

July 2025

To: Carolyn Mayers, Councilor Ward 8

CC: Charles Maughan, Mayor; Jan Napack, Councilor Ward 1; Briae Lewis, Councilor Ward 2; Jim Moorefield, Councilor Ward 3; Ava Olson, Councilor Ward 4; Charlyn Ellis, Councilor Ward 5; Alison Bowden, Councilor Ward 6; Paul Shaffer, Councilor Ward 7; Tony Cadena, Councilor Ward 9; Mark Shepard, City Manager; Jessica Breeding, Oregon Dept of Forestry; Paul Billotta, Director of Community Development; Jonathon Jones, Fire Marshal

From: Meadowridge at Timberhill HOA, Uplands at Timberhill HOA, The Park at Timberhill HOA, The Meadows at Timberhill HOA, Greenbriar HOA, Timberhill Townhouse Association, Timberhill 1, Tamarack Village HOA, Sunrise Commons Townhomes HOA, Orchard Downs HOA, Timberhill Fourth Addition HOA, Queensview HOA

Re: Wildfire Risk Reduction for the Timberhill Residential Area of Corvallis

Dear Councilor Mayers:

The Timberhill residential area comprises the northern boundary of the City, between Walnut Boulevard, McDonald Research Forest and Chip Ross Park. Timberhill is adjacent to the area burned in the 2014 Chip Ross Fire, with one Timberhill residence catching fire. Today heightened awareness of the increasing frequency and severity of fire, particularly in areas like Timberhill that border wildlands, has residents extremely concerned and asking for action by the City to protect their homes and families.

Timberhill residents have and are making efforts on their own to raise fire safety awareness and the need for fire risk mitigation in the neighborhood. Residents have done door to door canvassing to publicize and urge participation in the City fire evacuation drill. We have talked with the Oregon Department of Forestry and other Corvallis neighborhoods about the Firewise program. And our HOAs have informed residents about the Oregon Department of Forestry home risk assessment program and provided links to information from the City, State and OSU Extension about defensible space around homes.

The now 23-year-old North Corvallis Area Plan does not address fire. Because of the extensive green areas are now choked with dry fuels and because there are only three means of egress to Walnut Boulevard, this neighborhood is at high risk for fire and loss of structures and life. We need an immediate reduction of fuels and a long term plan for managing fire risk.

The Uplands at Timberhill HOA has been working for over 4 years to get the City involved in reducing the fuel load in the City-owned Conservation Open Space that forms the western border of the Uplands at Timberhill HOA. There is a not-for-profit organization willing to do the much-needed work for free. We only await a "prescription" for that work from the City, something that has been promised but not produced for many months.

Similarly, the Meadowridge at Timberhill HOA has made a proposal for fuel reduction in the HOA-owned tracts that abut the City Open Space tract bordering this HOA. Although this proposal was submitted on March 3, 2025, no substantive response has been received to date.

The 2025 Fire Season has begun, and these two projects should be underway. Only City unresponsiveness prevents these potentially life-saving projects from getting done. Since no City funds are required for either project and the projects are designed to protect the green spaces and our homes, we do not understand the City's unwillingness to act.

We write to request urgent action by the City to protect our homes and families. In addition to receiving responses to these specific requests above, the HOAs in the Timberhill neighborhood request that the City create a comprehensive Timberhill Neighborhood Fire Plan to address: Residential Defense, Fuel Mitigation in Natural Areas; Fire Fighting and Suppression; Emergency Evacuation.

The undersigned leaders of the HOAs in the Timberhill area, representing over 1500 residents, formally request that the City approve and provide the necessary "prescription" so that the two risk reduction projects above can begin. Following that, we request that the City establish a long-term plan to address the increased risk in Timberhill and like areas within the City. The Oregon Department of Forestry, during efforts to establish a Firewise Community here, rated much of the Timberhill area as HIGH RISK for a catastrophically dangerous wildfire due to the fuels overload combined with topography, and an increasingly hot, dry climate and dense development. A high risk of urban conflagration in Timberhill and other neighborhoods threatens the entire City, and we are not prepared. The frustration of putting the pieces in place to make ourselves safer only to face interminable delays by the City cannot be overstated. We need the City to act.

