

## SILVER HILLS - BOERNE, TEXAS

### COMMUNITY WILDFIRE ACTION PLAN 2026-2029



# FIREWISE USA®

## RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Silver Hills is a subdivision located in the Texas Hill Country between Boerne and Bulverde. There are 175 properties in Silver Hills. The neighborhood has a gently rolling to moderately hilly terrain with many live oak and cedar trees. All homes in the subdivision are on individual ground water wells. Due to long periods of drought and the increase in wildfires in Texas, the Silver Hills POA Board has determined that proactive measures are necessary to reduce wildfire risk in our community. Our subdivision is located a distance from the nearest staffed fire department and there are no fire hydrants within Silver Hills. These factors increase response times and limit available firefighting resources. In addition, the Silver Hills subdivision has a single entrance/exit. The POA Board has voted to implement the Firewise program to educate homeowners on practical and effective steps to improve defensible space around their homes, reduce hazardous vegetation, and help make our community and residents more fire safe.

| Timeline       | Program                                     | Description/Mitigation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Year 1<br>2026 | Education & Outreach                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Establish Silver Hills Firewise Committee with HOA representatives and community and volunteers per NFPA requirements.</li><li>2. Launch dedicated Silver Hills Firewise Facebook page and community email list.</li><li>3. Implement volunteer hours tracking system to meet NFPA annual requirement (minimum 175 hours).</li><li>4. Distribute wildfire preparedness packets covering defensible space, home hardening, and evacuation planning.</li><li>5. Present Firewise program overview at the October 2026 POA Annual Meeting and Luncheon.</li></ol>                                                                                                                                                             |
|                | Home Hardening                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Adapt a Firewise USA / IBHS home hardening checklist to Silver Hills conditions.</li><li>2. Distribute checklist via email, attached to SHPOA Website/Firewise and handout at the annual meeting.</li><li>3. Establish a simple, frictionless method for residents to log wildfire risk reduction hours.</li><li>4. Coordinate with the Education &amp; Outreach Lead to include a dedicated home hardening segment at the annual meeting.</li><li>5. Research feasibility and approximate cost of supplemental water storage options that could serve as wildfire suppression resources in Silver Hills.</li><li>6. Compile documented volunteer hours from all sources for the annual Firewise renewal report.</li></ol> |
|                | Fuel Reduction                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remove 21 Dead Live Oaks at NW Corner of Park on Nixon.</li><li>2. Remove all dead limbs/material compiled in NW creek bed.</li><li>3. Prune up roughly 7 Mountain Cedars 6-10', or 1/3 of the total height in that same Nixon Park dry creek bed.</li><li>4. Inspect/verify crown spacing from building and property line.</li></ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                | Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Present Go-Bag information at our October 2026 Annual Meeting and Luncheon and post the info on the neighborhood website and on the Silver Hills Facebook page.</li><li>2. Encourage residents to prepare a Go-Bag for each of their family members and pets/livestock.</li><li>3. Provide residents in both counties information to sign up for their county's emergency alerts and purchase reflective 911 address signs to assist emergency responders.</li><li>4. Explore and identify possible alternate evacuation routes in our neighborhood.</li><li>5. Identify a community wide emergency communication plan for the neighborhood.</li></ol>                                                                     |

