

Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification

GTC – Jefferson, GA

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Georgia Forestry
Commission**

**GEORGIA FORESTRY
COMMISSION**



The Georgia Forestry Commission



Georgia Forestry Act 1921, renamed GFC in 1949

***Vision:* Healthy, sustainable forests providing clean air, clean water and abundant products for future generations**

***Mission:* To provide leadership, service and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources**

Forestry economic impact: \$42 billion

Community Forestry \$6 billion

Urban and Community Forestry Program

- **Mainly work through municipalities**
 - **Municipal Staff**
 - **General Public**
- **Training/Education**
- **New Resources**
- **Tree Ordinances**
- **Disaster Response**
- **Green Infrastructure**
- **Industry Certification**



Population Density Increase in GA

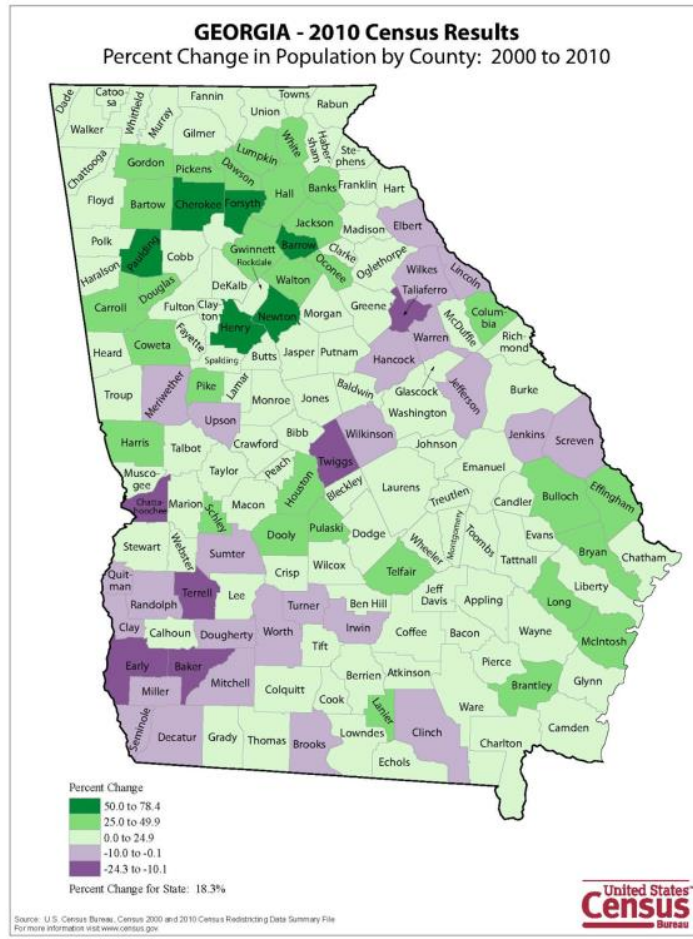


- **GA population 11 million**
- **2030: 11,764,473**
- **2040: 12,786,367**
- **2060: 14,147,873**
- **Dawson and Lumpkin tied for 3rd fastest growing counties in the nation**

Population Density Increase in GA



Georgia's Growth Through 2010



• 3 of Top 10 growth counties in US since 2000:

- Forsyth
- Paulding
- Henry

•From 9MM to 12MM by 2030

Suburban/WUI Canopy Loss

- **Need for affordable housing can be in conflict with trees**
- **Development pressure**
- **Need to factor wildfire into community forest risk assessments**



Conflicting Values Can Lead to Risk



- **Almost 45 million housing units in the WUI**
- **GA Top 4 in the nation units in WUI**

What Can We Do? Current Tools

- **FireWise**
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's)**
- **Fuel mitigation**
 - Rx fire or mechanical
- **A lot of times comes down to individual responsibility**



Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification

- **New Qualification through ISA**
 - **Currently only adopted by GA and TX ISA Chapters**
- **Education for community foresters managing communities in/near WUI**
- **Training for “value added” services for commercial arborists**
- **Builds off of established fire prevention techniques**
 - **FireWise**
 - **Fire Adapted Landscaping**



