



FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA APPLICATION

Complete this form and submit it to your Firewise State Liaison no later than December 31. The Firewise State Liaison must receive copies of the assessment, the community plan and event documentation in order for Firewise processing to occur. Firewise Communities/USA participants are given credit for work completed during the calendar year. If your state has no Firewise State Liaison, contact FirewiseUSA@aol.com for mailing instructions.

The community of Sun City Texas Community Association, state of Texas, hereby applies to be officially recognized and designated as a qualified participant in the Firewise Communities/USA recognition program for the year 2009. Members of the community have adopted the following Firewise Communities/USA recognition program standards:

FORMED A FIREWISE BOARD

List Board members and fire agency representative(s), date board was established, meeting dates, and the address, phone number and e-mail of Board President.

Date Established: 1/27/2009

Board Members

Board President: Jim Romine

Meeting Dates

Owners:

Address: 2 Texas Drive

- 1/27/2009
- 4/29/2009
- 7/6/2009
- 9/23/2009
- 10/19/2009

- Paul Ohlenbusch
- Dick Hanson
- C. O. Smith
- Jim Whittaker
- Reg Bessemer
- Dick Denny
- Gene Dalton
- Dave Young
- CA Staff Laision
- Jim Romine
- David Hahn
- Catrin Dubois

City, State, Zip: Georgetown, TX 78633
Phone #: 512-864-1210
Email: jim.romine@delwebb.com

INVESTED AT LEAST \$2/CAPITA IN FIREWISE PROJECTS

Total Firewise expenditures, including equipment and volunteer hours \$ 448,041.50
 Number of residents in community 9,810

COMPLETED A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Date of assessment: 4/29/2009
Name and agency/company conducting assessment Jan Fulkerson, Texas Forest Service
Provided a hard copy of assessment to state Firewise representative.

CREATED A PLAN

Date plan completed 10/19/2009
Provided a hard copy of the plan to state Firewise representative.

HELD A FIREWISE DAY

Date of Firewise Day: 8/13/2009
Describe the activity including date, time, number of people attending and location: August 13, 2009, 1 pm. Presentation to the SCTX Board of Directors explaining how Firewise will benefit SCTXCA and requesting to apply for certification. Attendance - 75 plus TV audience on local channel.
Provided hard copies of any publicity, programs, news coverage and/or other supporting information to the state Firewise representative.

Submitted by: Jim Romine
E-mail address jim.romine@delwebb.com
Date 10/26/2009

Please provide the following contact information:

State Forestry Contact

Name: Jan Fulkerson
Agency: Texas Forest Service
Address: PO Box 1692
City, State, Zip: Wimberly, TX 78676
Telephone: (512) 847-7387; Cell: (979) 220-1010
Fax: (512) 847-7629
Email: jfulkerson@tfs.tamu.edu

Community Fire Chief

Name: Robert Fite
Department: Georgetown Fire Department
Address: 103 W 9th St
City, State, Zip: Georgetown, TX 78626
Telephone: 512-930-3611 (o), 512-740-3180 (c)
Fax: 512-930-3613
Email: rfite@georgetowntx.org

TO BE COMPLETED BY FIREWISE COMMUNITIES/USA STATE LIAISON OR REPRESENTATIVE:

Complete this form and mail it along with the community's application form (COVER SHEET ONLY) to:
Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program
One Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02169

To notify program staff of the pending application or to discuss the application with staff, please send an email to firewiseusa@aol.com.

CERTIFICATION

(To be completed by State Forester or designated representative)

The state forestry office or appropriate official has reviewed the application of the above-named community and determined it has met the five Firewise standards of achievement in wildfire mitigation. Therefore, this applicant should be designated as a Firewise Communities/USA participant for the current calendar year.

