

Discover, Learn & Live FireSmart™

Explore the FireSmart
Interpretive Trail and
learn how to prepare
our communities for
future wildfires

Located in the Birchwood Trails near Cornwall Drive, Fort McMurray. Funding for this project was provided by the Canadian Red Cross and the Government of Alberta (Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development).



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

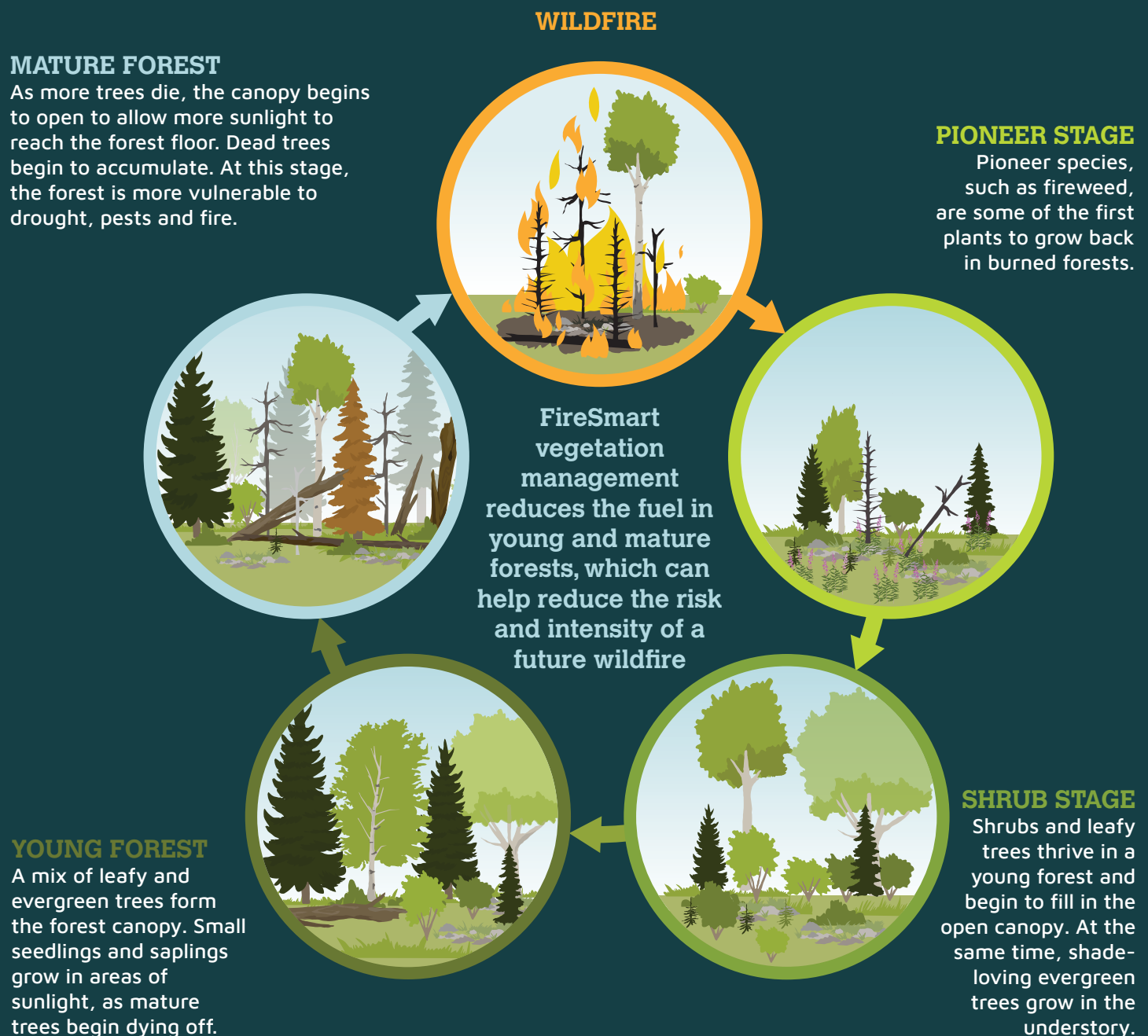


FireSmart™ and associated marks are registered trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

Wildfire is a natural part of the boreal forest

Living in the boreal forest means living with wildfire and learning how to reduce the threat to our homes and communities. FireSmart is empowering communities and homeowners to understand wildfire and share in the responsibility of informed development and maintenance.

