

10.7. Community at Risk: Gladstone Fire Department

The Gladstone Fire Department has been identified as a Community at Risk (CAR) by the Oregon Department of Forestry. The District has participated in the Clackamas County CWPP planning process to evaluate capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to potential wildfire events.

Gladstone Fire

The Gladstone Fire Department provides fire, rescue, and prevention services to the City of Gladstone. The Gladstone Fire Department is primarily staffed by volunteers and is supported by a paid Fire Marshal and a Volunteer Coordinator.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Despite being primarily urban, some areas in the Gladstone are excellent examples of the Wildland Urban Interface. They are characterized by residential homes surrounded by heavy fuels and steep slopes. Some communities have only one way in and one way out with narrow, steep driveways and poor address signage. Heavy and continuous fuels are present in some natural areas and parks adjacent to neighborhoods, so fires that begin on public land or on smaller private residential lots can quickly threaten the communities and natural resources that thrive in the City of Gladstone.

Gladstone Fire District Wildfire Hazards

The Clackamas County CWPP wildfire hazard assessment assisted Gladstone Fire in identifying areas that may be at higher risk to potential wildfires. Map #10 illustrates the overall wildfire hazard risk in the City of Gladstone and will be used to help target areas for wildfire prevention activities.

Structural Ignitability

The City of Gladstone contracts with Clackamas County for land use planning and building permit services, and has a local planning commission to help guide development. Gladstone Fire promotes the creation of defensible space, use of fire-resistant roofing and building materials, and community preparedness in the WUI by working with Clackamas County to integrate these concepts at the regulatory level. Gladstone Fire participates in land use reviews for new development to provide input on access and water supply.

Emergency Response

A major wildland urban interface fire in Gladstone would quickly exceed the resources and capabilities of the Department. For this reason, Gladstone has mutual aid agreements in place which allows for the sharing of resources across the county in the event of a large scale disaster including wildfires. Gladstone's primary mutual aid partner is Clackamas Fire District #1, which completely surrounds the City of Gladstone. Burning of yard waste and debris is prohibited in Gladstone, as it is located within the DEQ Burn Ban Boundary.

Gladstone Fire employs 2 career and many volunteer firefighters. Historically, Gladstone Fire participated on state mobilization strike teams, but has opted out of this partnership in recent years due to diminished capacity to support training and maintain qualifications necessary to participate. Gladstone Fire provides annual refresher training to all staff, and will send new staff to Clackamas County Community College to receive S-130 and S-190. The Department would like to improve its capacity in developing and retaining wildland fire certifications, and this is noted in the action plan.

Community Outreach & Education

Gladstone Fire supports fire prevention, but has a limited capacity to develop and implement public outreach programs. Gladstone Fire is a member of the Clackamas County Fire Prevention Cooperative which is a consortium of structural and wildland fire protection professionals that work together to deliver programs such as team teaching in the grade school fire safety programs and safety fairs. Gladstone Fire would like to be a more active member of the Coop to increase their capacity for providing structural and wildland fire prevention programs in the City.

Local Communities at Risk (Strategic Planning Areas)

Gladstone Fire recognizes that there are smaller-scale Communities at Risk that have unique wildfire hazards to be addressed at the more local scale. These areas were referred to as Strategic Planning Areas in the 2005 iteration of the CWPP, but will now be referenced as local Communities at Risk to be consistent with state and federal language. Communities that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to wildfires are illustrated in Map #21 and listed in Table 10.7-1. Gladstone Fire professionals considered the following factors to determine the local CARs including:

- Need for defensible space
- Access limitations (narrow driveways, lack of address signage, one way in/one way out)
- Steep slopes that can hinder access and accelerate the spread of wildfire
- Lack of water available for wildland fire fighting
- Heavy fuels on adjacent public lands
- Potential ignition sources from recreationists and transients
- Agricultural and backyard burning
- Lack of community outreach programs to promote wildfire awareness
- Communications difficulties

Fuels Reduction

Fuels reduction projects can and should be accomplished at the local scale, which is the creation of defensible space around homes, as well as the landscape scale to extend vegetation treatments onto adjacent forested land and natural areas. Gladstone Fire will help to facilitate cooperation between public and private organizations to ensure that fuels reduction work occurs strategically and benefits homeowners as well as adjacent public and private lands.

