annual basis to prepare for wildfire season.
- Encourage the Governors Park residents to sign up for [PublicAlerts.org](https://www.publicalerts.org). Everyone should be prepared to leave during a Level 2 evacuation notice.

- Identify a community plan for appropriate disposal of yard debris, annually.
- Create a collaborative partnership with the Parks Bureau and work towards a solution for fuels management in the areas that are adjacent to the homes in the Governors Park Neighborhood.
- Partner with Parks Bureau to participate in volunteer fuel mitigation events in boundary areas of the parks to reduce the fuel load and invasive plants.
- Partner with all bureaus involved with reducing the amount of unsanctioned camping in the Governors Park neighborhood
- Work with the City of Portland to identify prominent evacuation routes to maintain designated routes for neighborhood and emergency apparatus access.
- Coordinate pre & post wildfire season meetings with all Firewise Communities in the Portland Metro area before wildfire season begins in **2025**.
- Create or utilize a community emergency notification system by **2026**.
- Create and distribute a Community Response/Evacuation Plan in the event of a wildfire by **2027**.

8) SUCCESSFUL FIREWISE MODIFICATIONS

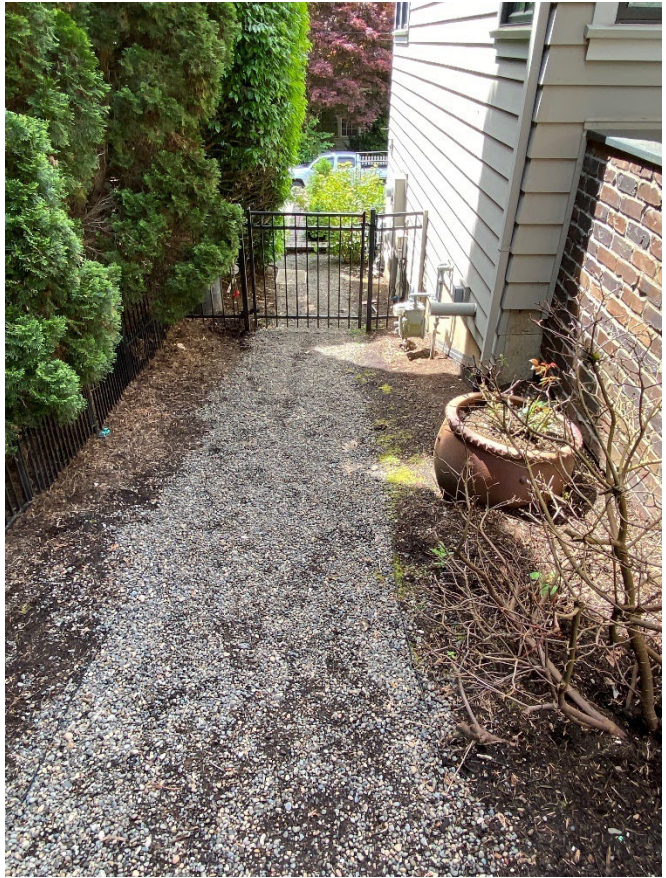
When adequately prepared, a house can likely withstand a wildfire without the intervention of the fire service. Furthermore, a house and its surrounding community can be both Firewise and compatible with the area's ecosystem. The Firewise Communities/USA program is designed to enable communities to achieve a high level of protection against wildland-urban interface fire loss even as a sustainable ecosystem balance is maintained.

A homeowner and their community must focus attention on the home ignition zone and eliminate the fire's potential relationship with the house. This can be accomplished by disconnecting the house from high and/or low-intensity fire that could occur around it.

Greater than 65 percent of the homes in the Governors Park neighborhood have Class A roofing, metal gutters and non-combustible siding, yet the remaining number of homes do have a mix of cedar roofs and/or siding. Another concern is the spacing between homes, and the wooden fences that connect them. It is highly recommended for homeowners to clear all flammable debris within five feet of their homes.