At the RMWB FireSmart Interpretive Trail you can see examples of FireSmart vegetation management treatments that reduce fuel for a wildfire.



Welcome to the FireSmart™ Interpretive Trail!

This interactive demonstration area and interpretive trail will show you concrete examples of FireSmart strategies. These are used by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and citizens like you to help reduce the intensity and potential risk of future wildfires.



- Watercourse
- FireSmart Trail
- Birchwood Trail
- Firebreak
- Vegetation management treatment
- Untreated forest
- FireSmart gazebo
- Demonstration
- Interpretive sign
- Nature play
- Picnic area

What will you learn here?



FireSmart
Vegetation
Management



Understanding life in
the boreal forest and
the benefits of wildfire



Taking action
to FireSmart
your home

With gratitude, we acknowledge that this land is Treaty 8 territory, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene, and the unceded territory of the Métis.



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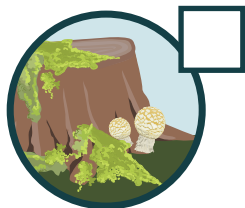
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There is so much to see and learn at the

FireSmart Interpretive Trail!

See how many of these you can spot.

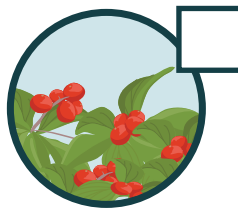
Life in the boreal forest



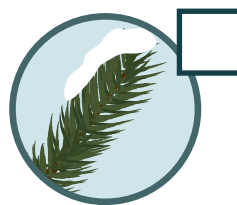
Moss growing
on a dead log



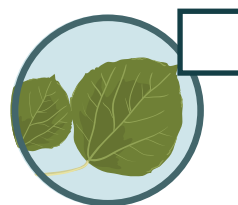
Spruce cones



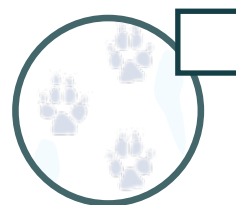
Berries growing
in sunny spots



Evergreen trees
(coniferous)

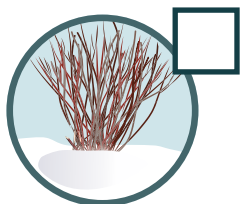


Leafy trees
(deciduous)



