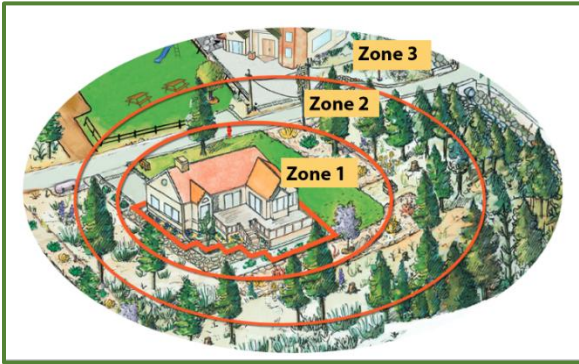


Balancing Fire Safety and a Healthy Forest in the Spencer Butte Area

A healthy forest has vibrant, diverse populations of native species. Plants and animals interact to make the forest resilient, create shade, and retain water, helping to prevent wildfire.

Our area's forest, open space, and wildlife make it a wonderful place to live. These same features put our homes and properties at high fire risk during the dry seasons.



Thinking of our property as divided into zones with our home at the center provides an approach to reducing our fire risk and promoting a healthy ecosystem.

Where to Start

1. Read or skim two or three good publications. Here are two good ones:
 - [Preparing Homes for Wildfire](#) [Firewise] Illustrates the concept of dividing the areas around buildings into zones for fire risk reduction. It does not address promoting habitat.
 - [Wildlife-Friendly Fuels Reduction in Dry Forests of the Pacific Northwest](#). [Oregon State University] A great description of how we can reduce fuels to prevent wildfires, while fostering a habitat that supports wildlife.
2. Start working at your house and other buildings, then move outward:
 - Clean gutters and keep the area 5 feet from buildings free of even small amounts of leaves and other dry debris throughout fire season.
 - Proceed with the steps in the Firewise [Home Ignition Zone Checklist](#)
3. For areas farther away from buildings, think in terms of keeping or planting islands of fire-resistant (often native) shrubs, ground covers, and trees to provide food and habitat for birds and other wildlife; and removing invasive and highly flammable plants.
 - A starting point for what to keep and plant: [Fire Resistant and Wildlife Friendly Trees and Shrubs for the Spencer Butte Area](#) [SBNA]
 - A starting point for what to remove: [Highly-Flammable Plants Common in the Spencer Butte Area](#) [SBNA]
 - [Fire Resistant Plants for Home Landscapes](#) - [OSU Extension Service].

Additional Information

Please see [SBNA.net](#), the SBNA home page, for links to additional websites and documents for guidance on fire resistance and habitat preservation.