



Firewise + Water Smart

You don't have to choose.

MYTH

You can't have a landscape that reduces wildfire risk and conserves water.

Creating a Firewise landscape means removing all vegetation.

Gravel and rock landscapes are completely fire-safe.

Extra watering makes any plant fire-safe.

FACT

You can incorporate both in your landscape! Many plant options are naturally fire-resistant and thrive with minimal supplemental water. Learn simple ways from the City of Bend to water your yard without using more water than you need.



The area 5 to 30 feet from the home can include thoughtfully chosen fire-resistant plants. Landscape features like driveways, patios and rocks can also create defensible space and fuel breaks. The key is not removal but smart design.



Gravel and rock can help reduce fire risk, especially in the first 5 feet around the home. But, they absorb and radiate heat, which can stress nearby plants and increase water loss. Using mulch like compost or bark chips beyond 5 feet from the home is good for soil and plants.



Extra watering does not make plants fire-safe. What matters most is proper irrigation and regular upkeep. Water efficiently during fire season and maintain plants by removing dead material, pruning and thinning dense growth to reduce fuels.



MYTH

Conserving water won't make a difference in fighting fires.

Bend's water system can stop a wildfire.

During a fire, I can connect to a nearby hydrant to protect my home.

A sprinkler system on the roof of my house will protect me from wildfire.

FACT

Conserving water does make a difference. When you manage your water use, you're not just lowering your bill, you're helping your community maintain enough water to support the flow and pressure firefighters need, and for essential needs during an emergency.



It can't. Wildfires move fast and burn hot — far beyond what a municipal water system was designed to handle. Bend's system is built for residential and commercial fires, not large wildfires. The best defense is defensible space around your home. Conserving water helps maintain the pressure firefighters rely on in emergencies.



Fire hydrants are for use by emergency personnel only. Unauthorized use can interfere with firefighters' ability to effectively and safely respond to a fire.



Rooftop sprinklers will not protect your home during a wildfire. When firefighters are on scene, water pressure goes to hydrants first, leaving rooftop systems without the pressure they need and potentially interfering with firefighting efforts. This can put lives and structures at risk.



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc.

Free language assistance services are also available. Please email

accessibility@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-7-1. Relay Users Dial 7-7-1.

All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance.

Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También

disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico

accessibility@bendoregon.gov o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de

retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al

evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.