

NOTE: This is a summary document developed by the University of Minnesota's Boreal Forest and Community Resilience Project to inform an update to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council's Northeast Landscape Plan.

For more information, please visit: http://www.frc.mn.gov/initiatives/llm_committees_northeast.html

Document Title	Source	Date	URL or Address
Cook County Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Cook County Board	2004	http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/wildfire-protection-plan

VISION (Two document objectives identified)

1. Identify and prioritize Wildland/Urban Interface areas within Cook County (including federal and nonfederal lands) for hazardous fuels reduction treatments and recommends methods for achieving hazardous fuels reductions.
2. The plan outlines measures for reducing fire danger to structures throughout Cook County at-risk communities.

ISSUES (None listed)

1. Wildfire and community preparedness.

GOALS (None listed, the following gathered from introduction)

1. Combat the wildland fire issue....It is impossible to stop all wildfire ignitions from occurring, but appropriate mitigation measures CAN make a difference.
2. Completion of a CWPP helps communities tap into national funding resources such as National Fire Plan funding which annual provides millions of dollars to help states and communities with community fire planning, hazardous fuel reduction, and wildfire prevention across the nation.
3. Defines the steps and recommendations developed by a core planning committee, and the final recommendations as edited, reviewed and prioritized by the local community.

STRATEGIES (Activities for Community Fire Protection)

1. Firewise Assessments – Predetermined evaluation factors assigned to assess potential hazards and risk to a homeowners structures.
2. Improve ingress/egress – improve road, approach and turn around capabilities for responding emergency vehicles such as structural fire engines and ambulances to provide better protection capabilities and evacuation procedures [for] the community and the public.
3. Dry Hydrants – An arrangement of pipe permanently connected to a water source other than a piped, pressurized water supply system that provides a read means of water supply for firefighting purposes and that utilizes the suction capability of fire department engines.
4. Communication System: Recent state-wide initiative and experience from recent major fires shows a need to upgrade communications to achieve interoperability among volunteer fire departments and other agencies.

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5. Homeowner Firewise mitigation measures – actions taken by homeowners that moderate the severity of a fire hazard or risk.
6. Sprinkler systems – water sprinkling systems set up by home owners or fire protection agencies to wet down structures or slow down the fire behavior of an approaching fire.
7. Firewise Communities – Communities completing the designated projects and receiving designation under the Firewise community program. Cook County is not a Firewise Community by definition, however Cook County has been recognized nationally for its firewise efforts across the entire county.
8. Fuel hazard treatments on private, state, and county lands including:
 - a. Chipper Days – identified neighborhoods needing brush fire clearance. A day or two will be arranged for green waste to be collected, chipped, and recycled after homeowners have cleared their brush.
 - b. Prescribed burning – Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions, which allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area, and to produce the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain preplanned fire treatment and resource management objectives. Burning options include underburns, patch burns, and broadcast burns.
 - c. Harvesting – selective cut, partial cut, and/or clearcut.
 - d. Thinning – the removal or pruning of strategic trees within pine stands to reduce the density of ladder fuels, provide fuel breaks, or reduce the potential of crown fires.
 - e. Crushing – a mechanical means of grinding and chopping vegetative materials to reduce fuel loading or build up
 - f. Pile and Burn – if other means are not applicable, flammable fuels are piled and later burned when conditions are appropriate. This treatment type is appropriate in stands where there is not enough merchantable fuel to harvest, too much dead and down fuel to broadcast burn, and near private property where structures are present, or in harvested stands with logging slash.
9. Evacuation Plans for each VFD area. The importance of these plans was demonstrated during the Ham Lake and Cavity Lake wildfire events. All VFD area currently working on evacuation plans.
10. Biomass removal – Development of a biomass facility and industry. This would provide a marketable method for fuel reduction activities and therefore allow for more extensive fuel reduction treatments.