



LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Firewise Improvements Grant Application

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

125 E 8th AVE., EUGENE OR 97401

FIREWISE: 682-6522

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Financial grants are available to rural Lane County residents who are interested in making landscaping and structural improvements to their properties, which can increase the survivability of their home in the event of a wildfire. Residents may qualify for up to \$15,500 in financial assistance to carry out the following improvements:

- Replacement of wood shake roofs with noncombustible roof materials
- Installation of fire-resistant windows, doors and siding
- Thinning and pruning of vegetation to create a “defensible space” around homes
- Planting of fire-resistant vegetation within the defensible space
- Installation of an irrigation system & a water catchment/storage tank
- Screening of vents and other opening to prevent the entry of firebrands
- Installation of spark arrestors on chimneys

Funding for this program is provided to Lane County through Title III of the Federal Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Program. To learn more visit www.lanecounty.org/firewise

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Eligible properties will be located in rural Lane County (outside of the Eugene-Springfield Urban Growth Boundary or outside of the incorporated area of any other city within the county).
2. Properties must be susceptible to wildfire (as part of the application review process, staff will conduct a site visit to the property to determine its potential vulnerability to wildfire)
3. All work reimbursable by the county must be completed by a professional licensed contractor or landscaper. It is the responsibility of the landowner to hire and coordinate the work of the contractor or landscaper and to ensure that all work is satisfactorily completed within an agreed upon time period (6 months from the date that a grant agreement has been formalized).
4. In order to qualify for funding for structural improvements, the land owners must also agree to create and maintain a “defensible space”. A defensible space is defined as an area either natural or man-made, where material capable of allowing a fire to spread unchecked has been treated, cleared or modified to slow the rate and intensity of an advancing wildfire and to create an area for fire suppression operations to occur. Staff will discuss this requirement with you during the site visit.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please read the program eligibility requirements section above, before completing this application. Fill out the application form as completely as possible and be sure to identify all improvements that you are interested in pursuing by checking the appropriate box in the table located on page 3. This application must be signed by a person with a legal interest in the property where the improvements will occur. Submit this application to the Lane County Land Management Division – Attention: Firewise Program, 125 E. 8th Ave., Eugene, OR, 97401.

For Office Use Only. FILE # FG _____ - _____ DATE: _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Land Owner (print name): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Applicant/Agent - if different than land owner (print name): _____

Please note; the land owner's signature is required on page 4 of this application. Also, if the land owner wishes to authorize an agent to work with the county on their behalf, a PROPERTY OWNER AUTHORIZATION FORM must accompany this application. This form is available from the Lane County Land Management Division.

Relationship to land owner: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

Site Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Map and Tax Lot Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Directions to site from nearest major intersection:

Acreage: _____

Is the property within a Fire Protection District? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, which? _____

For Office Use Only. Zoning: _____ Overlays: _____

QUALIFYING WORK DESCRIPTION:

Do you believe your property is at risk to wildfire? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, explain why (attach additional pages or photographs if necessary)

Briefly describe the improvements that you are interested in making to your property that will help reduce the threat of wildfire (attach additional pages, if necessary):

AVAILABLE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES:

Please check each improvement that you are interested in. Lane County staff will conduct a site visit to determine if the identified improvements are needed to meet Firewise standards.