Signed _____ Date _____

Person who should receive recognition materials:

Name:
Title:
Agency/Organization:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Phone #:
Fax #:
Email:

Firewise Plan
Sun City Texas by Del Webb
Sun City Texas Community Association

Sun City Texas, a Pulte/Del Webb development, located within the Georgetown, Texas, city limits, 5.5 miles from Interstate 35 on Williams Drive. Sun City Texas has about 3,300 acres with 5,671 homes completed and approximately 1,000 acres of open space and parks. Sun City Texas is an urban community with wild land vegetation (juniper, hardwood and native grasses) in the parks, open spaces and adjacent properties. When built out, Sun City Texas will have 7,500 homes on 5,100 acres. As of September 27, 2009, the population, is 9,810 people with an estimate of 13,000 at build out.

Sun City Texas is governed by a Community Association (CA) under the direction of Board of Directors and numerous governance committees. The Firewise Plan is created under the direction of the CA Board of Directors. It is a two part plan; one part of the CA plan addresses the common areas including all the open areas and the other part is the Residential Plan for individual homeowners. Each is designed to meet the needs of a Firewise Community.

CA Plan The CA is responsible for the management of all non-residence property guided by a set of maintenance classifications. The classifications covered by the Firewise plan are Maintenance Levels I II, III, IV, and V.

LEVEL I - Highly Maintained Landscape: These areas typically include irrigated turf grass and planted beds in locations of high visibility to the community as a whole. Expect regular mowing of the turf during the growing season and less frequently when the grass is dormant.

LEVEL II Lesser Maintained Landscape: These areas typically include turf grass that may or may not be irrigated and planted beds in locations visible to a limited part of the community on a regular basis. Expect an average of 12 mowings annually adjusted based on growing season.

LEVEL III Cultivated Texas Landscape: These areas typically include non-irrigated areas where revegetation with native grasses and/or wildflowers has occurred. Tree canopy heights will be raised to six feet above ground level elevation. Seasonal mowing of these areas, to a height of not less than 6 inches, will occur 2-3 times annually and will include a strip of not less than 10 feet in width adjacent to residential lot lines.

LEVEL IV Native Texas Landscape: These areas will be, for the most part, left in their natural condition. These areas will not be irrigated. Tree maintenance will be performed for safety to remove hazardous conditions as determined by CA.

LEVEL V Special landscape Zones: Generally associated with commercial or CA amenity areas. Special Landscape Zones include a combination of the above Levels of Maintenance. Included are Karst Protection Areas for Endangered Species.

The Levels III, IV, and V range in size from less than one acre to ninety-five acres which present a wildfire hazard. In the open areas, selective removal of cedar (*Juniperus ashei*) to break up continuous lines or areas and to provide fire equipment access will be planned.

Three golf courses are under the control of the CA. In addition to the normal course areas, Level III and IV areas are included, usually with houses adjoining the courses. Firewise needs will be developed working with the CA and the golf course contractor.

In addition, 2 creeks, Berry and Cowan, have hardwood and cedar trees in the flood plain. The cedar trees pose a fire hazard from their presence and the collection of flood debris following flood conditions increase the wildfire hazard. Selective removal of the cedar will reduce the wildfire and flooding hazard.

Work has begun with the Georgetown Fire Department on Firewise planning, particularly

for access by fire equipment to the open areas. This will include evaluating the feasibility of individual Level II areas for access from streets to Level III areas. Removal of cedar and other woody vegetation for access will be identified.

Level III has a requirement for mowing of not less than 10 feet in width adjacent to residential lot lines. Level III areas may provide access for fire equipment to open areas and function as a short fuel area for fire control.

Sun City has 740 Landscaped Maintained Homes managed by the CA. The lawns, beds, and trees are maintained under a contract with the CA. Working with the CA Staff and the Landscaped Maintained Homes Governance Committee, the application of Firewise will be explored.

Residential Plan The Residential Plan will rely heavily on education of defensible space information to community residents and encourage the creation of a defensible space around their homes. Special attentions should be made where there are wooden eaves, decks, or other wooden attachments close to vegetation. The information will help residents understand the potential for wildfires or yard fires that could ignite their homes. A preliminary effort was the leaflet *Firewise and Sun City Texas* distributed in August (copy attached) to both acquaint them with Firewise and give them ideas of potential problems. Additional efforts will include presentation and participation at events such as National Night Out, CA Annual Meeting, special town halls, New Homeowners Orientation, club and community events, and neighborhood meetings. Printed materials, leaflets, a Firewise plant list, and volunteer work days will be scheduled. Plans are being developed to include clubs in the education and volunteer efforts. Among the topics will be i) keep landscaping vegetation low under all windows, ii) remove dead debris from under and around plants, and iii) keeping gutters clear of leaf litter.