The following examples show landowners who have implemented fuel mitigation around their home. Along with the hardening of the structure, have created fire breaks on their property and landscaping. The footprint of their land is more fire resilient, the structure defensible and in some cases standalone survivable.

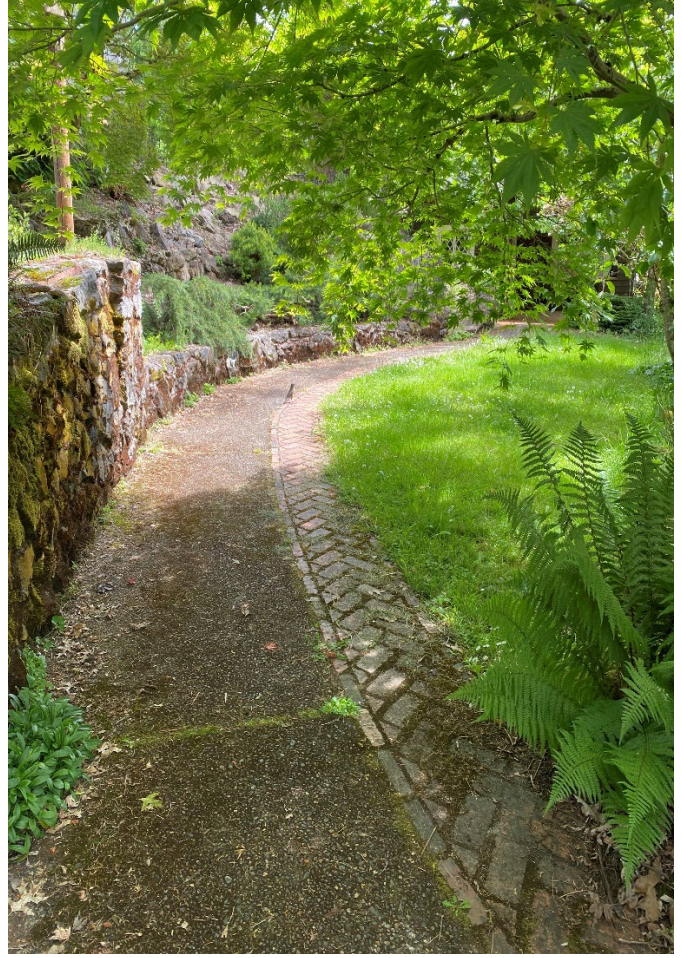
The following photographs were taken in the Governors Park Neighborhood and are examples of good Firewise practices. Defensible space is shown below – such as patios, “islands of vegetation”, non-combustible pathways, clean roofs and gutters, non-combustible fences attached to the home and smaller screening to protect openings from embers.



Good examples of defensible space next and leading up to structures.



Example of 1/8 inch screening installed on attic vent openings – also known as “bird blocking”.



Noncombustible patios & pathways create “firebreaks” on property



Metal gate fencing instead of wood – entrance walkway area made up with gravel and brick



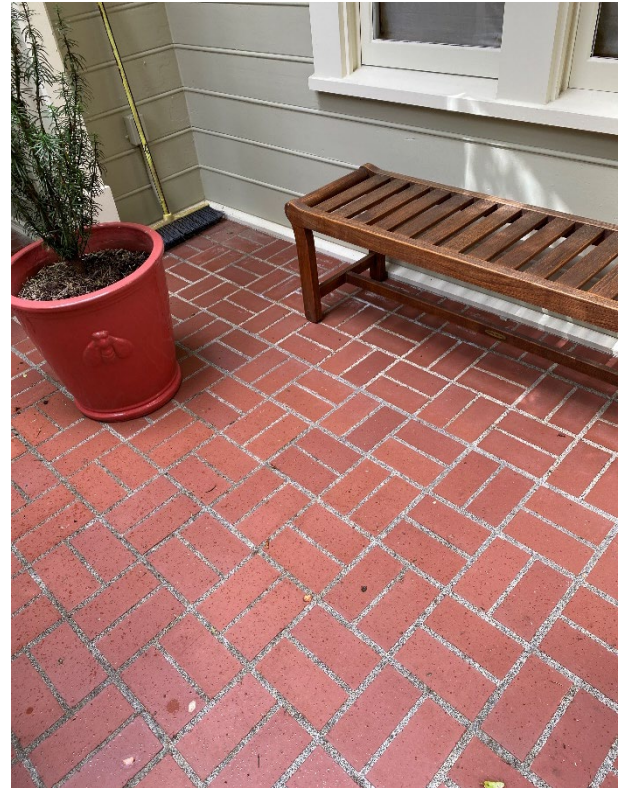
Terraced walls break up the continuity of fuels



