

**LAKE FOREST PARK  
WILDLAND FIRE SAFE PLAN  
2009**

**Prepared for:**

**El Dorado Hills Community Services District  
Kent Oakley, Parks Director**

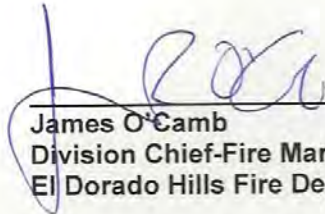
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**October, 2009**

LAKE FOREST PARK

Plan Approved by:


  
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10-28-09  
Date

  
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11/2/09  
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## **I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of the Lake Forest Park Wildland Fire Safe Plan is to identify the sensitive nature of the park and its wildland component adjacent to the houses in the surrounding area. The park is owned and operated by El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD).

The scope of Lake Forest Park Wildland Fire Safe Plan recognizes the extraordinary natural features of the area and designs wildfire safety measures which are meant to compliment and become part of the community design. The plan contains measures for providing and maintaining defensible space along utility easements opens space areas and adjacent homes. Plan implementation measures must be maintained in order to assure better wildfire protection.

Landowners who develop in and adjacent to the wildland environment must take primary responsibility along with the fire services for ensuring their development has sufficient low ignitability and surrounding fuel reduction treatment. The fire service has become a community partner providing technical assistance as well as emergency fire response. For this to succeed it must be shared and implemented equally by landowners and the fire service.

Lake Forest Park is in a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone. It is adjacent to the unincorporated Local Responsibility Area of El Dorado Hills. It is on the east side of Francisco Drive just north of the El Dorado Irrigation District Treatment Facility and just south of Sheffield.

The 9.76 acre park site is very gentle terrain with predominately an oak canopy. The tree canopy is gray pines, liveoaks and blue oaks. The understory is mostly grass with pockets of ceanothus. A one time cleanup of the property is needed. All dead limbs on the ground need to be removed. The tree canopy needs to be cleaned up by removing dead stems and limbs and limbs hanging within 8' of the ground.

The current park design provides for 3 fire access paths into the park. There are gate and vehicle access guidelines that need to be followed. The CSD needs to coordinate these features with El Dorado Hills Fire Department to meet specific requirements of the Fire Department.

Public Resources Code 4291 (PRC 4291) requires a 100' defensible space around all structures on a property. There are criteria used in addressing the 100' defensible space. The first 30' is intensive clearing and allows for maintained landscaping. The additional 70' requires the breakup of the vegetation by removing ground fuels, reducing concentrations of brush and

the limbing and thinning of the tree canopy. See Appendix A and the attached CAL FIRE Guidelines (Appendix D).

There is an El Dorado Hills Fire Department Vacant Lot Weed Abatement Resolution that requires the removal of grass and brush on vacant lots when within 30' of adjacent houses and combustible fences, **again only within the 30'**. This Resolution can be of particular importance to lots where the setbacks from the property line are less than 30'. While Lake Forest Park is not totally vacant, the open space areas adjacent to houses will fall within this requirement.

The El Dorado Hills Fire Department provides all fire and emergency medical services to this project. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has wildland fire responsibility in this state responsibility area (SRA).

## **II. FIRE SAFE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

Public Resource Code 4291 and El Dorado Hills Fire Department Vacant Lot Weed Abatement Resolution apply to this project. It is recommended the Community Services District encourage adjacent landowners to replace their combustible fences with non-combustible fences.

This Plan does not guarantee that a wildfire will not threaten, damage or destroy natural resources, homes or endanger residents. However, the full implementation of the fire safe requirements will greatly reduce the exposure of the homes to potential loss from wildfire and provide defensible space for firefighters and residents as well as protect the native vegetation.

Clarification is needed for the treatment of "fuels" along the road, trails and open space. "Fuels" in this Plan refers to the non-landscaped grasses, brush and trees growing in and around the property within Lake Forest Park. Fuel hazard reduction zone applies to all roadways, open spaces and maintained trails. The zone will vary in width and fuel treatment depending on the location of the zone.

## **III. FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION ZONE REQUIREMENTS**

- Fuel hazard reduction zone along the roads shall be 10' from the face of the curb or side of the road if there is no curb. This includes the normal 6' of sidewalk where applicable. In this zone, the grasses shall be cut to

a 2" stubble by June 1 annually. If late rains occur, a second treatment may be necessary. All dead and dying trees shall be removed. Trees shall be limbed up 10' as measured from the uphill side of the tree. All ladder fuels (brush) shall be removed from this zone.

- The fuel hazard reduction zone along the open spaces shall be at least 10' from noncombustible fences. The zone increases to 30' if adjacent to combustible fencing or within 30' of a residence. The same fuel treatment applies as stated for the roads.
- The fuel hazard reduction zone along maintained trails shall be 5' on each side of the trail. The treatment shall be cutting of the grasses to a 2" stubble by June 1 each year. Trees shall be limbed up 10' as measured on the uphill side of the tree. Brush shall be removed.
- All fuel hazard reduction zones shall be maintained annually by June 1. A second treatment may be necessary if there is significant regrowth.

