



My Firewise

Community Information

Community ID: 00640 Community: Sun City Texas Community
Association City/Town: Georgetown State: TX
Original Application Date: 12/15/2009 Total Residents: 9810

Contact Information - Edit - Renew

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Title
Company
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Annual Investments

Year	Amount	Number of Residents
2009	\$448,042	9810
2010	\$4,645,925	11232
Total Investments	\$5,093,967	

Firewise Event Information - Add Firewise Event

Date	Description	
06/09/2010	The June 9 Town Hall meeting in the Sun City Social Center Ballroom was attended by approximately 100 people plus those viewing on the community cable channel. Current activities and plans were reviewed.	08/13/2009
August 13, 2009, 1 pm.	Presentation to the SCTX Board of Directors explaining how Firewise Will benefit SCTXCA and requesting to apply for certification.	

2010 Firewise Report
Sun City Texas by Del Webb
Sun City Texas Community Association

Sun City Texas, a Pulte/Del Webb development, is located within the Georgetown, Texas city limits, 5.5 miles from Interstate 35 on Williams Drive. 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 4,100 acres. As of November 30, 2010, there are 5,912 homes with a Sun City population of 11,232 residents with an estimate of 13,000 at build out. Sun City is presently the largest Home Owners Association Firewise community in Texas.

The CA (Community Association) is responsible for the management of all non-residence property guided by a set of maintenance classifications levels including karst protection areas with endangered species. Three golf courses are under the control of the CA. Firewise needs will be developed working with the CA, the Golf Committee, and golf course contractor.

In addition, two 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. In September there was a 500 year flood event which demonstrated the need for a new management approach for the creeks. Selective removal of the cedar will reduce the wildfire and flooding hazard.

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.

The Residential Plan will rely heavily on providing information to community residents and to encourage the management of defensible spaces around their homes. This will include presentations and participation at events such as CA Quarterly Update, special town halls, New Homeowners Orientation, clubs, community events, and neighborhood meetings.

2010 Accomplishments

Sun City Texas obtained Firewise Certification in 2010 and became a subcommittee of the Sun City Emergency Management Committee. As a result of Certification the Community Association's Property Insurance premium was reduced by 15%.

The residents of Sun City responding to a survey spent \$1,132,901 and provided 135,546 hours to maintain their homes. The homes responding to the survey represent 1 of every 3 homes. The value of the money spent by residents averaged \$971 per house. In addition, the residents doing their own work reported an average of 117 hours. The Landscaped Maintained Homes provided \$581,160 for maintaining their homes.

The Sun City Community Association Staff provided \$3,614 dedicated to Firewise projects including managing the volunteer vine/cedar cutting program.

The Sun City Community Association provided \$65,322 in costs for Firewise related items including mowing of Level 3 areas and flood debris removal.

The Firewise Group and its subcommittees provided 1,304 volunteer hours to manage the program. The volunteer time represents of 32.6 equivalent 40-hour weeks.

On the night of September 7-8, 2010, a 500 plus year flood occurred along Berry and Cowan Creeks. Thirty-two homes were flooded. In addition to the 14.2 inches that were recorded at the Legacy Hills Golf Course Driving Range, Ashe Juniper (cedar) in the creeks and

the flood plains added to the flooding. To date, Sun City Texas has spent \$25,484 to remove debris from strategic locations plus beginning the systematic removal of Ashe juniper from the creeks. The Sun City Texas Board of Directors approved two full time employees in the 2011 budget for Ashe juniper removal. This operation will benefit Firewise plus reducing the flooding potential, and improve wildlife habitat.

As part of the process to make residents aware of the importance of earning a Firewise Certification and explaining the Firewise Mission several briefings were given to Sun City neighborhoods. Two Town Hall meetings were held and a display was developed for and displayed at four Community Association (CA) meetings, four New Home Owners Orientation meetings, and two Emergency Management Town Hall meetings.

Further five Subcommittees were developed to carry out Firewise functions. During 2010, 54 volunteers were recruited for the subcommittees. These Subcommittees are:

- Re-certification Process
- Education Plan
- Home Ignition Zone Assessment Program
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Volunteer Vine and Cedar Cutting Program (managed by CA Staff)

Sixteen volunteer residents and four CA Staff members were trained for the Firewise Home Ignition Zone Assessment Program. A Firewise Neighborhood Team Program is being developed.

The Firewise Group has begun working with landscape service providers to help them understand Firewise landscaping.

2011 Goals

- Develop re-certification materials for 2011
- Continue development of Firewise Neighborhood Teams
- Distribute information to the neighborhoods
- Explain Firewise Assessment Procedures to the neighborhoods through the Firewise Ignition Zone Assessment volunteers
- Possibly develop a letter for homeowners to pass on to their insurance companies
- Add Golf Committee and golf course contractor to the Firewise Group
- Continue to complete and expand 2010 accomplishments as appropriate

What Will be Happening

The Firewise Subcommittee will be under the Emergency Management Committee to implement the process of maintaining Sun City as a Certified Firewise Community.

The Firewise subcommittee will develop materials to help residents understand and 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 Subcommittee

Emergency Management Committee
Modifications Committee
Property and Grounds Committee
Wildlife Management Committee
Community Association Staff



A Certified Firewise Community

**Protecting People, Property, and Natural Resources from Wildfire
- Before a Fire Starts**

Sun City Texas is now a Certified Firewise Community. We will use 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 services of the Georgetown Fire Department by involving homeowners, community leaders, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire - before a fire starts. The Firewise Community 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, representatives of four Governance Committees has applied for and obtained the certification. The Firewise Group is comprised of representatives of Emergency Management, Modifications, Property and Grounds, and Wildlife Management Committees, CA Staff, and the Georgetown Fire Department. Additional governance committees as well as other Sun City groups and residents will be approached to assist in the development and implementation of 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.

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



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

highly flammable plant material next to the structure such as 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 red section of the Sun City 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 are helping define 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 to remove cedar under hardwood trees, prune old growth cedar up from the bottom. The open areas will be maintained by removing new growth cedar often to reduce cost of removal when they are older. This will be accomplished over time.

As a Firewise Community, we will develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP will be a tool for emergency mitigation planning to meet Firewise requirements.



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



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

Sun City Neighborhood Firewise Teams

The goal of the Sun City Firewise Group (SCFG) is to improve Sun City’s ability to protect people, property, and natural resources from wildfire and yard fires - before a fire starts. To achieve this goal, the SCFG developed Neighborhood Firewise Teams (NFT).

The NFT is an individual neighborhood or two or more adjacent neighborhoods working together. A NFT is made up of any number of residents with 1 or 2 contacts to represent the neighborhood to SCFG and to coordinate Firewise activities within their neighborhood. The neighborhood(s) determines the structure of their NFT. The NFT works with individual residents to determine the Firewise status of their property. The NFT also identifies other needed activities which the representative(s) forward to the SCFG.

The procedure to organize a NFT starts with a neighborhood representative contacting the SCFG through the web site that a NFT is to be formed. SCFG requests a meeting with the representatives of the proposed NFT to provide Firewise information and perform a preliminary evaluation of the proposed neighborhood. After that meeting, SCFG will participate at a neighborhood meeting to present Firewise concepts and a Firewise evaluation of the neighborhood. The NFT will provide SCFG with goals and objectives for the neighborhood plus an annual accomplishment report for inclusion in the SCFG Annual Plan of Work, a part of Sun City’s annual Firewise re-certification requirement.

