

## The largest wildfires in Portland have occurred in and around Forest Park.

But fire danger exists any place where homes and structures are located near forests.

All vegetation is flammable, some more than others. As a general rule, plant fire-resistant vegetation and create a 30' "defensible space" around your home where vegetation is cleared or trees are limbed to provide a buffer zone to wild-fire. Avoid dry bark mulch, or intersperse with rock in fire prone areas.

### When Planning New Landscapes

- Select native plant species that are naturally fire-resistant, which doesn't mean fireproof. It means plants have moist leaves, are low in sap, and have little dead wood. Most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire-resistant. Characteristics of highly flammable plants include fine, dry or dead material within the plant (such as juniper); volatile waxes or oils; gummy sap; aromatic leaves, and loose or papery bark.

- Space your trees and shrubs so that their mature crowns are at least 10' apart and away from your home. This prevents fire from jumping.

- A list of native plant species can be found on our web site; look for the [Portland Plant List](#).

Please see the following examples of fire-resistant plants native to upland habitats in our geographic area: (contact us for plants specific to your ecosystem)

### Groundcovers:



Oxalis

Wood sorrel (oxalis), wild strawberry, Pacific bleeding heart, and sedum.

### Perennials:

Western columbine, yarrow, Oregon iris, false Solomon's seal, and Lupine.



Lupine



Snowberry

### Shrubs:

Oregon grape, Pacific rhododendron, ocean-spray, mock orange, red or golden flowering currant, snowberry, and viburnum elipticum.

### Trees:

Bigleaf maple, vine maple, red alder, cascara, Scouler's willow, hazelnut, serviceberry, madrone, or Oregon white oak.



Vine Maple

## Maintaining Your Landscape

In natural ecosystems, regular wildfires control undergrowth. In managed landscapes, minimize vegetation around your forest home for fire safety. To preserve the natural landscape as much as possible, transition to native forest beyond your 30 feet of "defensible space."

Most of the West Hills wildfire hazard areas are within the City of Portland's environmental protection zones, but here are some things you can do without a permit:

- Remove invasive plants, such as Himalayan blackberry, European hawthorn, Scot's broom, clematis and English ivy. These are highly combustible and a nuisance.
- Use native plants that don't need watering near your house. Let your lawn go dormant and cut it as close to the ground as possible.
- Rake bark dust, wood chips, compost and tree litter away from your home, including decks.
- Prune tree branches within 10' of walls and roofs. Limb conifers up to 6' from the ground and within 30' of structures. Prune deadwood from landscape plants and place in compost bin.

## Protect Your Home and Land

- Work with the Conservation District to develop a conservation plan for your forestland. We help with native species selection, invasive (and often flammable) weed control, managing snags and woody debris, advice on tree limbing and thinning, and access to incentive programs and resources.
- Get help managing your invasive weeds. Contact the Conservation District to see if you qualify for a free site visit or for other technical assistance.
- Keep gutters and roof free of debris. Consider treating/replacing your wood roof to make it more fire-resistant.
- Do not use illegal fireworks, which can catch trees and leaves on fire.
- Keep street trees pruned so emergency vehicles can reach your home and land.
- Store firewood, picnic tables, building materials, and other flammables away from buildings.



## Who We Are

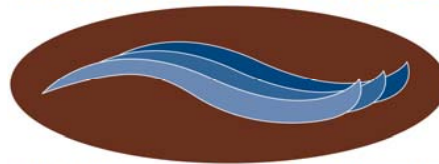
Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) were formed in response to the massive soil erosion crisis of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s which undermined the value and productivity of agricultural lands.

Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private lands.

Oregon responded by creating districts which work hand-in-hand with private landowners, as well as state, tribal and federal agencies and local organizations to meet the needs of the landowner and to achieve local, statewide and regional conservation objectives.

SWCDs are governed by a locally elected board of directors and accountable to citizens.

### WEST MULTNOMAH

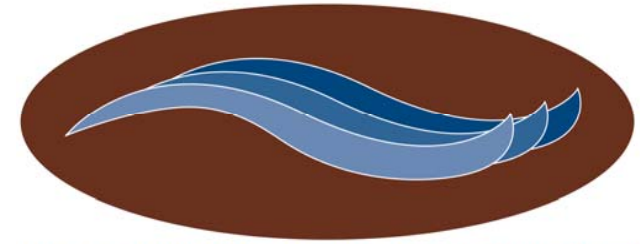


SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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## WEST MULTNOMAH



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Summer wildfire season  
threatens your home  
and property!*



What you can do:

- Prevent wildfire spread
  - Protect your home
  - Be prepared

**Tel: 503-238-4775**