

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

**CRYSTAL PARK SITE # 229
439 PONDEROSA ROAD, MANITOU SPRINGS, CO**

**DEVELOPED FOR
MICHAEL BROWNORTH & MELANIE CLAPPER
OWNERS**

Prepared by



**DEC. 9, 2021
Submitted to**

**El Paso County Land Use Office, the Crystal Park Fire Department and
the Crystal Park Architectural Control Committee**

WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

This wildfire protection plan is submitted to the Land Use Office of the El Paso County Colorado: County Zoning Department, the Crystal Park Architectural Control Committee and the Crystal Park Fire Department to satisfy the requirements of the entities in regard to planning for wildfire protection and mitigation in connection with construction of new homes within the wildland-urban interface characteristic of much of El Paso County.

Property Subject to Plan

This plan is presented in connection with the planned construction of a new home referenced above.

The site plan for the proposed home, including contour plot lines, is attached.

Application for a building permit for the home is in process.

In developing this plan it was necessary to determine the required allocation of defensible space around the proposed home site and to identify the vegetation and forest characteristics in the immediate surroundings.

Drawing upon the information presented in Colorado State Forest Service "The Home Ignition Zone: A guide to preparing your home for wildfire and creating a defensible space", an inspection of the site and surrounding terrain has been conducted and the attached site plan has been developed in accordance with the guidance of the subject fact sheet specifically relating to the property's **Three Defensible Zones**.

Most importantly, the homeowner needs to recognize that firefighters will always do their best to protect you and your home. **But ultimately, it is the responsibility of the property owner to protect their family's lives, animals and property from Wildfire.**

Structural Ignitability

Use of fire-resistant building materials is greatly encouraged in Crystal Park to the degree that all new construction or reroofing is required to be a Class "A" material. Most decks are highly combustible heat traps. For this reason, patios are preferred or even concrete decks with steel supports. Exterior walls of non-combustible materials such as stucco or concrete boards are a good choice. The roof eaves and fascia can also be stucco or other fire-resistant materials. Finally, windows are one of the weakest parts of a home and should be given careful consideration. For more information, refer to

the CSFS Fire Wise Construction: Site Design and Building Materials at www.csfs.colostate.edu. Go to publications (Home Ignition Zone Guide **Defensible Space**

Defensible space is the area around a home that has been modified to reduce fire hazard. It will give your home a fighting chance against a wildfire. This entails developing three zones around all structures on the property as follows.

Within these Defensible Zones, the following will be accomplished: In accordance with the guidelines of *"The Home Ignition Zone"* by Colorado State Forest Service.

Defensible Space Management Zone 1: 0 – 5 ft. This zone is designated to prevent flames from coming in direct contact with the structure, Use nonflammable, hard surface materials in this zone, such as rock, gravel, cement, bare earth or stone/concrete pavers.

CRITICAL STEPS:

- Remove all flammable vegetation, including shrubs, slash, mulch and other woody debris.
- Do not store firewood or other combustible materials inside this zone.
- Prune tree branches hanging over the roof and remove all fuels within 10 feet of the chimney.
- Regularly remove all pine needles and other debris from the roof, deck and gutters.
- Rake and dispose of pine needles, dead leaves, mulch and other organic debris within 5 feet of all decks and structures. Farther than 5 feet from structures, raking material will not significantly reduce the likelihood of ignition and can negatively affect other trees,
- Do not use space under decks for storage.

Defensible Space Management Zone 2: 5 – 30 ft. This zone is designed to give an approaching fire less fuel, which will reduce its intensity as it gets nearer to your home or any structures.

CRITICAL STEPS

- Mow grasses to 4 inches tall or less.
- Avoid large accumulations of surface fuels such as logs, branches, slash and mulch.
- Remove enough trees to create a least 10 feet of space between crowns. Measure from the outermost branch of one tree to the nearest branch on the next tree.
- Small groups of two or three trees may be left in some areas on Zone 2. Spacing of 30 feet* should be maintained between remaining tree groups to ensure fire doesn't jump from one group to another.
- Remove ladder fuels under remaining trees. This is any vegetation that can bring fire from the ground up into taller fuels.
- Prune tree branches to a height of 6-10 feet* from the ground or a third of the total height of the tree, whichever is less.

- Remove stressed, diseased, dead or dying trees and shrubs. This reduces the amount of vegetation available to burn and improves forest health.
- Common ground junipers should be removed whenever possible because they are highly flammable and tend to hold a layer of flammable material beneath them.
- You can keep isolated shrubs in Zone 2, as long as they are not growing under trees. Keep shrubs at least 10 feet* away from the edge of tree branches.
- Periodically prune and maintain shrubs to prevent excessive growth. Remove dead stems annually.
- Spacing between clumps of shrubs should be at least 2 ½ times* their mature height. Each clump should have a diameter no more than twice the mature height of the vegetation. Example: For shrubs that grow 6 feet tall, space clumps 15 feet apart or more (measure from the edge of the crowns of vegetation clumps). Each clump of these shrubs should not exceed 12 feet in diameter.

** Horizontal spacing recommendations are minimums and can be increased to reduce potential fire behavior, particularly on slopes. Consult a forestry, fire or natural resources professional for guidance with spacing on slopes.*

Defensible Space Management Zone 3: 30-100 ft. This zone focuses on mitigation that keeps fire on the ground, but it's also a space to make choices that can improve forest health. Healthy forests include trees of multiple ages, sizes and species, where adequate growing room is maintained over time.

If the distance of 100 feet to the edge of Zone 3 stretches beyond your property lines, it's encouraged to work with adjoining property owners to complete an appropriate defensible space. If your house is on steep slopes or has certain topographic considerations, this zone may be larger.

CRITICAL STEPS

- Mow grasses is not necessary in Zone 3.
- Watch for hazards associated with ladder fuels. The chance of a surface fire climbing into trees is reduced in a forest where surface fuels are widely separated, and low tree branches are removed.
- Tree crown spacing of 6-10 feet is suggested. Consider creating opening or meadows between small clumps of trees so fire must transition to the ground to keep moving.
- Any approved method of slash treatment is acceptable in this zone, including removal, piling and burning, lop and scatter, or mulching. Lop-and-scatter or mulching treatments should be minimized in favor of treatments that reduce the amount of woody material in the zone. The further this material is from, the home, the better.

Other Recommendations

Water Supply

Crystal Park has several cisterns installed around the Park for the express purpose of firefighting. Owner to verify cistern locations.

Recommendations for Specific Forest Types

The above recommendations refer primarily to Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir and mixed conifer ecosystems.

Please refer to additional recommendations below:

Implementation

This plan is to be affected and provisions implemented on the site by the time of construction completion. This does not include adjacent sites within the boundary of the Defensible Space Management Zones owned by others, nor common ground owned by Crystal Park. The owner is encouraged to work with adjoining property owners to complete the defensible space. The area owned by Crystal Park within the Defensible Space Management Zones may be brought into compliance with the Owner's Protection Plan by mutual agreement with Crystal Park. The owner is encouraged to contact the Crystal Park Forestry Committee (through the Crystal Park Office 719-685-9729) for further information.