Sincerely,

Timberhill Homeowners Associations

(See Attached Signatures)

Re: Wildfire Risk Reduction for the Timberhill Residential Area of Corvallis

Meadowridge at Timberhill HOA Date
By _____

Uplands at Timberhill HOA Date
By _____

The Park at Timberhill HOA Date
By _____

The Meadows at Timberhill HOA Date
By _____

Greenbriar HOA Date
By _____

Timberhill Townhouse Assoc. Date
By _____

Timberhill 1 HOA Date
By _____

Tamarack Village HOA Date
By _____

Sunrise Commons Townhomes HOA Date
By _____

Orchard Downs HOA Date
By _____

Timberhill Fourth Addition HOA Date
By _____

Queensview HOA Date
By _____



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE HAZARD EVALUATION

Subdivision Name: Timberhill & Meadow Ridge

Location: Corvallis, OR

Fire Department Jurisdiction: Corvallis Fire Department

Date Evaluated: 12/03/2024

This evaluation form is intended to be used at the community planning level. There is an additional form to be used at the individual home level. Consultation with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and local structural fire professionals is recommended to accurately evaluate the community. Firewise and grant eligibility requires ODF evaluation. See the last page of this form for the overall community rating.

SUBDIVISION DESIGN RATING:	Rating	
ACCESS		
2 or more roads in and out	0	0
One road in and out (entrance and exit is the same)	5	
SUBDIVISION BRIDGES		
No bridges or bridges with no weight and/or width restrictions	0	0
Low weight and/or not rated bridges restricting emergency vehicle access	5	
ROAD WIDTH		
At least 20 feet wide	2	4
Less than 20 feet wide	4	
ROAD ACCESSABILITY		
All weather access	0	0
Limited access or unmaintained access	5	
SECONDARY ROAD CHARACTERISTICS		
Through Roads	0	2
Road ends in a cul-de-sac		
Cul-de-sac diameter >100 feet	1	
Cul-de-sac diameter <100 feet	2	
Dead end road <200 feet long	3	
Dead end road >200 feet long	5	
STREET SIGNS		
Present with >4-inch letters and reflective	1	1
Missing or <4-inch letters or not reflective	7	
TOTAL SUBDIVISION RATING		<u>7</u>

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE HAZARD EVALUATION

SITE RATING: (Within 30 feet of structure based on a majority of the properties in the community)	Rating	
DRIVEWAY CHARACTERISTICS		
Less than 150 feet long	0	0
More than 150 feet with minimum 45-foot outside radius turnaround	3	
More than 150 feet with an inadequate turnaround	5	
Average driveway width more than 16 feet wide	0	5
Average driveway width less than 16 feet wide	5	
No obstructing overhead branches below 13 feet	0	5
Obstructing overhead branches below 13 feet	5	
No bridges or bridges with no weight/width restrictions	0	0
Inadequate surface or low weight bridges restricting emergency vehicles	5	
Slope level or less than 10%	0	5
Slopes over 10%	5	
No gate/non-locking gate	0	0
Locked gate restricting access	5	
Address clearly visible from the road	0	1
Address not visible from the road	2	
DOMINANT TREES (within 100 feet of homes)		
Deciduous (Hardwoods – maple, alder, etc.)	1	5
Mixed (Hardwoods and Conifers)	5	
Conifers (Douglas-fir, grand fir, cedar, pine, etc.)	10	
LADDER FUELS		
Conifer branches pruned above ground (>6 feet) and brush cleared	0	10
Conifer branches close to the ground (<6 feet), and/or heavy brush	10	
VEGETATION (predominant type throughout the community)		
Low fire hazard	5	20
Grasses less than 6 inches tall		
Medium fire hazard	10	
Grasses greater than 6 inches		
Mixed stands of hardwoods and conifers		
High fire hazard	20	
Dense stands of conifers		
Moderate to heavy brush present (blackberry, poison oak, etc.)		
Moderate to heavy dead and downed fuel		
SLOPE OF PROPERTY		
Flat (0-5%)	0	2
Moderate (6-20%)	2	
Steep (over 20%)	4	
DEFENSIBLE SPACE – 30' (around the majority of homes)		
No trees, shrubs, or tall grass within the 30-foot zone	0	10
Well-spaced trees and shrubs within the 30-foot zone	10	
Touching crowns or tall grass within the 30-foot zone	20	
DEFENSIBLE SPACE – 100' (around the majority of homes)		
No un-thinned or unmanaged timber within the 100-foot zone	0	5
Un-thinned or unmanaged timber within the 100-foot zone	5	
TOTAL SITE RATING		<u>68</u>