Animal tracks

Fire resistant plants



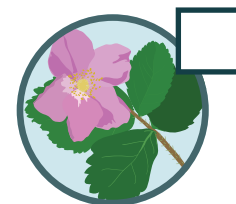
Red Osier Dogwood



Trembling Aspen

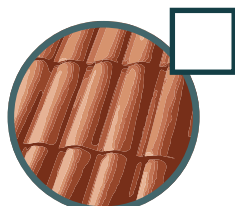


Balsam Poplar

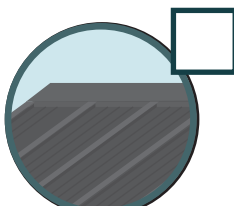


Rosewoods

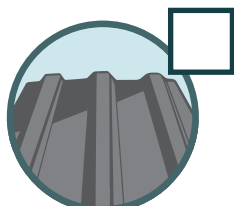
Fire resistant building materials



Clay tile roofing



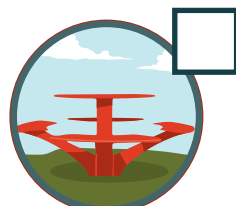
Tin roofing



Metal siding

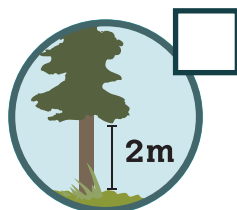


Metal railing

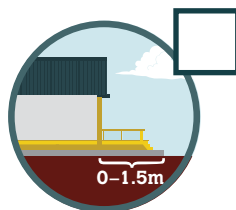


Fire-resistant
tables

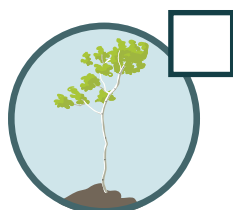
FireSmart techniques



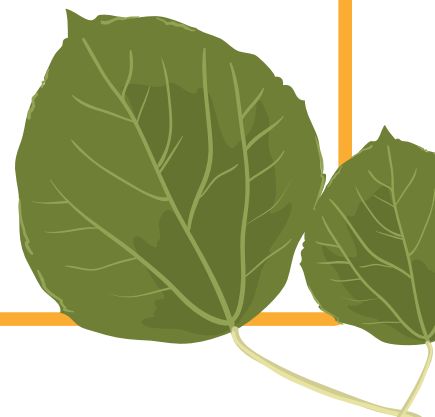
Evergreen trees with their
lower branches removed
(fuel reduction)



Non-flammable buffer
around the gazebo (1.5 m
non-combustible zone)



More leafy trees than ever-
green trees (fuel conversion
to fire-resistant trees)



Protecting your home from wildfire starts with you!

Homes and neighborhoods in forested areas are exposed to the risk of ignition by wildfire. Learn from the demonstration area how to reduce the fuel on and around your home. **FireSmart strategies can be the difference between which homes ignite and which homes survive.**



MATERIALS

Replace wood mulch with rock and wooden structures (gazebos, decks, railings and play structures) with galvanized steel, brick, tempered glass and other non-combustible materials. Vinyl siding, cedar or curled asphalt shingles, and exposed deck joists are also flammable. Consider replacing them with materials like tin, stucco and other non-combustible materials.



