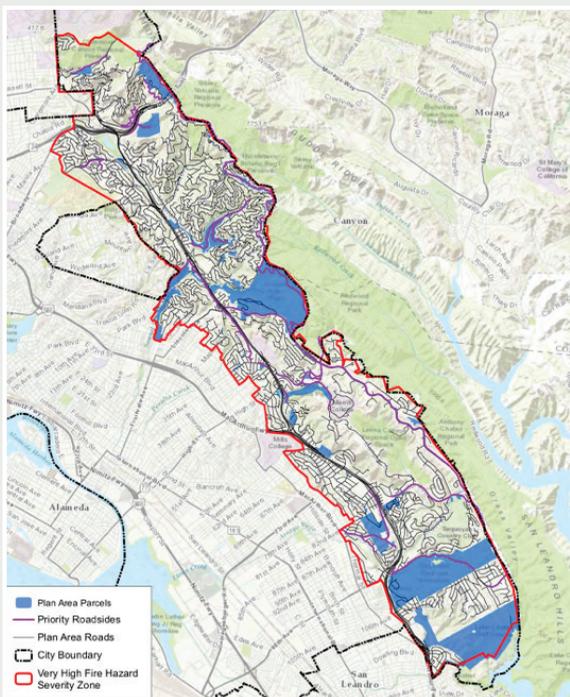




Draft Vegetation Management Plan

The Oakland Fire Department released a Draft Vegetation Management Plan (Plan) for public review and comment. The goals of the Plan are to:

- Reduce wildfire hazard on City-owned land and along critical access/egress routes within the City's designated Very High Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone
- Reduce the likelihood of ignitions and extreme fire behavior to enhance public and firefighter safety
- Implement practices to avoid or minimize impacts to natural resources
- Maintain an active role in regional efforts to reduce wildfire hazard in the Oakland Hills



The Plan Area

The Plan Area encompasses City-owned parcels and the areas within 30 feet of the edge of roadsides. This includes:

- 422 City-owned parcels, ranging in size from <0.1 acres to 235 acres and totaling 1,925 acres
- Roadside areas along 308 miles of road, which includes surface and arterial streets, State Routes 13 and 24, and Interstate 580

Methodologies of Plan Development

Development of the Plan included an assessment of wildfire hazard within the Plan Area and an evaluation of variables that contribute to wildfire risk.

Field Assessments:

Conducted to identify vegetative communities and land cover types, fuel characteristics, fuel models, terrain, and hazard conditions in the Plan Area.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analysis:

Conducted to evaluate conditions in the Plan Area, including terrain, vegetative cover, land ownership, City-owned parcel distribution, the area of land within 100 and 300 feet of existing structures, and the extent and distances of Plan Area roads.

Fire Behavior Modeling:

Conducted in GIS for selected larger parcels to identify areas that may be subject to extreme fire behavior, considering weather, fuels, and terrain variables.

Research:

Conducted to document existing vegetation management practices used by the Oakland Fire Department and to identify anecdotal evidence of areas subject to high ignition potential.

Vegetation Management Techniques

Vegetation management for fire hazard mitigation is the practice of thinning, pruning, removing, or otherwise altering vegetation in order to reduce the potential for ignitions and modify fire behavior. Given the dynamic nature of vegetation, a single treatment technique or management prescription may not be appropriate for one site over time. Therefore, an adaptive approach that allows for selection of management techniques is needed to achieve the vegetation management standards outlined in the Plan.

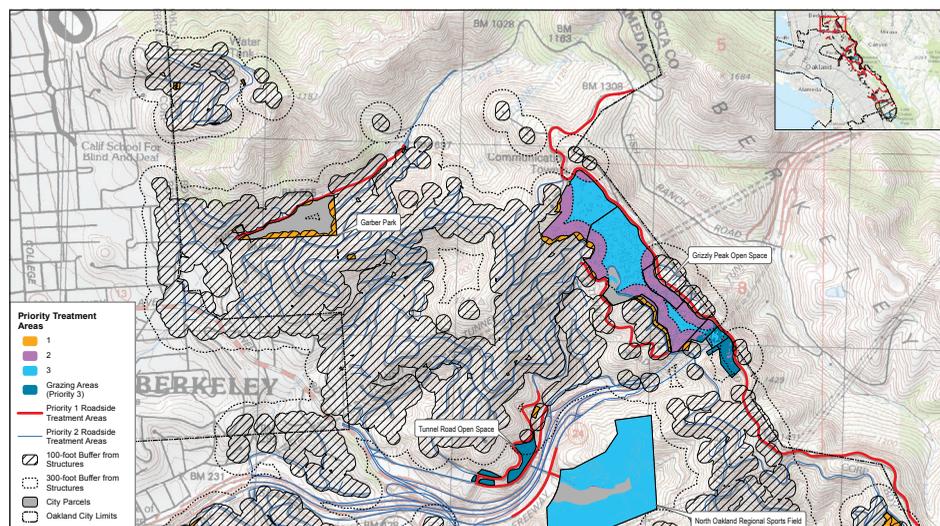


Treatment Prioritization

Given the variability of parcel size and distribution, terrain characteristics, vegetative fuel cover, and potential fire behavior across the Plan Area, uniform application of vegetation management standards is not feasible. Treatment areas were therefore prioritized and may be reduced based on field observations during annual field assessments, or where otherwise recommended. Treatment areas were broken down into three priorities, with Priority 1 areas to be focused on first.

Priority 2 areas include those where annual vegetation management activities should be focused once Priority 1 areas have been completed or if schedules and budgets allow for completion.

Priority 3 areas include those where annual vegetation management activities should be focused once Priority 1 and 2 areas have been completed or if schedules and budgets allow.



Plan Implementation

The Oakland Fire Department, or its designee, will be responsible for implementing the Plan and will be responsible for:

- Assessing field conditions on a routine basis to determine the need for vegetation management action implementation
- Developing annual work plans and budgets
- Prioritizing vegetation treatment actions and areas based on field observations
- Screening, selecting, and hiring contractors, or directing City personnel, to conduct identified vegetation management actions
- Monitoring vegetation management actions during operations to ensure that avoidance measures and BMPs are being properly implemented
- Monitoring treated properties following vegetation management actions to ensure that treatment standards have been achieved

Schedule and Next Steps

2018			
SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	
Draft Vegetation Management Plan			
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Preparation			
CEQA Scoping (Public Comment, Scoping Meetings)			
2019			
SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
Public Draft EIR (Public Comment, Public Meetings)			
Final EIR Development			

Adaptive Management

The following adaptive management practices will be used in the implementation of the Plan:

- Monitoring vegetation management activities during operations to ensure that avoidance measures and Best Management Practices are being properly implemented
- Monitoring treated properties following vegetation management activities to ensure that treatment standards have been achieved
- Monitoring treated properties to determine the need for follow-up treatment actions
- Monitoring treated properties to determine the need for post-operations Best Management Practices
- Monitoring to document the success of vegetation treatment activities and identify needs for adjustments to vegetation treatment activities or standards