A special consideration in developing this plan will include encouraging residents to make their property Firewise. Because the houses are in close proximity to each other, the normal "30 feet from the structure" defensible zone is unworkable. The CA will provide the defensible zone by Level III mowing of between 10 and 30 feet wide beyond the property line.

Tracking the volunteer efforts of residents will be accomplished by a resident survey each December, starting in 2010. The residents will be asked to document their volunteer and paid work meeting Firewise activities. The CA staff will provide a summary of the staff and contractor work on Firewise items.

The Firewise Group is an ad hoc group that investigated the feasibility of becoming a Firewise community. The CA BOD authorized the Firewise Group to pursue obtaining certification. The group consists of representatives of Emergency Management, Modifications, Property & Grounds, and Wildlife Management Committees plus CA Staff. Under the direction of the CA Board of Directors, the structure, functions, and responsibilities of a future task force or committee will be determined. This will be accomplished in 2010.

MAINTENANCE PLAN

Legend

- █ **Highly Maintained Landscapes (Layer 1):** These areas typically include irrigated lawns and are planted beds in locations of high visibility to the community as a whole. Expect to see weekly watering of turf during the season, less frequent when areas are dormant. Irrigation frequency throughout season. Annual tree pruning. Semi-annual shrub pruning.
- █ **Lower Maintained Landscapes (Layer 2):** These areas typically include lawns that may or may not be irrigated and planted beds that are not necessarily a "green" appearance. Semi-annual ground-paint maintenance.
- █ **Collected Thatch Landscapes (Layer 3):** These areas typically include non-irrigated areas where transportation with rotary mowers is used for maintenance. Expect seasonal mowings of entire areas (2-3 times annually) to include a 10:00 water strip adjacent to ground surface area. Expect to see annual tree pruning. Expect to see annual shrub pruning. These areas will not be watered.
- █ **Maintain the Look:** These areas are for the visual look, but in their natural condition. These areas will not be watered.
- █ **Special Landscapes:** Generally associated with commercial or amenity areas. "Special Landscapes Areas" typically include a combination of the above levels of maintenance. Responsibility for these areas may lie with the Community Association.



This Community Association Maintenance Plan is subject to change pending approval from the Community Association's Board of Directors. The developer reserves the right, without notice, to make changes to this map and other aspects of the development. For accurate lot size and boundary information, consult the returned subdivision plat maps.



Sun City Texas Community Association
Wildfire Assessment & Recommendations
Compiled by TFS-UWI Specialists, Jan Fulkerson
June 2009

Sun City Texas Community Association (SCTXCA) is within the Georgetown, TX city limits, ~5.5 mile west of IH 35 off of RM2338/Wiliams Drive. The community is 5100 acres consisting of 7500 lots and ~900 acres currently designated as open space and parks. SCTXCA is an urban community with the wildland vegetation in the parks, open spaces and adjacent properties. The wildland vegetation is a juniper, hardwood mix with native grasses. The community has two ways in and out at this time with a third in the future.

The recommendations set forward are from a site visits in January and April 2009 by Texas Forest Service Urban Wildland Interface Specialists, Jan Fulkerson with Georgetown Interim Fire Chief, Clay Shell (January visit) and Texas Forest Service Forester, Rob Grotty (April visit).

The Texas Forest Service is making the following recommendations to SCTXCA using SCTXCA maintenance level reference when applicable:

Provide public education on defensible space and Firewise landscaping.

