

2026 Louisville Wildfire & Conflagration Risk Assessment Overview



Why conduct a risk assessment (WCRA)?

The 2021 Marshall Fire demonstrated that wildfire impacts in Louisville can rapidly escalate into urban conflagrations. The purpose of the 2026 Louisville WCRA is to **strengthen wildfire preparedness** by identifying vulnerable areas, analyzing ignition and spread potential under extreme weather conditions, and develop customized mitigation strategies that reflect Louisville's unique built environment and climate risks. The report identified key findings and provided 26 actionable recommendations for the City of Louisville. This fact sheet only includes a sample of findings and recommendations.

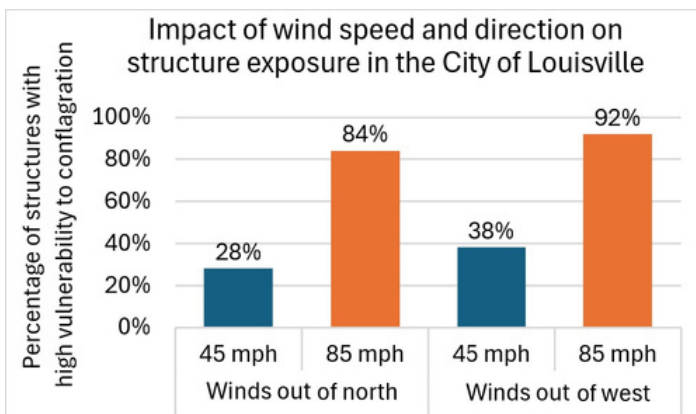
Did you know?

Removing all vegetation and burnable material within 5 feet of your home is an important step to protect your home and your neighborhood from wildfire.

Key Findings

1 Wind is key in wildfire behavior.

Wind speed and direction have a tremendous impact on potential fire spread and structure vulnerability in the City of Louisville. See chart.



2 Risk of structure loss is widespread.

Structure vulnerability is higher around edges of the city near public lands or agriculture fields, but even the interior of the city has risk. Home density and older homes with more flammable material have higher risk.

3 Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) mitigation is critical, and participation is more important than perfection.

More homeowners and businessowners doing meaningful work to mitigate risk is more effective than some people doing all the work. Community-level action (home hardening and defensible space) is critical.



4 Public land management is helping but more can be done.

Ongoing vegetation management by the City of Louisville in strategic locations on public land and other shared spaces is making the community safer but more can be done. A list of public land that might benefit from management can be found on page 44 of the report.



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The report identified **26 actionable recommendations** for the City of Louisville. Below are only a sample of recommendations- full recommendations can be found on page 48 of the report.

Recommendation	Responsibility
Short-term	
Finalize Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) delineation and associated WUI code	City of Louisville Planning Department, Community Development, and Building Code Board of Appeals
Continue implementing mitigation actions on parks and open space	City of Louisville Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department
Get an individual home assessment	Residents
Get involved with community mitigation planning	HOAs, Community Liaisons, Residents
Utilize leaf & branch drop off & collection	Residents
Mid-term	
Complete annual measures to protect your home	Residents
Apply for grants for multi-homeowner projects	HOAs, Community Liaisons, Residents
Long-term	
Increase staff capacity dedicated to wildfire mitigation	City of Louisville, LFPD
Develop a dedicated wildfire mitigation funding mechanism	City of Louisville, LFPD



Help your community!

You are a key part of wildfire risk reduction work. Learn more about how you can mitigate fire risk through home hardening, home assessments, and leaf & branch drop off locations by visiting: wildfirepartners.org



To read the full report, scan the QR code.

This report was produced by The Ember Alliance for the Louisville Fire Protection District in collaboration with the City of Louisville.

To learn more visit: <https://www.louisvillefire.com/louisville-wildfire-and-conflagration-risk-assessment>

