

# *2022 Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan Update*

City of  Kelowna



# Background

- ▶ Fourth iteration of strategic Community Wildfire Plan for City of Kelowna
- ▶ Significant focus on forest fuel mitigation from 2004-2016
- ▶ Key accomplishments from 2016-2021 include:
  - ▶ Review of Wildfire Development Permit process
  - ▶ Completion of 125 hectares of forest fuel mitigation
  - ▶ Total Access Plan developed for strategic suppression
  - ▶ Implemented targeted grazing pilot project



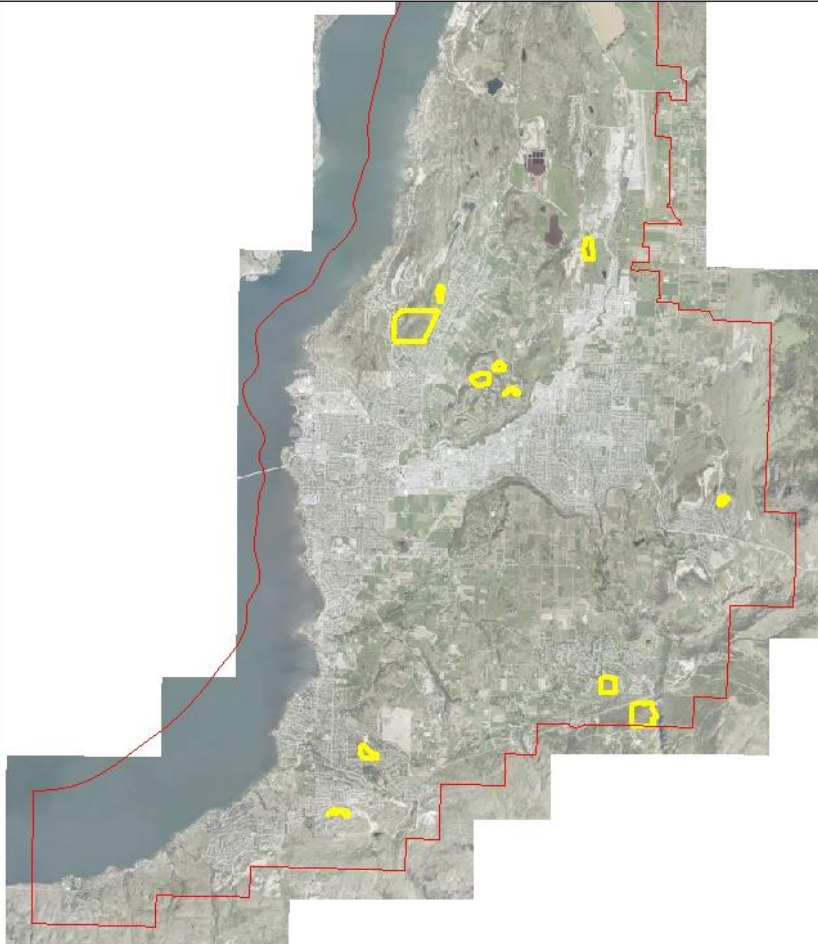
# 2016-2021 Forest Fuel Mitigation



- Legend**
- City Boundary
  - Treatment Boundary

0 950 1,900 3,800 5,700 7,600 Meters

City of Kelowna  
Park Services  
August 2, 2022  
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# Current Issues

- ▶ History of fire suppression in fire-dependent ecosystem
- ▶ Fire behaviour and climate change
- ▶ Fuels management around interface and intermix areas
- ▶ Grassland fuel management options
- ▶ FireSmart™ awareness and participation



# Key 2022 Recommendations

- ▶ High priority:
  - ▶ Complete a Municipal Evacuation Plan
  - ▶ Assess policy and legislation options to support wildfire risk reduction
  - ▶ Complete critical infrastructure FireSmart™ assessments and back up power source options
  - ▶ Complete a community water delivery assessment for suppression requirements
  - ▶ Maintain or expand current fuel treatment programs



Thank you. Questions?