- Distribute defensible space information to community residents and encourage the creation of 30' defensible space around their homes. Special attentions should be made where there are wooden eaves, decks, or other wooden attachments are close to vegetation.
 - Consider placing a 12"-18" gravel border along wooden attachments.
 - Consider replacement of wooden decking with non-flammable materials (high-tech decking).
 - Enclose decking with non-flammable building materials.
- Keep landscaping vegetation low under all windows.
- Remove dead debris from under and around plants.
- Place flammable outdoor furniture, baskets, straw doormat, etc in the home when gone for long periods of time or if there is a fire in the area.
- Keep gutters clear of leaf litter.
- Keep lawn grasses mowed regularly.
- Avoid highly flammable plant material next to structure such as Rosemary and Pampas grass especially next to any wooden attachments and under eaves.

Reduce fuels in the open area around the neighborhood.

Focus on areas where wildland vegetation is within 30 feet of residence property lines.

- **Start fuel reduction by:**
 - Remove down dead wood and prune dead wood from trees.
 - Remove all brush piles.
 - Enforce disposal of yard cuttings and clippings in open areas which is prohibited by Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R).
 - Remove cedars or prune up from the ground 5'-6' in the 30' area closest to residence property line.
 - Continue creating the shaded fuel breaks in the wooded areas maintaining minimal woody vegetation on the ground under larger trees.
 - Provide assessable routes through the large tracks of open area for fire apparatus.
 - Maintain a height clearance of 14' over all public roads and driveways for fire equipment.
 - Maintain a height clearance of 10' over all access routes to open areas and behind homes.
- **Continue fuel reduction by:**
 - Keep native grasses and wildflowers short when dry, in summer, winter and during drought from residence property line in accordance with the Maintenance Level 3 guidelines.
 - Remove all new growth cedar and other ladder fuels annually in Maintenance Level 3 areas. Ladder fuel would include Willow Baccharis, Yaupon holly, vines, and green briar.
- **Example areas:**
 - Where possible create access from the streets into areas behind homes through Maintenance Level 2 areas to Maintenance Level 3 and 4 for fire department access. This includes width, radius and height clearance. Width should be 10', with turn around areas, and 10' height clearance.
 - Evaluate the need of marking safe access routes in the area where storm drains are present in Maintenance 2 areas.
 - Consider working with adjacent property owners to reduce vegetation adjacent to SCTXCA homes. Example in areas east of neighborhood 13 & south of neighborhood 38.
 - Selectively remove small growth vegetation in riparian areas by removing up to 3"-5" diameter vegetation. This will reduce the accumulation of flood debris that can become a fuel load for wildfire in the future. Example area at Lantana Drive and Daisy Pass, also along Berry and Cowan Creeks.
 - Create drivable access into and along property line in all open area property. In large areas of cedar, create drivable openings by removing cedar to break up large areas for accessibility and to break the continuous line of fuel. Example between neighborhoods 27 & 38.
 - Keep native grasses and wildflowers mowed in summer, winter and during drought. If they are brown mow according to Maintenance Level 3 guidelines.
 - Continue thinning of cedar in the future:
 - Identify hardwood trees and remove cedar from under them.

- Old grow cedar can be pruned up from the bottom by removing the deadwood.
- Maintain the open areas by removing new growth cedar often to reduce cost of removal when they are older.
- Create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the SCTXCA. The CWPP can be a tool for emergency response, mitigation planning and tracking, and the Firewise Communities/USA process.
- Individually, each home should prepare a wildfire plan.
- Identify residents in need of help during a wildfire.
- Identify safety zones within the community.
- Currently, Scott and White Clinic near SCTXCA entrance have a helicopter landing pad. Also, the golf course can provide landing zones.
- Identify potential water sources for fire control.

Continue to work as a group to be prepared in the event of a wildfire.

This is a working plan for the community.

SCTXCA Maintenance Levels are attached as provided.

The Task Force would also develop materials to help residents maintain a Firewise residence and other actions to increase the ability of Sun City to protect people, property, and natural resources from wildfire - before a fire starts.



House numbers should be in full view to allow emergency services to find your house.