To ensure that landscape-level treatments are paired with projects to create defensible space around vulnerable communities, priority fuels reduction projects have been overlaid with the Communities at Risk Identified by Gladstone Fire (Map #21).

Fuels Reduction Priorities include:

Parkway Woods

Billy Goat Island

Gladstone Fire Action Plan

Gladstone Fire has developed a list of actions to build capacity at the Department scale and has identified actions that can help to make the local CARS more resilient to potential wildfires. The action plan for Gladstone Fire and the local CARs therein is provided in Table 10.7-2.

Table 10.7-1. Gladstone Fire Department Local Communities at Risk

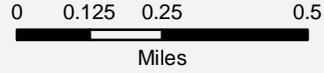
Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Forest Lands	Private Forest Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Preparedness	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description	
Gladstone Fire Local Communities at Risk														
Parkway Woods	High	X	X		X							X	X	Parkway and Windfeild court are adjacent to this natural wooded area. There is no access into the wooded area and it has very steep and difficult terrain to navigate. There is water on Oatfield and Parkway. The biggest issue is access and vegetation. This is a common are for the Parkway community and is choked with ladder fuels and invasive. this is a high priority for fuels reduction. A city councilor lives here and could be a champion for a community clean up event.
Billy Goat Island	High	X	X	X	X		X	X	X					This island is a popular place for recreators and transients. A wildfire occurred here in 1995, and response efforts were extremely challenging because access is very poor. There is a transient camp that has cause problems in the past, so Gladstone Fire has been working with the Gladstone Police Department and ODOT to remove it. There is a great deal of heavy vegetation adjacent to homes in this area, making it a priority for fuels reduction. A fire break is needed as well as a fire lane. There is a very expensive home with a very long driveway in this area as well that of cause for concern.
Dahl Beach	High	X	X	X	X		X		X					This is a very popular area for recreators and transients, Many people using Dahl Beach will make campfires which serve as potential ignition sources. There have been fires here in the past and access was extremely difficult.
Risley Wetlands	Medium	X	X	X	X			X		X				Access is poor throughout this community. There also is no access into the natural wooded area which is adjacent to a subdivision, and is likely where a fire would begin. The homes here are very close to the vegetation from the wooded area.
Meldrum Bar Park	Low		X	X			X		X					Meldrum Bar Park has no residences, but is a heavily populated during the summer months. This would be a priority for fuels reduction and community education.

