

What is an Official Community Plan (OCP)?

An OCP sets out the vision, goals and overarching policies guiding the municipality. Council, staff and citizens use the OCP to help make decisions on where we locate housing, what our transportation priorities are and how we provide recreational and municipal services. An OCP applies to the whole District and maps out how we want to progress as a community.

Development Permit Areas (DPAs)

Development Permit Areas are identified in the OCP. Specific development guidelines apply to all new development within these delineated areas. There are four DPA categories:



Protection of the Natural Environment, its Ecosystem and Biological Diversity: Natural Environment and Streamside Protection



Protection of Development from Hazardous Conditions: Creek Hazard, Wildfire Hazard, Slope Hazard



Energy and Water Conservation and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases



Form and Character of Development

The Permit Process

1. If your property is included within one or more DPAs, discuss your proposed work with District staff early in the process. You will be advised whether the proposed work is exempt from the DPA, or whether an assessment by a Qualified Professional (QP) is needed.
2. If more than one DPA is involved, you may be required to appoint a lead professional to coordinate the process.
3. The QP assessment process will identify the most appropriate fire mitigation measures for your new home and property.
4. District staff will review the application in accordance with the DPA guidelines. A new dwelling will require a Development Permit. Guidelines for the building materials and vegetation management will still be provided to applicants who are exempt from the Development Permit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Background information and the detailed DPA guidelines, exemptions and maps are available on the District website at www.dnv.org/dpa.

District of North Vancouver
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THE DISTRICT OF
NORTH VANCOUVER
**WILDFIRE
HAZARD DPA**

What is the Wildfire DPA?

The District of North Vancouver contains large forested areas in its upper slopes, parkland and areas adjacent to streams and river canyons throughout the District and most areas are actively used for recreation. These tracts of forest create an interface with many adjacent residential properties.

The Wildfire DPA includes the forests at risk for wildfire and the adjacent properties as shown on the **Wildfire Hazard DPA Map**. The DPA applies only to new home construction but the guidelines are strongly recommended for all construction, new roofs or renovations within the Wildfire Hazard DPA.

Objectives

The Wildfire Hazard DPA area is established to:

- 1. ensure that development is managed in a way that:**
 - a) minimizes the risk to property and people from wildfire hazards;
 - b) promotes activities to reduce wildfire hazards while still addressing environmental issues; and
 - c) minimizes the risk of fire to the District's forests;
- 2. proactively manage conditions affecting potential fire behaviour to enhance fire suppression and containment and minimize adverse impacts;**
- 3. conserve the visual and ecological assets of the forest: and**
- 4. reduce the risk of post-fire landslides, debris flows and erosion.**



Community Wildfire Protection Planning

With long, hot summers and close proximity to steep forested terrain, the threat of an interface forest fire in the District is a real one. Our region is susceptible to both lightning and human-caused fires such as campfires, smoking or house fires that can ignite the surrounding forest.

In 2007, the District adopted the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Key components of the plan include the following activities:

- » Hazard and risk mapping of the District
- » Communication and education
- » Policy and planning tools, including the Wildfire Development Permit Area
- » Emergency response
- » Vegetation fuel management strategies
- » Post fire rehabilitation strategies.

Reducing Wildfire Risk

The following is an overview of the Guidelines to reduce risk to new homes in the Wildfire DPA.

- 1. Structures should be located as far away from any wildfire risk areas as possible or as far away as any existing permanent structure.**
- 2. Fire resistive materials should be used for roofs, decks, porches, exterior walls.**
- 3. Eaves and vent openings should be screened and spark arresters installed on chimneys.**
- 4. Building design and construction should be generally consistent with the current standards published by the National Fire Protection Association.**
- 5. Landscaping: A tree assessment and retention/restoration plan may be required from a qualified professional.**

Please refer to **Schedule B of the Official Community Plan** for the complete description of the Guidelines and Exemptions for the Wildfire Hazard DPA.