

## Lake Sherwood Firewise Program Plan, 2016 - 2020 May 24, 2016



### **Background:**

Lake Sherwood is located in the Town of Rome, Wisconsin, a town of approximately 2,600 people. Over 650 properties surround 246 acre Lake Sherwood and are organized into twenty-six Lake Sherwood subdivision additions. Each addition elects a representative to serve on the Lake Sherwood Property Owners Association (LSPOA) Board of Directors.

Lake Sherwood Property Owners Association is an organization formed to represent property owners in the subdivision of Lake Sherwood. The purposes of the business and undertakings of the Association are to preserve, maintain and improve amenities of the Association, the value of Lake Sherwood property, the water quality of Lake Sherwood and the ability of Members to enjoy their property.

The LSPOA Board of Directors voted in October 2009 to pursue Firewise Community designation. A hazard mitigation grant was first obtained in January 2010 to assist in funding the initial projects which included three community work projects, chipping on both private and public parcels and Firewise education and outreach. A hazard mitigation grant for additional funding has been obtained in each subsequent year in continuing this effort.

The LSPOA Conservation Committee serves as the Firewise Committee and officially took on Firewise oversight beginning on March 6, 2010. Committee members serving for 2016 are David Trudeau (Chair), Vern Long, Mike Skadow, Ron Stowell, and Laurie Francis.

### **Goal #1:** Reduce hazard fuels on private parcels

Strategies: Provide information on the Town of Rome "Restrictions on Dead Timber and Brush" ordinance which was enacted and implemented beginning in 2011. Gather and distribute contact information on local firewood cutters and commercial tree removal services that can provide assistance to Lake Sherwood residents, serving as a clearing house to link property owners with needed services. Assist in promoting information

about roadside brush removal when grant funding is available to provide this service through the Town of Rome.

**Goal #2:** Address fuel loading on community owned and multi-ownership properties

Strategies: Work with the Town of Rome to reduce fuel loading on Sherwood Forest through a combination of commercial harvest, firewood cutting and Firewise work projects to remove dead standing and down timber and slash, focusing on oak wilt infested areas. Inventory 17 beach clubs, which are jointly owned lakefront access areas deeded to multiple off-shore parcel ownerships, for concentrations of dead timber or brush. Inform and request that owners address any problem areas and offer Firewise work project assistance or funding when needed.

**Goal #3:** Promote Firewise education and practices

Strategies: Distribute educational information to Lake Sherwood property owners through the LSPOA website, annual dues mailings, local newspapers, the television announcement cable channel(s) serving Lake Sherwood residents, flyers, announcements at bi-annual LSPOA General Membership meetings and personal contacts.

**Goal #4:** Promote Home Ignition Zone Assessments and mitigation practices

Strategies: Distribute information pertaining to Firewise recommendations for the Home Ignition Zone. Pursue projects to offer Home Ignition Zone assessments, as appropriate. Seek out available grant funding opportunities for private home owners to encourage mitigation practices on private property.

This plan will be reviewed and revised annually to keep information updated and current.

Rev. 5/24/2016, D. Trudeau