

Treeways

2021 - 6

Wildfire/Brush Fire/Grassland Fire

Firewise landscaping means designing and managing your landscape so that in case of a wildfire you will be able to protect your home. A green grass lawn around your home is your first defense. Pruning up dead branches on yard trees, using appropriate landscape shrubs, and occasional mowing of woodland or grassland edges is second. Third, pruning of woodland trees to clear deadwood up to about 10 feet above the ground can prevent a ground level fire from leaping into the forest canopy leading to an uncontrollable blaze. Planting evergreen trees and shrubs adjacent to a home is less firewise than using deciduous trees and shrubs.

Many ash trees in the City will be dying over the next several years and that means that there will be an increase in the amount of dry wood accumulating in our woodlands. Logs and branches touching the soil tend to remain moist and gradually rot away. Piles of brush or wood not touching the soil tend to become very dry and combustible. There are various ways to dispose of woody debris. Chop and drop is what it sounds like – cut woody debris into fairly small pieces and drop it on the ground. A wood chipper works well too or you can stack the debris and have it hauled away. Lastly, you can purchase a burning permit and enjoy a bonfire on your property.

Burning permits are available at most times of the year except when there is an abundance of dry leaves and grass that could carry a grass or brush fire away from a contained location. We all can have recreational fires and bonfires however being able to do both comes with the responsibility to burn safely and under control. I've said this many times, "An out of control fire is not a good way to meet your neighbor." A campfire is fun so please keep it under control and put it out when you are done.

For more information check out Firewise Minnesota. Also the City Forester is available for consultation regarding Firewise landscaping.