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE HAZARD EVALUATION**

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION RATING:		Rating	
ROOFING MATERIALS			
Greater than 75% of homes have metal, tile, or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles	0	15	
50-75% of homes have metal, tile, or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles	10		
Less than 50% of homes have metal, tile, or class A asphalt or fiberglass shingles	15		
SIDING/SOFFITS			
Greater than 75% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffits	0	15	
50-75% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffits	10		
Less than 50% of homes have fire resistant siding and soffits	15		
UNDERSKIRTING (if applicable)			
Greater than 75% of homes have the equivalent of 1/8" mesh screening underneath	0	5	
50-75% of homes have the equivalent of 1/8" mesh screening underneath	5		
Less than 50% of homes have the equivalent of 1/8" mesh screening underneath	10		
TOTAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION RATING		<u>35</u>	
ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS:		Rating	
FIRE CONTROL WATER SUPPLY			
Pressurized hydrants with minimum 500 GPM spaced less than 1,000 feet apart	0	2	
Pressurized hydrants with less than 500 GPM or spaced more than 1,000 feet apart	2		
Dry Hydrant(s) available year-round within the community	2		
Other accessible sources within community	5		
Water sources located within 4 road miles of community	7		
No water sources in or within 4 road miles of community	15		
ELECTRIC UTILITIES			
Underground clearly marked	0	2	
Underground not clearly marked	2		
Overhead with adequate (at least 20-foot) right-of-way	2		
Overhead with right-of-way unmaintained	5		
GAS UTILITIES			
No gas or underground clearly marked	0	2	
Underground not clearly marked	1		
Above ground with 15 feet of brush clearance, greater than 30 feet from the homes	2		
Above ground no brush clearance or within 30 feet of homes	5		
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
Community is not surrounded by any large forested areas	0	15	
Large forested area adjoins one side of the community	5		
Large forested area adjoins two sides of the community	10		
Large forested area adjoins three sides of the community	15		
Community is completely surrounded by large forested areas	20		
UNDEVELOPED LOTS (and pose an additional hazard due to lack of maintenance)			
Less than 10% of lots have not been developed	0	4	
10% to 50% of lots have not been developed	3		
51% to 75% of lots have not been developed	5		
Greater than 75% of lots have not been developed	10		
RISK LOCATION (according to ODF Statewide Wildfire Risk Assessment)			
Low	0	10	
Medium	10		
High	20		
TOTAL ADDITIONAL HAZARD FACTORS RATING		<u>35</u>	

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE HAZARD EVALUATION

Calculating the Wildfire Hazard Rating

SUBDIVISION			BUILDING			ADDITIONAL		OVERALL
DESIGN	+	SITE RATING	+	CONSTRUCTION	+	FACTORS	=	HAZARD
RATING				RATING		RATING		RATING
7	+	68	+	35	+	35	=	145

What does the Wildfire Hazard Rating number mean?

Using the Community Wildfire Hazard Evaluation, the highest possible rating is 254 points. Communities can be divided into the following four categories:

Low Risk:

Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 0-75 points

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are GOOD. Little is needed to improve your situation. Keep up the good work!

Moderate Risk:

Total Wildfire Risk Rating is 76-130 points

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are FAIR. Some minor improvements will make your home more fire resistant. Check the areas on the form in which you scored poorly.

High Risk:

Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 130 points

The chances of your home surviving a wildfire are NOT GOOD. Improvements are necessary. Some improvements in structure and site are necessary.

Extreme Risk:

Total Wildfire Risk Rating is Over 150 points

Your home MAY NOT SURVIVE if a wildfire passes through the area. In fact, a fire could even start on your property. Take a serious look at your property and make improvements. If you don't, you may be facing disaster. You will find that even small changes could make the difference between losing and saving your home.

This form may be used to evaluate your community and determine the level of wildfire risk. It covers roughly one-half of the hazards normally taken into account in calculating fire risk but does provide an approximate indication of true risk. For more information on your home's fire risk, or for a more complete evaluation of your property, contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry office.