Metal roofing and gutters



Good example of enclosed eaves



Creating a non-combustible “moat” around the home.



Paver’s act as a “firebreak”

Governors Park Neighborhood residents are reminded to be conscious of keeping high-intensity fire more than 100 feet from their homes, or the distance they are able to maintain determined by their property lines. It is important for them to avoid fire contact with their structures, which includes firebrands. The assessment team recommends the establishment of a 'fire free zone', allowing no fire to burn within ten feet of a house by removing fuels located there. If a fire reaches a house during a wildfire it can lead to disastrous results. Remember that, while the potential of a wildfire cannot be eliminated from a property, it can be reduced in intensity.

Homeowners are also reminded that street signs, addresses, road widths and fire hydrants do not keep a house from igniting. Proper attention to their home ignition zone does. They should identify the things that will ignite their homes and address those. Weather is, of course, of great concern during wildfire season. When fire weather is severe, homeowners should remember not to leave flammable items outside located next to the home. This includes rattan doormats, flammable patio furniture, firewood stacked next to the house, or other flammables. The community is also encouraged to create a "to do list" of action items that need to be addressed before evacuating, such as moving flammable items indoor, or 30 feet away from the home, such as welcome mats, outdoor furniture cushions, plastic planters, etc. If it's something that's combustible, it should be moved away from the house, or brought inside.

9) NEXT STEPS

After reviewing the contents of this assessment and its recommendations, the Governors Park Neighborhood - Firewise Board in cooperation with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, and Portland Fire & Rescue will continue seeking Firewise Communities/USA recognition. The Firewise Communities/USA representative will contact the Firewise Board representative by 9/30/2024 to receive its decision.

If the site assessment and recommendations are accepted and recognition will be sought, the Governors Park Neighborhood - Firewise Board will create agreed-upon, area-specific solutions to the Firewise recommendations and create an action plan in cooperation with Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Portland Fire & Rescue, and the Portland Parks Bureau.

Assuming the assessment area seeks to achieve national Firewise Communities/USA recognition status, it will integrate the following standards into its plan of action:

- Create a local Firewise board, task force, committee, commission, or department that maintains the Firewise Community program and status.
- Enlist a wildland-urban interface specialist to complete an assessment and create a plan from which it identifies agreed-upon, achievable local solutions.
- Use the risk assessment as a tool to determine risk reduction priorities within the community and develop a multi-year action plan that includes risk reduction projects/investments, suggested homeowner actions, and education activities. This action plan will be updated every three years.
- Observe a Firewise Communities/USA Day annually that is dedicated to a local Firewise project or education outreach event.
- Provide the total number of residents living within the site's boundary.
- Establish a minimum of 8 dwelling units (maximum 2,500 dwelling units) within the identified boundary with an investment of a minimum of \$31.80 per unit in wildfire risk reduction actions annually (Work done by municipal employees or volunteers, using municipal or other equipment,

can be included, as can state/federal grants that are dedicated to that purpose.) All dwelling units must have a resident. Volunteer hours will also count against the annual minimum investment.

- Submit and renew your community to Firewise Communities/USA web portal annually. This report updates continuing participation in the program.