Table 10.7-2. Gladstone Fire Department Action Plan

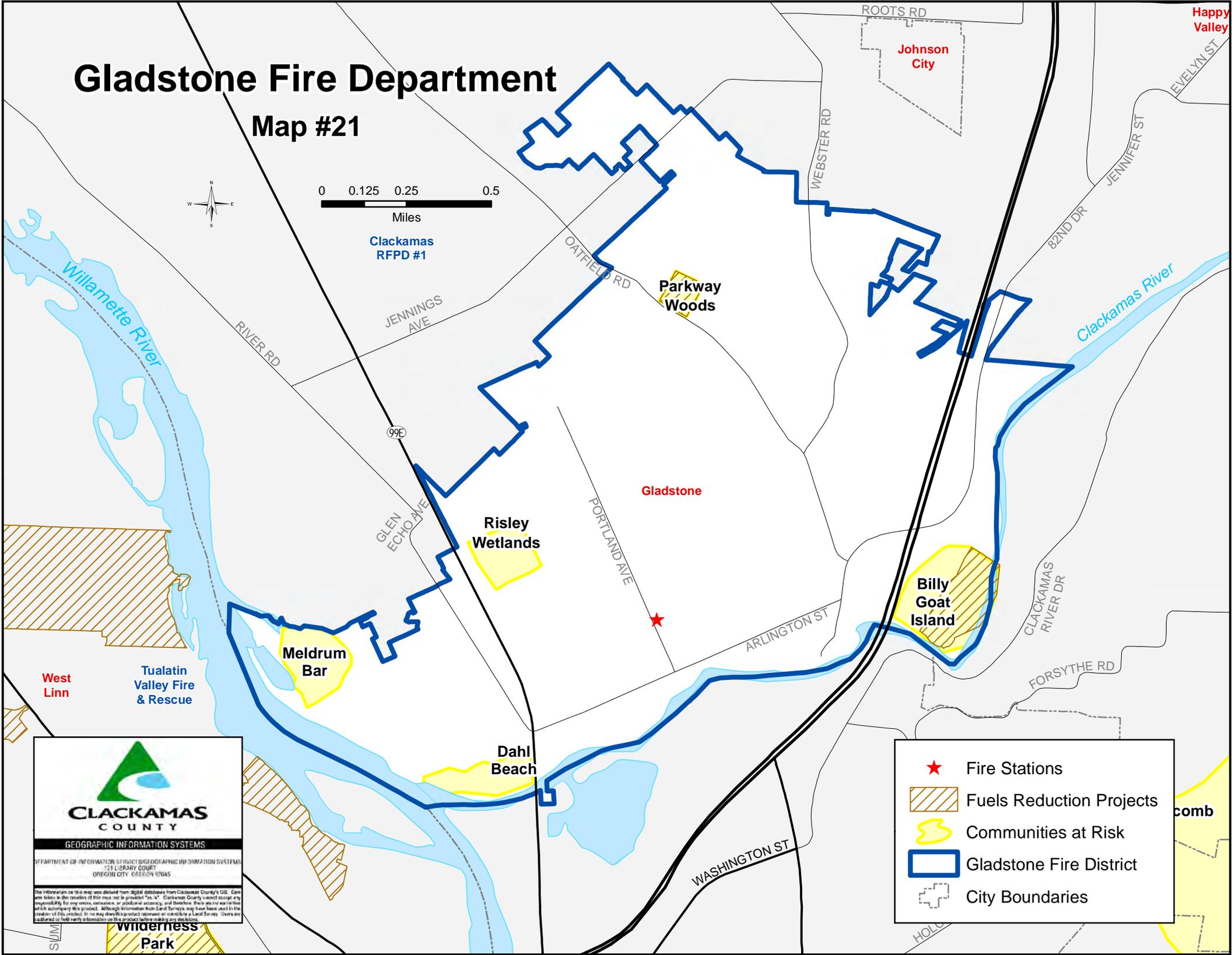
Action Item	Timeframe	Partners	CAR
Gladstone Fire Action Plan			
Work with ODF and the USFS and other partners to identify opportunities to train staff in S-130 and S-190.	Ongoing	USFS, ODF, Fire Defense Board	Gladstone Fire
Schedule periodic meetings with local building officials, land use planners and fire marshals to build relationships and encourage cooperation.	Ongoing	Building Officials, Land Use Planners, Fire Marshals	Gladstone Fire
Invigorate the Dept's Outreach and Education Program by partnering with ODF to incorporate wildfire prevention into current outreach programs including local school programs.	1 Year	Fire Co-op	Gladstone Fire
Gladstone Fire Local Communities at Risk Action Plan			
Conduct a Community Meeting to educate community on defensible space, and measures that can be taken to reduce structural ignitability. Solicit feedback on wildfire prevention projects the community would support.	2 Years	ODF	Parkway Woods
Partner with the Fire Co-op to create and distribute outreach materials that promote responsible burning, defensible space and reduction of structural ignitability within the Home Ignition Zone.	2 Years	Fire Co-op	All CAR's
Post signage that explain fire restrictions in natural areas.	1 Year	County Parks	Meldrum Bar, Billy Goat Island, Dahl Beach

Gladstone Fire Department

Map #21



Clackamas RFPD #1



CLACKAMAS COUNTY
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SERVICES/GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS
221 LIBRARY COURT
OREGON CITY, OREGON 97045

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- ★ Fire Stations
- ▨ Fuels Reduction Projects
- ⬭ Communities at Risk
- ▭ Gladstone Fire District
- ⊕ City Boundaries