



PARKLAND COUNTY
FIRE SERVICES

**PARKLAND COUNTY WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGY AND
FIRESMART SCORECARD**

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

BACKGROUND

- In November 2024, Parkland County was awarded grant funding by the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) to complete a Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment and Wildfire Mitigation Strategy.
- This was completed by Forsite Fire in 2025.



PARKLAND COUNTY'S UNIQUE CHALLENGE

- Outside Forest Protection Area (FPA) → limited provincial support.
- Large geographic area (2,375 km²), diverse land use.
- High-exposure communities identified.

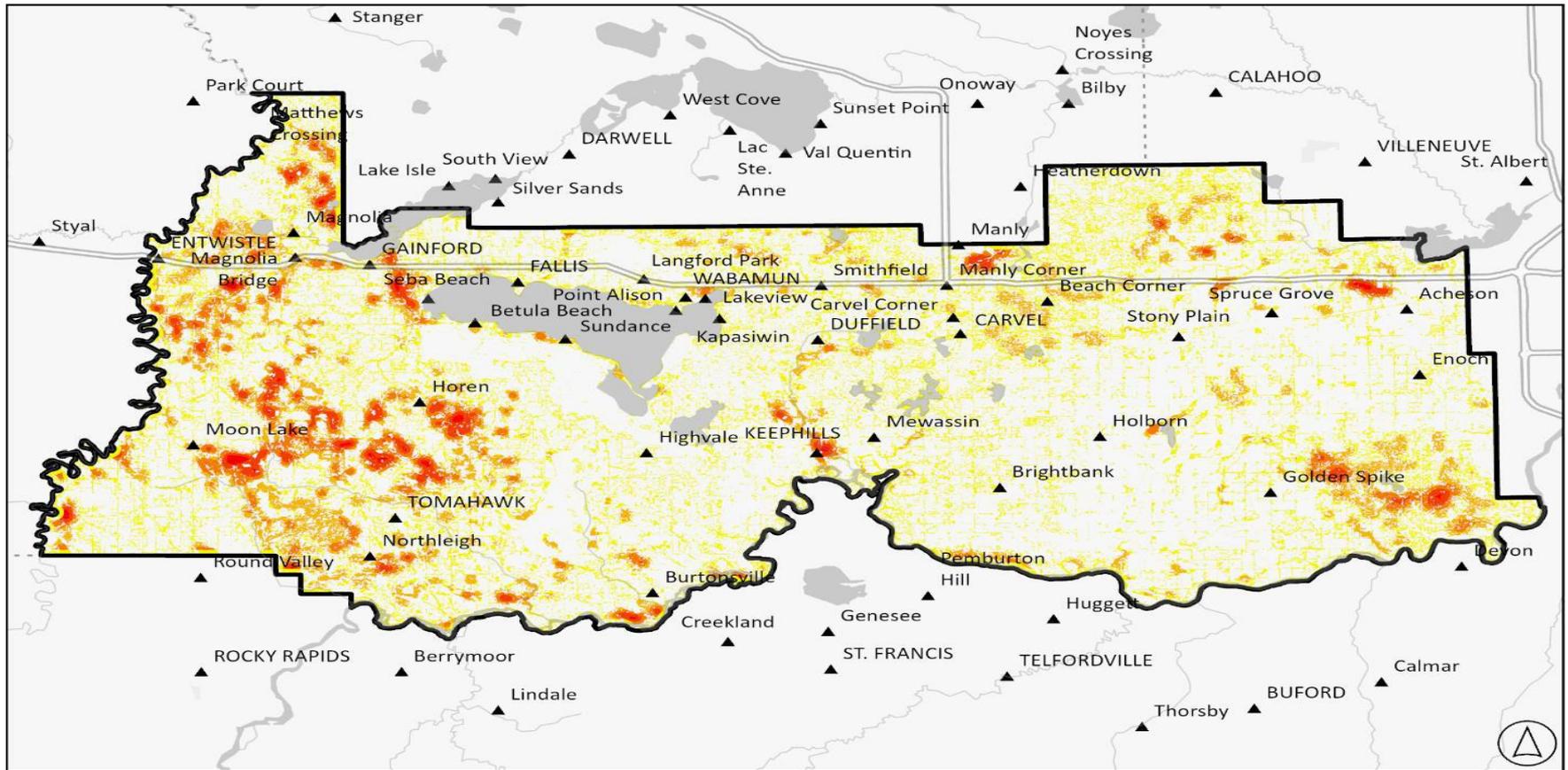


PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY

- Comprehensive Risk Assessment
 - The strategy utilizes wildfire hazard assessments to identify vulnerable communities and infrastructure, enabling targeted mitigation.
- Integrated FireSmart Disciplines
 - Seven interconnected FireSmart disciplines guide actions, including cooperation, education, vegetation management, and emergency planning.
- Collaborative Community Approach
 - The strategy promotes collaboration among municipal, indigenous, provincial, industry, and resident groups for resilience.
- Sustainable Planning and Updates
 - It embeds wildfire resilience in development plans and requires regular updates to keep pace with evolving wildfire science.



AREAS OF FOCUS



Parkland County Fire Exposure

Parkland County AOI

Hazard Fuel Units - Fire Exposure (FE)

FE_Class

Very Low

Low

Moderate

High

Very High

Date Exported: Nov 07, 2025

PCS: NAD WGS 84 Web

Scale: 1:530000

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**PARKLAND COUNTY
FIRE SERVICES**

FIRE UNDERWRITERS SURVEY

WILDFIRE GRADING INDEX

WILDFIRE GRADING INDEX

WILDFIRE RISK CLASS	LOW	
HAZARD ZONE	MEDIUM Level 3	
WUI ZONE	1 Zone 1	
WILDFIRES IN AREA FREQUENCY	MEDIUM	
WILDFIRES IN AREA SEVERITY	LOW	
FIRE REGIME	Southern Prairie zone	
SLOPE	1.4	
SLOPE FACTOR	LOW	