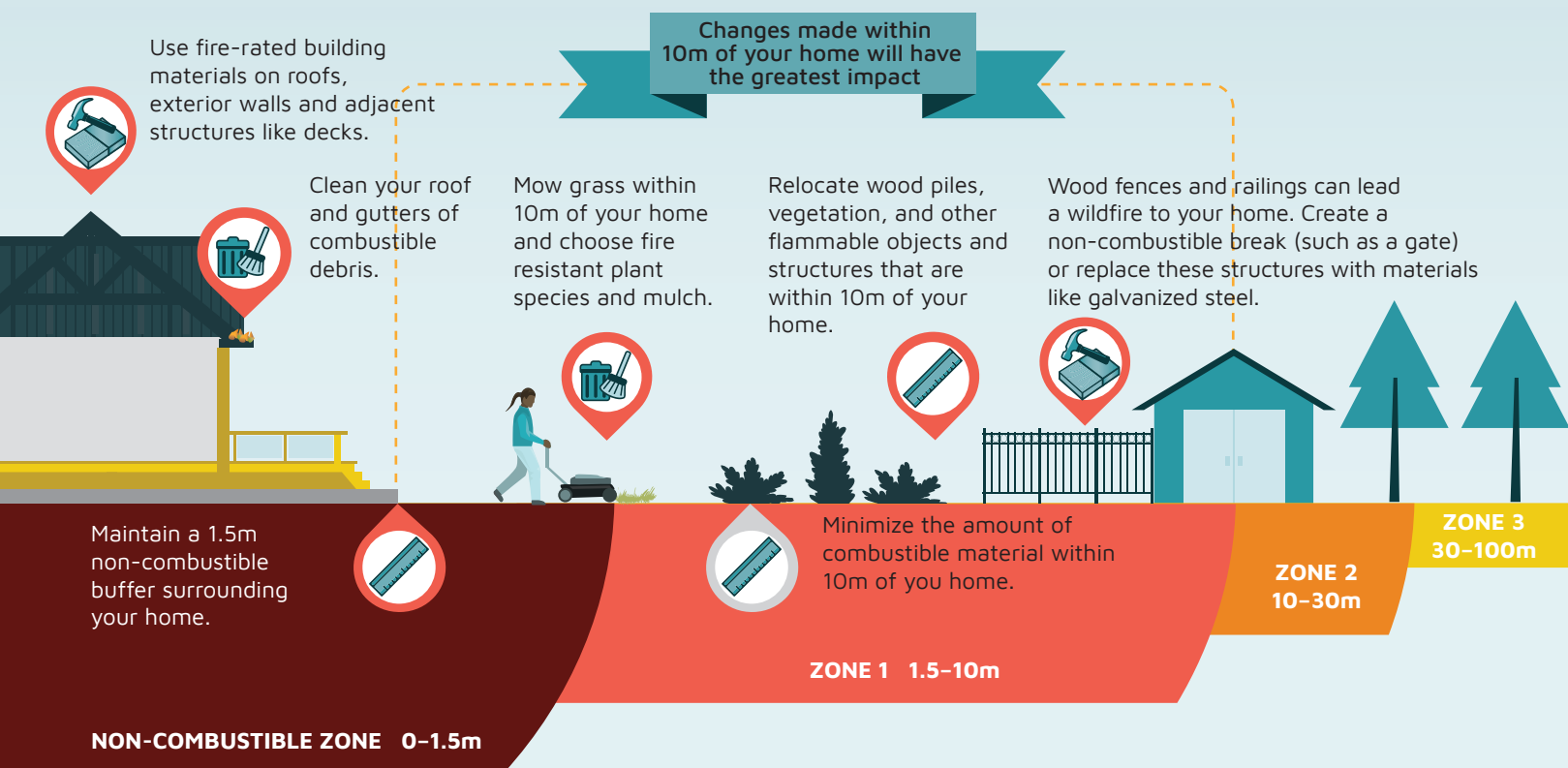
DISTANCE

Move firewood, propane tanks and other fuels and flammable structures like trailers and storage sheds outside priority Zone 1.



MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance like cleaning gutters, tidying up dead plant matter and removing combustible materials will prevent build-up of flammable hazards around your home.



Home Ignition Zone 0–100m
If homes don't ignite, homes don't burn

FireSmart disciplines

A framework for wildfire prevention and preparedness

Wildfire is a naturally recurring event in the boreal forest and reducing risk of damage by wildfire is a shared responsibility. The FireSmart program helps protect residents, their homes, neighbourhoods, critical infrastructure and vital natural resources from wildfire. The program is implemented through seven disciplines and involves all levels of government, industry and homeowners like you.



Education

Visit the FireSmart Canada website or attend an in-person workshop to get informed. Act on what you learn and share it with others. Contact the FireSmart team at firesmart@rmwb.ca if you have questions about the program.



Legislation

Consideration of wildfire when reviewing legislation, plans and development standards can help build and maintain FireSmart communities. Members of the public can do their part by complying with all legislation.



Emergency planning

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is acting now to manage and mitigate the effects of a wildfire, and to coordinate and prepare for an efficient response when a wildfire does threaten our community.



Interagency cooperation

Cooperation is critical *before* and during an emergency. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has strong partnerships with industry, provincial government authorities, Indigenous communities and even school boards.



Vegetation management

Reducing, removing and converting flammable vegetation is a key step in preparing for wildfires. Vegetation management starts with strong planning and communication, and spans all the way to homeowners. Actions like pruning evergreen trees and mowing grass can help reduce wildfire risk.



Cross training

Urban and wildland firefighters each have different skills and tasks. Cross training allows them to communicate and coordinate safely and efficiently in an emergency.



Development

Assess your own home using the FireSmart Home Development Guide and reduce potential fuels and hazards that can serve as ignition points for embers and flames.



Follow us on social media for FireSmart tips:



Find more FireSmart resources at rmwb.ca/firesmart