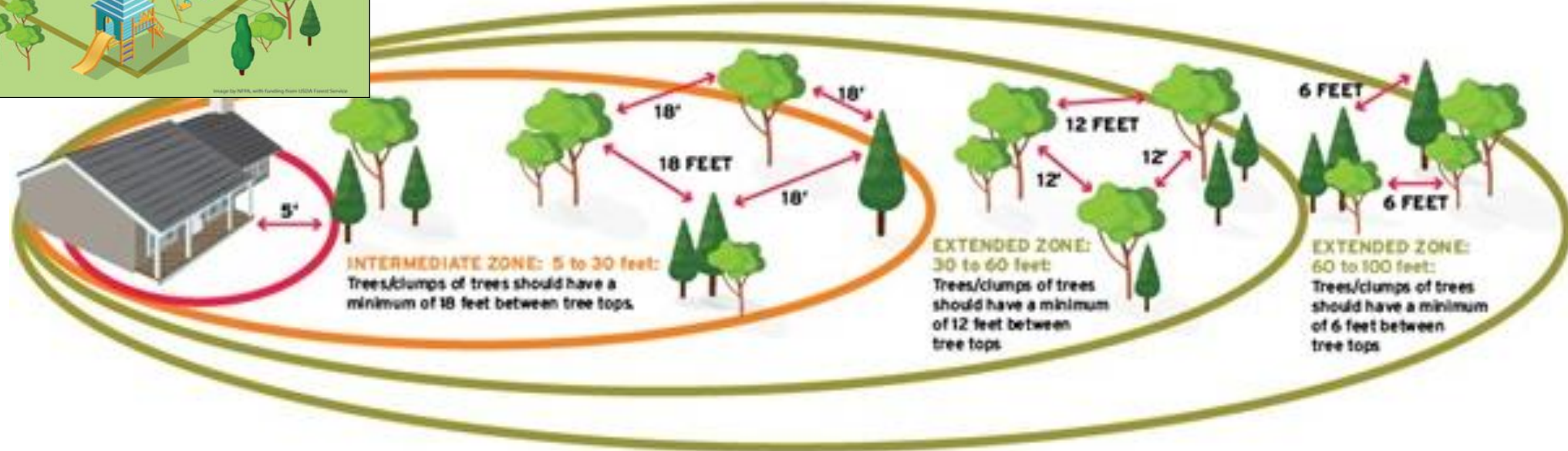
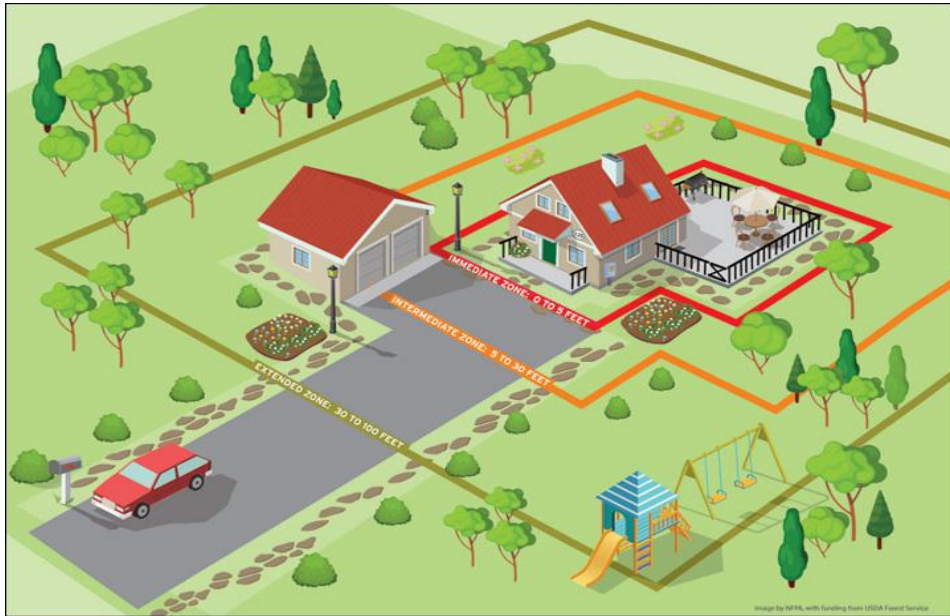
Course Content

- 1. Role of the Arborist in Wildfire Prevention**
- 2. Past and Present Review of Wildfire in GA**
- 3. Basic Fire Ecology and Physics**
- 4. Vegetation/Fuel Management**
- 5. Hazard Assessment and Risk Reduction**
- 6. Home Ignition Zone Assessment**
- 7. Fire Regulations and Resources**



Energy Saving Trees vs Defensible Space

Tree Risk Assessment is always a balancing act, how do we reconcile this conflict of our values to encourage trees to shade homes and reduce wildfire risk? Larger lots? Housing cluster ordinances?



Requirements



- **Certified Arborist preferred, but not required**
- **2- Day Course**
 - **Travel?**
- **Registration Costs**
 - **GAA**
- **50 Question Written Exam**
- **Field Exam**

After the Class

- No formal “letters” on your MyISA Profile
 - GAA will be maintaining a database of those with the Qualification and posting that on their website
 - ISA Southern has also agreed to post a list on their website
- Use of logo is permitted (designed by TX Chapter)
- No set recertification period
 - Look out for news there
- No CEU requirement!
 - Continued wildfire programming through GAA is being planned



**WILDFIRE RISK
REDUCTION
QUALIFICATION**

WRRQ Take Aways

- **No home is 100% safe from wildfire, just as no tree is 100% “safe”**
- **Proactive mitigation is the best defense from wildfire**
- **Great opportunity for “value added” services/advice**
- **Lean in on available resources**



Resources

- **Wildfire Risk Redcution Qualification**

- [GAA WRRQ](#)

- **Class in Gainesville June 12-13**

- <https://www.georgiaarborist.org/events/wildfire-risk-reduction-qualification-wrrq>

- **FireWise GA**

- <https://gatrees.org/fire-prevention-suppression/firewise-usa-program/>

- **FireWise USA**

- <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire/firewise-usa>



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Questions?



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