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| YEAR 2<br>2027 | Education & Outreach                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Submit first annual Firewise USA renewal documentation through <a href="https://portal.firewise.org">portal.firewise.org</a>.</li><li>2. Celebrate official Firewise USA Community recognition with a community-wide proclamation event.</li><li>3. Post quarterly Newsletter with information about what help reduce the impact of a fire in our neighborhood.</li><li>4. Recognize homeowners completing hardening improvements via Facebook and the Boerne Star.</li><li>5. Provide annual Firewise update at the October 2027 POA Annual Meeting and Luncheon.</li></ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                | Home Hardening                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Review the Year 1 checklist based on resident feedback and any updated guidance from Firewise USA or the Texas A&amp;M Forest Service. Update and redistribute material.</li><li>2. Coordinate with the Education &amp; Outreach Lead to organize a Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) assessment day for residents.</li><li>3. Identify 2-3 households willing to share a brief before/after of an improvement they made (new vent screens, cleared Zone 0 debris, replaced wood deck boards). Feature in the POA newsletter with their permission.</li><li>4. Present the Year 1 water storage research findings to the POA board with a clear recommendation.</li><li>5. Compile and submit Year 2 volunteer hours for the Firewise annual renewal. Include a comparison to Year 1: total hours logged, number of households reporting, and any material investments documented.</li></ol> |
|                | Fuel Reduction                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remove roughly Nine dead Live Oaks at NE Property Line at Nixon Park.</li><li>2. Remove any Mountain Cedars along that same fence line to provide a firebreak. Prune some of the desirable Cedars after final evaluations of that section.</li><li>3. Create firebreaks from neighbors/residents around full perimeter of the Nixon Park.</li><li>4. Perform final assessment of desirable park trees. Verify interior trees are pruned up and likewise have adequate crown spacing according to NFPA 1144 suggestions.</li></ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                | Evacuation Planning & Wildfire Preparedness | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Work with the Chief of the Bulverde-Spring Branch Fire Department to design an evacuation plan for the neighborhood. Publish plan.</li><li>2. Facilitate a committee-led table top exercise to walk through a mock wildfire evacuation with a focus on communication, timing, and problems related to the neighborhood's single access point. Document findings and recommended improvements.</li><li>3. Encourage residents to participate in a voluntary "Ready to Go" drill by April 2027. Households will assess and practice their evacuation readiness without physically leaving the neighborhood.</li><li>4. Implement a community-wide emergency communication plan for the community. (Participation requires residents to sign up to receive alerts).</li></ol>                                                                                                          |

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| Year 3<br>2028 | <b>Education &amp; Outreach</b>                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Submit second annual Firewise USA renewal documentation maintaining community recognition status.</li><li>2. Conduct comprehensive assessment of Action Plan progress and engagement metrics.</li><li>3. Develop annual Silver Hills Firewise Newsletter.</li><li>4. Develop the 2029-2031 Community Wildfire Action Plan with updated community input.</li><li>5. Present three-year Firewise progress report at the October 2028 POA Annual Meeting and Luncheon.</li></ol>                                                                                                                       |
|                | <b>Home Hardening</b>                                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Host a more in-depth Home Ignition Zone workshop.</li><li>2. Close out the 3-year water storage thread with a definitive board report.</li><li>3. Work with the Education &amp; Outreach Lead to ensure home hardening resources have a permanent, easy-to-find home for residents going forward.</li><li>4. Compile the full 3-year Home Hardening record for the Firewise USA renewal and POA archives.</li><li>5. Compile the full 3-year Home Hardening record for the Firewise USA renewal and POA archives.</li></ol>                                                                         |
|                | <b>Fuel Reduction</b>                                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Assess park on Park Drive for fuel reductions and assessments with the volunteer tree team. Flag immediate tree concerns and note any dry ground debris.</li><li>2. Create a roughly 15' driveable firebreak along the Southwest fence line. Currently this poses the largest threat of fire reaching into the park and back out to the neighborhood.</li><li>3. Address the SE fence line of the large ranch on the SE border. This would include a roughly 15' firebreak, removal of ladder fuels, verifying crown spacing and pruning is desirable according to NFPA 1144 suggestions.</li></ol> |
|                | <b>Evacuation Planning &amp; Wildfire Preparedness</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Test and evaluate our neighborhood emergency communication plan for reliability and participation by holding a neighborhood alert exercise in Spring 2028.</li><li>2. Review the evaluation plan based on our drills and feedback from residents. Update and improve the plan based on findings.</li><li>3. Confer with the Bulverde-Spring Branch Fire Chief for feedback on our findings.</li><li>4. Distribute the evacuation plan to residents and post on the neighborhood website and neighborhood Facebook page.</li></ol>                                                                   |