FIRE DENSITY	0.094052	



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Interagency Cooperation**

- Form a FireSmart Committee with clear roles and quarterly meetings.
- Develop a 5-year implementation plan and annual progress reports.

- **Education**

- Target outreach in focus communities.
- Promote FireSmart homeowner programs and support grants.

- **Vegetation Management**

- Implement fuel reduction treatments in priority areas.

- **Development**

- Integrate FireSmart best practices into existing land use planning and development processes, including statutory plans.

- **Legislation**

- Integrate FireSmart measures into bylaws and design standards.



WHAT IS THE FIRESMART SCORECARD



Applying the FireSmart™ System to Strengthen Community Wildfire Resilience



Enhance Collaboration and Coordination



Interagency Cooperation

Educate and Empower the Whole of Society



Education

Reduce Wildfire Risk



Vegetation Management



Legislation



Development

Improve Wildfire Response



Emergency Planning



Cross Training



FireSmart, Intelli-Bus and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFCC).



PARKLAND COUNTY
FIRE SERVICES

OVERALL SCORE

- **2024 Scorecard**

- Parkland County Score: 1.3 (C-)

- Cross-training is strong as well as education, but weak on risk reduction. Without a 5-year plan and prioritized fuel treatments, overall community risk remains elevated.

- **2025 Scorecard**

- Parkland County Score: 2.5 (B)

- Preparedness is strong on response & awareness with the completion of a WHRS and WMS, but weak on risk reduction. Without a 5-year plan and prioritized fuel treatments, overall community risk remains elevated.



SCORECARD RESULTS

2024 Scorecard

CATEGORIES	NUMBER SCORE	LETTER SCORE
OVERALL COMMUNITY SCORE	1.3	C-
Hazard and Risk Assessment	0.0	E
Wildfire Preparedness Guide	0.0	E
Wildfire Mitigation Strategy	0.0	E
Interagency Cooperation	1.0	D+
Education	3.8	A
Vegetation Management	0.0	E
Legislation	2.0	C+
Development	0.0	E
Emergency Planning	2.7	B
Cross-Training	4.0	A+