✓	Improvement	Firewise standards that must be met to qualify	Available Grant Funding***
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defensible Space Development	Brush clearing and limbing of trees within a 30'-100' buffer around the home, removal of hazardous vegetation, needles, leaves and other potential ladder fuels.	\$500 up to \$2000 when site conditions may require a larger defensible space
<input type="checkbox"/>	Driveway Access	Removal of brush and overhanging vegetation along the driveway to provide adequate and safe access for emergency vehicles (12' wide and 14' high).	\$200**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Resistant Plants and Landscaping Materials	Planting of fire-resistant vegetation within the defensible space of the home and placement of fire resistant materials (such as stone or decorative gravel) adjacent to the dwelling.	\$300 per home**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defensible Space Irrigation System	Installation of an irrigation system within the defensible space of the home.	25% of the cost of the system (including labor) - not to exceed \$500**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water Catchment Tank	Water-Catchment Storage Tank(s) supplying water to a Defensible Space Irrigation System (maximum individual tank size not to exceed 5,000 gallons).	80% of construction cost up to \$2,500**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Roof Covering	Wood Shake Roofs shall be replaced with a Class A roof covering or a Class A roof assembly. Class A roofing includes: asphalt shingles, slate or clay tile, metal, cement and concrete products, or terra-cotta tiles.	80% of construction cost up to \$4000**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noncombustible Exterior Siding	Exterior siding for dwellings shall be made of noncombustible materials.	80% of construction cost up to \$4000**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Resistant Windows, Skylights and Other Exterior Glass Applications	Exterior windows, window walls and glazed doors, windows within exterior doors, and skylights shall be tempered glass, multilayered glazed panels, glass block, or have fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes.	80% of construction cost up to \$1500**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exterior Doors	Exterior doors shall be approved non-combustible construction, solid core wood not less than 1 ¾ inches thick (45 mm), or have a fire protection rating of not less than 20 minutes. Windows within doors and glazed doors shall be in accordance with the exterior glazing category, above.	80% of construction cost up to \$300**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spark Arrestor	Chimneys serving fireplaces, barbecues, incinerators or decorative heating appliances in which solid or liquid fuel is used shall be provided with a spark arrestor constructed of woven or welded wire screening of 12 USA standard gage wire having openings not to exceed ½ inch.	up to \$100**
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vent Protection	Attic ventilation openings, foundation or underfloor vents, or other ventilation openings in vertical exterior walls and vents through roofs shall not exceed 144 square inches (0.0929 m ²) each. Such vents shall be covered with non-combustible corrosion-resistant mesh with openings not to exceed ¼ inch (6.4 mm).	up to \$100**

**To receive funding for these improvements, a defensible space around the home is required. Staff will discuss this requirement during the site visit.

*** Funding is provided to help cover work conducted by a licensed contractor or landscaper and to assist with materials costs. Funding is not provided to reimburse homeowners for their labor costs.

LAND OWNER AUTHORIZATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

I hereby affirm that I am the owner of the property located at:

Site Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

I also affirm and acknowledge that by signing this application form I am authorizing Lane County staff to enter onto my property for the purpose of evaluating the exterior of my home and surrounding landscaping to assess the potential threat of wildfire to my property, to determine potential eligibility for funding pursuant to Lane Manual 4.310, and to inspect and certify that requirements of the Lane County Firewise Incentive Program have been satisfactorily completed. Furthermore, I acknowledge that submittal of this application does not imply the award of any grant funding and that funding eligibility shall be determined upon inspection of my property by Lane County staff.

Land Owner Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

DETAILED PROCESS INFORMATION:

- Once this application has been received Firewise Program staff will contact the property owner to set up a site visit. It is preferred that the property owner or a representative be onsite while Lane County staff completes the assessment.
- When staff is onsite, they will assess the property for all Firewise improvements checked off on the page prior. They will document the status of the site prior to Firewise improvements, including taking pictures and writing notes.
- Within 30 days of the site assessment, the property owner will receive an agreement form listing the required Firewise improvements and the amount of grant money available to carry out the improvements. **In order to reserve the grant funding, the property owner has 21 days to complete and return a signed Firewise Incentives Program Agreement to the Lane County Planning Program.**
- Once the signed agreement form is received and approved by the County, the next step for the property owner is to hire a professional contractor or landscaper, who must be licensed with the State of Oregon. The property owner is responsible for paying for the work to be completed by the contractor and/or landscaper. The property owner is required to obtain a written receipt for proof of payment and submit a copy to Lane County in order for Lane County to reimburse the property owner for work completed on their property.

Please note; all indicated improvements reimbursable by Lane County must be completed by a professional contractor or landscaper. County staff may not refer any specific contractors but the Home Builders Association of Lane County can help property owners who want to hire a reputable licensed contractor. You can go to their website: <http://hbalanecounty.org/> or call them at (541) 484-5352.

- **All reimbursable work must be completed within 6 months.** After all of the Firewise improvements have been completed and paid for, the land owner must notify the county and submit a request for reimbursement. Firewise Program staff will revisit the property and verify that the work has been completed. Once this has been verified, staff will start to process a reimbursement check. **PLEASE BE AWARE;** issuing the check can take up to up to 60 days due to County accounting processes.
- Along with the reimbursement check, Lane County will also provide a recognition certificate to land owners, which will identify the Firewise improvements that have been made to the property.