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Timeframe
E1	High	Create a FireSmart Coordinator position to oversee the delivery of a comprehensive FireSmart program.	1 year
E3	Moderate	Promote FireSmart information and wildfire preparedness through social media and other outreach opportunities.	Ongoing
E4	High	Promote FireSmart information and wildfire preparedness through television or radio advertisements.	Ongoing
E5	Moderate	Host FireSmart workshop(s) for residents.	Ongoing
E6	Moderate	Give FireSmart presentations in local schools.	Ongoing
E7	High	Engage directly with residents in priority neighborhoods to offer Home Ignition Zone assessments and deliver wildfire preparedness information.	Ongoing
E8	High	As emergency evacuation plan(s) are completed, engage with residents to provide relevant emergency preparedness information.	1-3 years
E9	Low	Engage with Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Kelowna, and/or Destination BC to assess the potential feasibility of hosting a collaborative FireSmart campaign aimed at tourist audiences.	1-3 years
E10	Moderate	Host FireSmart / wildfire preparedness booths at public events and/or festivals during the summer.	Ongoing
E11	Moderate	Promote uptake into the FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program.	3-5 years
E12	Moderate	Install signage at locations of recent fuel treatments	Ongoing
L1	Moderate	Update the Urban Forest Management Strategy	1-2 years
L2	Moderate	Adopt a standard for fuel management in parks and green spaces.	1-3 years
L3	Low	In 2026, initiate an update of this CWRP.	5 years
L4	High	Adopt the Wildfire DP Terms of Reference.	1-3 years
L5	High	The Wildfire DP should include/incorporate the construction and major renovation of new single-family homes on existing lots into the Wildfire DP process'.	3-5 years
L6	Low	Implement the recommendations of the Non-Structural Flood Mitigation Resource Guide	Ongoing
L7	Low	Amend the Subdivision, Development & Servicing Bylaw (Bylaw #7900) to include a requirement for the installation of fire hydrants outside linear parks and natural area parks.	1 year
D1	High	Engage a qualified professional (such as a Local FireSmart Representative) to update or complete formal FireSmart assessments of critical infrastructure.	3-5 years
D2	Moderate	Use fire-resistant construction materials, building design and landscaping for all critical infrastructure when completing upgrades or establishing new structures	Ongoing
D3	Moderate	Develop a standard for early review of prospective parks locations at the neighborhood planning stage, by Kelowna Parks Services staff.	3-5 years
D4	Moderate	Assess the feasibility of purchasing easements around subdivision boundaries in order to install perimeter trails.	3-5 years

Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Timeframe
I1	Moderate	Collaborate with the MoF, BC Parks and BCWS to promote knowledge sharing about completed and ongoing wildfire risk reduction projects near Kelowna, and to strategize mid- to long-range planning for future adjacent treatment areas.	1-3 years
I2	Moderate	Schedule regular meetings of members of the Community FireSmart Resiliency Committee (CFRC).	Ongoing
I3	Moderate	Through the CFRC meetings or another planning table, initiate and maintain regular information sharing meetings with RDCO staff, and other municipalities in the Central Okanagan.	Ongoing
I4	Moderate	Engage with operators (e.g., BC Hydro, Fortis BC) to encourage completion of FireSmart assessments for privately owned critical or hazardous infrastructure.	1-3 years
I5	Moderate	Engage with Indigenous communities to identify opportunities for collaboration related to community wildfire resilience initiatives.	Ongoing
C1	High	Hold periodic multi-agency training exercises focused on interface wildfire incident response with BCWS and / or other mutual aid partners.	Ongoing
C2	Moderate	The Kelowna Fire Department should maintain and expand the annual interface wildfire training programs offered to its members, as well as continuing to support workshops and training days.	3-5 years
C3	Low	Attend the annual FireSmart conference.	Ongoing
EP1	High	Review back up power source options for all critical infrastructure.	1-3 years
EP2	High	Complete and participate in regular testing of a wildfire incident pre-plan.	1-3 years
EP3	High	Evaluate the utility of adopting an electronic emergency alert system for City of Kelowna residents that is deployable by City staff.	1 year
EP4	High	Complete a community water delivery assessment for suppression requirements across all four water purveyors.	1-3 years
EP5	Moderate	Based on the results of the fire flow/water availability assessment, evaluate the utility of installing dry hydrants in natural areas and acquiring lake water compatible pumps to support suppression response in more isolated areas of the municipality.	1-3 years
EP6	Moderate	Identify municipal buildings, such as community centers or libraries, as clean air spaces and promote their use during occurrences of poor air quality.	1-3 years
EP7	High	Evaluate the feasibility of obtaining a structural protection unit (SPU) for the City.	1 year
EP8	High	Review, update, and regularly revise a Total Access Plan.	1-3 years
EP9	High	Complete a municipal evacuation plan, drawing on the outcomes of the RDCO evacuation planning process (in progress, to be completed 2022).	1-3 years



Item #	Priority	Recommendation	Timeframe
V1	High	<b>Maintain or expand the current fuel treatment program, for both forest and grass fuels.</b>	3-5 years
V2	Moderate	<b>Offer support for residents to dispose of flammable debris and vegetation from FireSmart landscaping initiatives on private property.</b>	Ongoing
V3	Low	<b>Continue to track information on completed fuel treatments within the City of Kelowna.</b>	Ongoing
V4	Low	<b>Monitor treatment effects from the surface fuel reduction grazing trial in south Kelowna (scheduled for 2022).</b>	1-3 years