



Wildfire Mitigation Cost-Share Stipend Program

Stipend Guidelines:

- The cost-share stipend program is intended to reduce the wildfire risk to homes in the wildland urban interface (WUI) with hazardous vegetation within the first thirty feet (30') around the structure or ancillary building.
- Any hazardous vegetation (coniferous trees/shrubs with high resin and oil content, Gambel Oak, or any hazardous vegetation that is dead/dying) within the first thirty feet (30') of the structure or ancillary building must be removed before any other work can be completed.
- If the first thirty feet (30') has been properly mitigated, work can be extended beyond thirty feet (30').
- Deciduous trees or trees with high moisture content may be removed if half of the tree is dead and is posing a threat to the structure or ancillary building.
- This is not a grant award, but a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$500 per household, and can only be used once per household, per grant cycle (12 months). Please note that these funds are first come, first served.
- The Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) Wildfire Mitigation Section **cannot** reimburse residents for work that has already been completed.
- The CSFD Wildfire Mitigation Section will **not** "landscape" or maintain your property- any work being conducted **must** follow the mitigation guidelines listed in this document.
- **The CSFD Wildfire Mitigation Section does not cover stump grinding, vegetation replacement, or mulch replacement.**

Stipend Process:

- Homeowners must choose a licensed and insured tree service from the list of **approved** companies. Please visit: <https://www.coswildfireready.org/defensible-space> for the list of tree services. If you cannot access the list of tree services, please call **719-385-7348** for the list.
- Once a tree service is chosen you **must** contact Bailey Horton to schedule a walkthrough of your property with the tree service company of your choice, and a CSFD Wildfire Mitigation representative. A walkthrough of your property is **required** prior to any work being done.
- Each participant **must** sign a stewardship agreement that explains responsibilities, obligations, and duties of the resident and the City of Colorado Springs.
- Each participant **must** sign the CSFD Wildfire Mitigation Cost-Share Stipend paperwork. This document is an agreement between the resident and the tree contractor on the work that will be done on the property.
- After the walkthrough and the required paperwork is signed, the homeowner is able to schedule the discussed work to be completed with the tree service that was chosen.
- Once the work is finished the tree service will invoice the homeowner and the CSFD Wildfire Mitigation Section separately. Each party will pay the amount that was agreed upon during the walkthrough. The homeowners will **not** be reimbursed if they pay the full amount for the work.

Bailey Horton: 719-385-7348 or Bailey.Horton@coloradosprings.gov

"Sharing the Responsibility"