2025 Scorecard

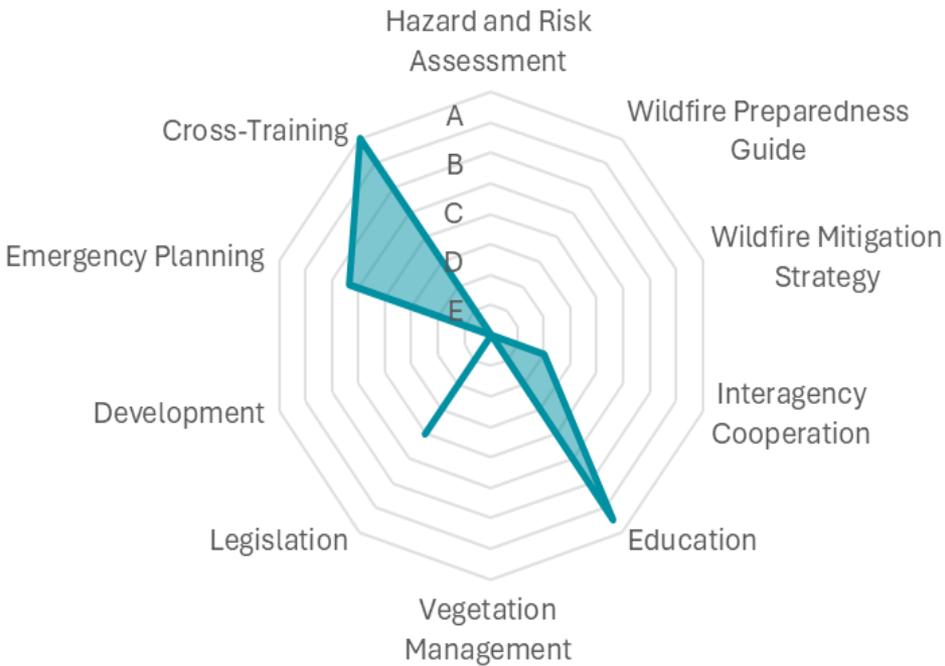
CATEGORIES	NUMBER SCORE	LETTER SCORE
OVERALL COMMUNITY SCORE	2.5	B
Hazard and Risk Assessment	4	A+
Wildfire Preparedness Guide	3	B+
Wildfire Mitigation Strategy	4	A+
Interagency Cooperation	2	C+
Education	4	A+
Vegetation Management	0.0	E
Legislation	1	D+
Development	0.0	E
Emergency Planning	2.7	B
Cross-Training	4.0	A+



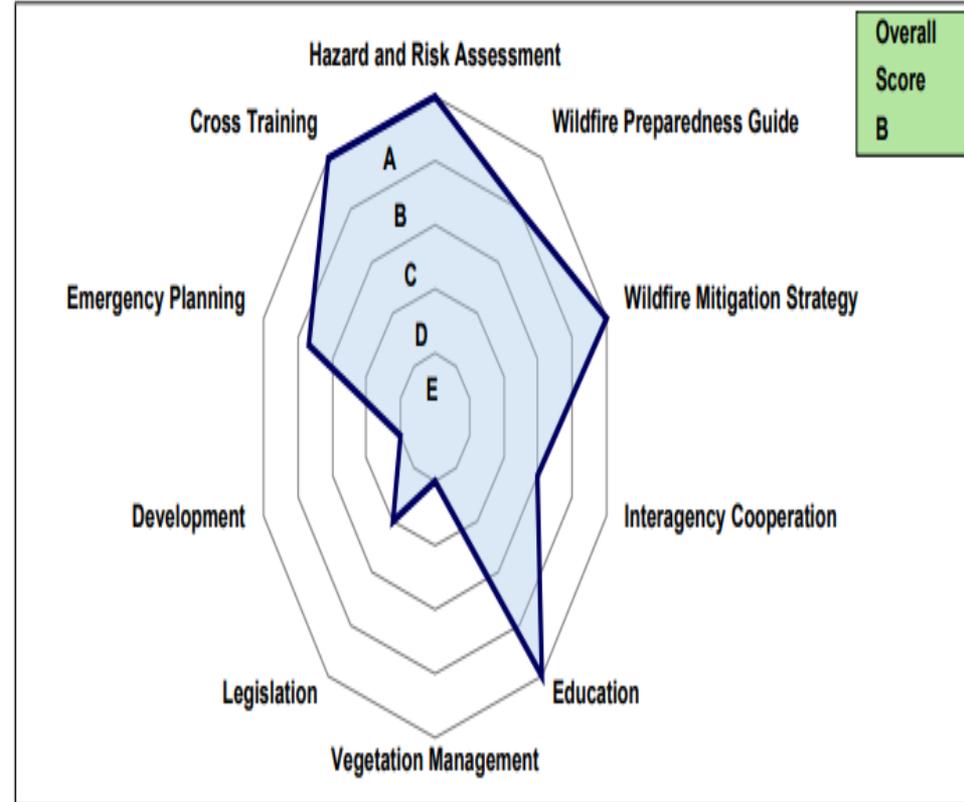
SCORECARD RESULTS

2024 Scorecard

Parkland County - C-



2025 Scorecard



Overall Score B



EMERGENCY PLANNING & EVACUATION READINESS

- GIS Mapping and Zone based evacuation plan.
- Alignment with Alberta Emergency Alert (AEA) process
- Alignment with the Wildfire Mitigation Plan.
- Coincide with evacuation routes, major roadways, reception centers, and electoral divisions.
- Public awareness rollout.