Prepared by
Sun City Firewise Group
Wildlife Management Committee
Emergency Management Committee
Property and Grounds Committee
Community Association Staff

Firewise and Sun City Texas Protecting People, Property, and Natural Resources from Wildfire - Before a Fire Starts

Sun City Texas has been exploring becoming a Certified Firewise Community using a collaborative approach to help protect life, property and natural resources through community-based planning. The program is administered through the Texas Forest Service. The approach is designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire - before a fire starts. The Firewise Communities approach emphasizes community responsibility for the planning and design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response. This includes individual responsibility for an environment around your home, neighborhood and community through safer design, landscaping and maintenance.

The Sun City effort began as the result of the October, 2008 proposal from the Habitat Management Subcommittee of the Wildlife Management Committee. In the last year, there has been a small wildfire and at least two yard fires in Sun City with damage to one house.

In Sun City, the Firewise Group is comprised of representatives of Wildlife Management, Property and Grounds, and Emergency Management Committees, CA Staff, and the Georgetown Fire Department. Plans are to involve additional governance committees as well as other Sun City groups and residents to develop and implement the program.

What Does Firewise Do?

Firewise is a two level program first to provide public education on defensible space and landscaping and second on reducing fuels in the open areas around residences and throughout the community. Each level has unique opportunities and overlap that combine to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildfire - before a fire starts.



www.texasfirewise.com

Public Education on Defensible Space and Landscaping

Each homeowner can reduce the potential from fire damage to their property through routine chores such as keeping landscaping vegetation low under all windows, removing dead debris from under and around plants, keeping gutters clear of leaf litter, and keeping their grasses mowed regularly. A special concern is to avoid highly flammable plant material next to the structure such as



Plants near or under the eaves of a house can be a fire hazard.

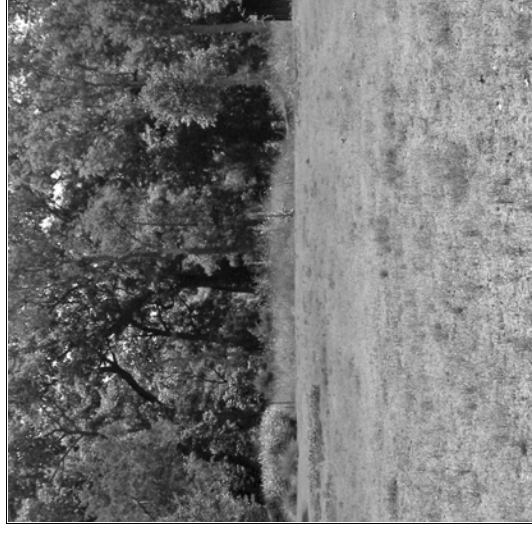
Rosemary and Pampas grass especially next to any wooden attachments and under eaves. Each residence should have a wildfire evacuation plan and Emergency/Evacuation Kit described by the Emergency Management Committee. For more information, see the article in the *Sun Rays* and the information in the red section of the new Community Directory.

Reduce Fuels in the Open Area Around the Neighborhood

Reducing fuels will focus on areas where vegetation that abuts the residence property line in the Maintenance Level 3 areas. The need is to remove down dead wood and prune dead wood from trees, remove all brush piles, enforce disposal of yard cuttings and clippings in open areas which is prohibited by Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R), and remove cedars or prune up from the ground 5' -6' in the vicinity of residence property line. Working with the Georgetown Fire Department, we need to provide assess routes through and to the large tracks of open area for fire apparatus.

Sun City's current Maintenance Level 3 mowing program

meets the need to keep native grasses and wildflowers mowed in summer, winter and during drought. In the Maintenance Level 4 areas, identify hardwood trees and remove cedar from under them, old grow cedar can be pruned up from the bottom by removing the deadwood, and maintaining the open areas by removing new growth cedar often to reduce cost of removal when they are older.



Open areas can provide the fire department access from the street to large areas for fire control.

Becoming a

Firewise Community also requires the development of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the SCTXCA.

The CWPP can be a tool for emergency mitigation planning to meet the Firewise requirements.



Removing small cedars from under hardwood trees will eliminate the cost of removing them when they are larger.

What Will be Happening

The CA Board of Directors will be asked to create a Firewise Task Force or similar group to develop and implement the process to have Sun City certified as a Firewise Community and to maintain that certification.