

Objectives of a Wildfire DPA?

- 1) Ensure that development is managed in a way that minimizes risk to people and property from wildfire hazards
- 2) Proactively manage conditions affecting the potential fire behavior to enhance fire suppression and containment
- 3) Conserve the ecological and visual assets of our surrounding forests
- 4) Reduce the risk of post wildfire landslides, debris flows and erosion

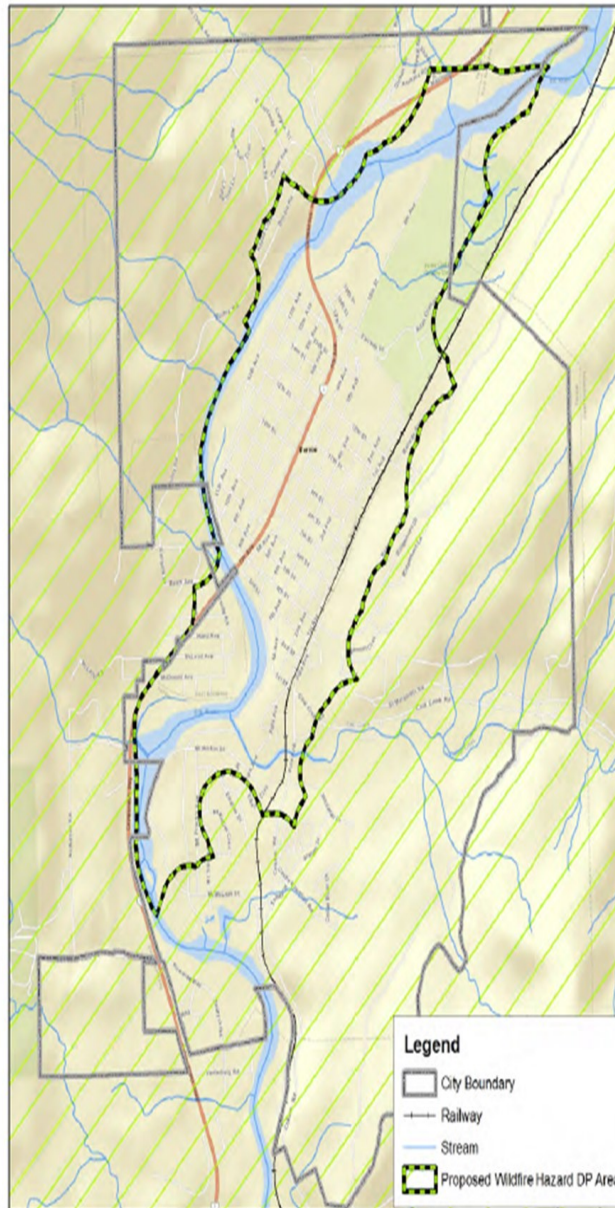
What Type of Rules Would Apply?

If your home resides inside the Wildfire DPA, special requirements would apply that would be triggered through a subdivision, development, substantial renovation or landscaping. The types of regulations may differ for different types of proposals.

More information available:

For more information on the Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area, visit our website at www.fernie.ca/firesmart

If you'd like to be on the email list or have further questions, contact fernieplanning@fernie.ca



Proposed development permit area for wildfire risk mitigation within the City of Fernie and surrounding municipal boundary. Note: areas outside of the current municipal boundary were included.



Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area



What is the Official Community Plan (OCP)?

The OCP sets out the vision, goals and overarching policies guiding the City of Fernie. Council, staff and citizens use the OCP to help make decisions on how we use the land, what our priorities are, and what services we provide.

What is a Development Permit Area (DPA)?

DPA's are areas identified in our OCP in which specific guidelines apply. There are 3 types of DPA in Fernie:

- 1) Protection of the Natural Environment (Watercourse Protection)
- 2) Protection from Hazardous Conditions (Avalanche, Steep Slope, Floodplain)
- 3) Form and Character of Development



Development Permit Process

1. If your property is within a DPA, you must apply for and receive a development permit prior to commencing work. In many cases you will need to engage a Qualified Professional (QP) to provide a professional assessment of the issues.
2. The supporting information and analysis by your QP's will help identify the most appropriate mitigation measures to allow for the development of your property.
3. Once the application is complete, the City will review your application and supporting documents in accordance with the DPA guidelines. Typically permits are issued with conditions including the requirement to carry out mitigative measures identified by your QP. These conditions are often backed by a covenant that is placed on your title by the City.



Why have a Wildfire DPA?

The City of Fernie is surrounded by large forested areas many of which are of moderate or high risk to wildfire. Wildland/Urban interface fires are a real hazard for our community.

The City has had a community wildfire protection plan since 2005 to help guide our efforts to mitigate this risk. This plan calls for the creation of a wildfire development permit area as part of a coordinated effort to reduce the risk of Wildland/Urban Interface Fires.

The DPA would incorporate FireSmart principles into the development and construction process and over time contribute to Fernie's resilience to wildfire.

How is the Wildfire DPA Identified?

The DPA is an area identified through the work conducted for the wildfire protection plan that is proximate to areas of moderate, high, or extreme risk.