



What We Heard Summary

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Wildfire Risk Strategy

Phase 2 Engagement

The City of Edmonton's **Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Wildfire Risk Strategy** is a centralized approach to improve Edmonton's long-term wildfire resilience by aligning with the [FireSmart framework](#) to strengthen public education, interagency cooperation, cross-training, emergency planning, vegetation management, development, and legislation. The primary goal is to proactively minimize wildfire risk, safeguarding people, property, and the environment.

Engagement Approach

Engagement for the WUI Wildfire Risk Strategy happened in two phases:

- + **Phase 1** focused on understanding public perception of wildfire risk, awareness of wildfire preparedness, and preferences for mitigation activities through surveys, workshops, presentations, community pop-up events, and Indigenous engagement. The input from this phase informed the strategy's development and future implementation. This phase engaged at the ADVISE level of the City's Public Engagement Spectrum. A summary of what we heard in Phase 1 can be found at edmonton.ca/WildfireStrategy.
- + **Phase 2** involved targeted engagement on the draft strategy, gathering feedback from key partners through workshops, presentations, and the Engaged Edmonton website to directly refine the final strategy version. This phase engaged at the REFINE level of the City's Public Engagement Spectrum. *Note: This summary focuses on Phase 2 findings only.*

A **full What We Heard and Did report** will be published along with the agenda for the Community and Public Services Committee, including details on how your feedback shaped the project. It will also be available online at edmonton.ca/WildfireStrategy.

A summary of findings from Indigenous engagement will be shared in a dedicated report in late 2026 in coordination with the Climate Action Plan Update (2027-2030) and the Climate Resilience Planning and Development Action Plan.

Learn more about this project at edmonton.ca/WildfireStrategy

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REFINE

What We Heard in Phase 2

Phase 2 engagement activities highlighted the following key themes:

- + **Risk Quantification and Communication:** The City should proactively quantify and communicate wildfire risk to the public and partners by collecting the necessary data (e.g. fuel levels) and communicating the financial benefits of mitigation.
- + **Strategy Implementation:** When putting the strategy into action, the City should be practical, stick to achievable timelines, use City resources efficiently by building on existing work (like the City Trail Strategy) where possible. The City should consider utilizing pilot programs for innovative tactics such as controlled burns to manage fire risk and public understanding.
- + **Policy, Regulation, and Environmental Impact:** Using regulatory mechanisms (e.g., using the Zoning Bylaw or the North Saskatchewan River Valley Area Redevelopment Plan) to improve wildfire resilience should be further explored. All vegetation treatment methods should explicitly commit to minimizing negative ecological impacts, such as habitat fragmentation in sensitive areas like the North Saskatchewan River Valley.
- + **Continuous Engagement:** Securing the strategy's success will require continuous, collaborative, and dynamic engagement, specifically by formally listing and securing participation from key external partners (e.g. developers, builders, and utility providers) and maintaining ongoing public awareness initiatives.

Next Steps

The input collected during both phases of engagement will be used to create and refine the WUI Wildfire Risk Strategy, including the recommended actions that will form the subsequent implementation work. The project is scheduled to be presented to the Community and Public Services Committee in April 2026.

For inquiries, please contact us at WildfireStrategy@edmonton.ca.

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