GRANTS TO DATE

- FRIAA (FireSmart Coordinator Position) : \$200,000.00
- Wawanesa Grant (FireSmart Cleanup Event Tools) : \$10,220.00
- FRIAA (Wildfire Mitigation Strategy & Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment) : \$150,000.00

- TOTAL: \$360,220.00

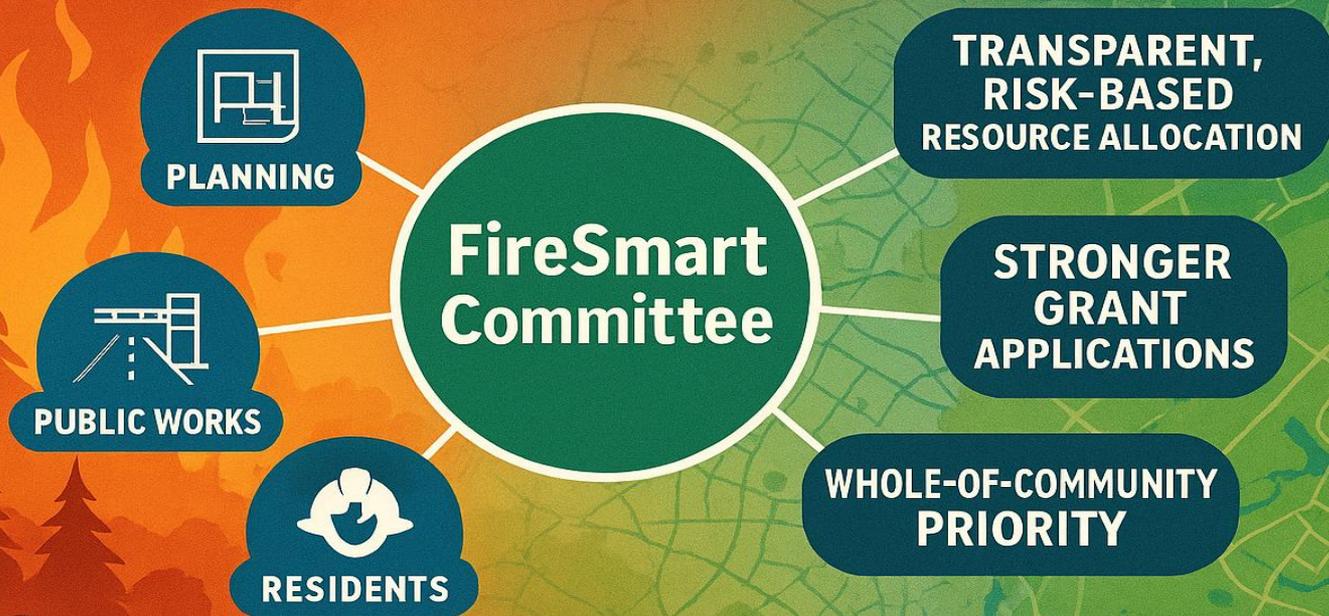
RECOMMENDED HOMEOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- FRIAA funding is limited to mitigation on public lands.
- No dedicated funding is available to support residents with work on private property.
- Municipalities have demonstrated success with homeowner incentive programs; however, funding opportunities are limited.
- A Wawanesa Grant application has already been submitted to help address this gap, but it is not guaranteed.



WHY A FIRESMART COMMITTEE?

FIRESMART COMMITTEE: A WHOLE-COMMUNITY APPROACH TO WILDFIRE RISK



**BREAKING SILOS. BUILDING RESILIENCE.
PROTECTING COMMUNITIES.**



IN CLOSING

- Receive the report of the Wildfire Mitigation Strategy and the Wildfire Hazard and Risk Assessment for information.
- Vision: a FireSmart committee creation or incorporation.
- Support ongoing homeowner-based mitigation efforts.



QUESTIONS?