#### **IV. FIRE SAFE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- All structures shall comply with the 100' defensible space requirements of PRC 4291. Where there is not 100' to the property line, clearance shall go to the property line. See the attached CAL FIRE Guideline (Appendix D) and Appendix A.
- All residences adjacent to the park that do not have a 30' setback on the side/s or rear shall have added clearance up to a total of 30' from the residence or combustible fence as required by the Fire Department Weed Abatement Resolution.
- Every 5 years the Fire Department shall review the Open Space areas with the CSD to determine if additional fuel hazard reduction work is necessary.
- The CSD is required to maintain the fuel hazard reduction zones.
- All gates on the roads accessing Lake Forest Park shall be maintained by the CSD or kept in an open position. Any new gate installation shall meet the specifications of the El Dorado Hills Fire Department.
- Open Space access points shall be specified and approved by the El Dorado Hills fire Department. See Appendix B.
- A fire hydrant shall be required and the location shall be determined by El Dorado Hills Fire Department.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **LAKE FOREST PARK FUEL TREATMENT SPECIFICATIONS FOR OAK WOODLAND WITHIN THE 100' TREATMENT AREA AND OUTSIDE OF IRRIGATED LANDSCAPING**

1. Leave all live trees where possible.
2. Remove all dead trees.
3. Remove all brush.
4. Prune all live trees of dead branches and green branches 8' from the ground as measured on the uphill side of the tree, except no more than 1/3 of the live crown is removed. All slash created by pruning must be disposed of by chipping or hauling off site.
5. Annually by June 1, reduce the grass or weeds to a 2" stubble within 30' of structures by mowing, weedeating, chemical treatment, disking or a combination of treatments.
6. Annually by June 1, reduce the grass or weeds to a 4" stubble from 30' to 100' of structures by mowing, weedeating, chemical treatment, disking or a combination of treatments.
7. Mature, multi-stem Oak trees: remove all dead limbs and stems, cut off green stems at 8' above the ground that arch over and are growing down towards the ground.
8. Gray pines within 30' of a structure shall be removed.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **LAKE FOREST PARK EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPEN SPACE ACCESS SPECIFICATIONS**

The purpose of the Emergency Vehicle Access into Open Space areas is to provide rapid access to wildland fires. This access is needed for suppression resources such as bulldozers, 4-wheel drive fire engines, firefighters, hoselays etc.

Specifications are:

1. 15' in width
2. A "Break" in the curb
3. Signed "Emergency Access"
4. Gates equipped with a Knox Lock





**KEY NOTES**

- ① BBQ/PICNIC AREA
- ② CONCRETE PATH (TYP.)
- ③ TENNIS COURTS (2 TYP.)
- ④ FENCED SAND VOLL
- ⑤ FIRE ACCESS PATH
- ⑥ PICNIC TABLE (TYP.)
- ⑦ BENCH NODE (TYP.)
- ⑧ NATIVE PLANT GARD
- ⑨ NEW TREES (TYP.)
- ⑩ NEW TURN POCKET
- ⑪ TURF/PLAY AREA
- ⑫ STONE RETAINING WALL (TYP. SIZE VARIES)
- ⑬ BOCCE BALL COURT
- ⑭ PARK ENTRY
- ⑮ PARK SIGN
- ⑯ PARKING LOT (24 STALLS, 2 ACCESSIBLE STALLS)
- ⑰ SHRUB/GROUNDCOVER
- ⑱ SWINGS, ROCK CLIMB PLAY EQUIPMENT
- ⑲ RESTROOM/STORAGE
- ⑳ FITNESS PAR COURSE ELEMENT LOCATION
- ㉑ OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- ㉒ DECOMPOSED GRANITE JOGGING TRAIL
- ㉓ NATURE TRAIL / AREA

**CONCEPT D**

**UPDATES FROM CONCEPT C:**

- HORSESHOE COURTS REPLACED WITH BOCCE BALL COURT.
- TWO TENNIS COURTS ALONG FRANCISCO DRIVE ELIMINATED.
- REAR TENNIS COURTS MOVED 80° CLOSER TO FRANCISCO DRIVE.
- 5-12 PLAY EQUIPMENT ADDED.

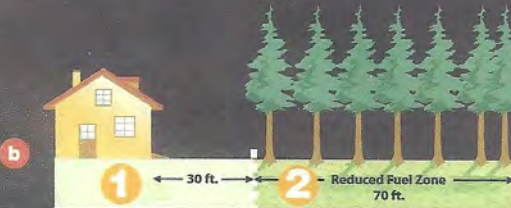


Note: Wildlife Enhancement Features to be integrated throughout the park. Not shown in plan view.

# 100' DEFENSIBLE SPACE Make Your Home FIRE SAFE



or



Contact your local CDF office, fire department,  
or Fire Safe Council for tips and assistance.  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

## Why 100 Feet?

Following these simple steps can dramatically increase the chance of your home surviving a wildfire!

A **Defensible Space** of 100 feet around your home is required by law.<sup>1</sup> The goal is to protect your home while providing a safe area for firefighters.

### 1 "Lean, Clean and Green Zone"

– Clearing an area of 30 feet immediately surrounding your home is critical. This area requires the greatest reduction in flammable vegetation.

### 2 "Reduced Fuel Zone."

– The fuel reduction zone in the remaining 70 feet (or to property line) will depend on the steepness of your property and the vegetation.

Spacing between plants improves the chance of stopping a wildfire before it destroys your home. You have two options in this area:

**a** Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants. The amount of space will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

**b** Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."

When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer.

Remove all build-up of needles and leaves from your roof and gutters. Keep tree limbs trimmed at least 10 feet from any chimneys and remove dead limbs that hang over your home or garage. The law also requires a screen over your chimney outlet of not more than 1/2 inch mesh.

1. These regulations affect most of the grass, brush, and timber-covered private lands in the State. Some fire department jurisdictions may have additional requirements. Some activities may require permits for tree removal. Also, some activities may require special procedures for: 1) threatened and endangered species, 2) avoiding erosion, and 3) protection of water quality. Check with local officials if in doubt. Current regulations allow an insurance company to require additional clearance. The area to be treated does not extend beyond your property. The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has approved Guidelines to assist you in complying with the new law. Contact your local CDF office for more details.

