



Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development

City of Norman, OK

May 27, 2025



Agenda



- Introduction to Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs)
- Planning Area Overview
- WUI Overview
- Norman Areas of Focus
- Initial Risks
- Next Steps/Recommendations

What is a CWPP?



A Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a community-developed plan to help prevent, respond to, and recover from wildfires. CWPPs can help communities:

- Identify local priorities for resource management and community protection
- Reduce risk to watersheds and human structures
- Qualify for federal and state funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects

Legislative History



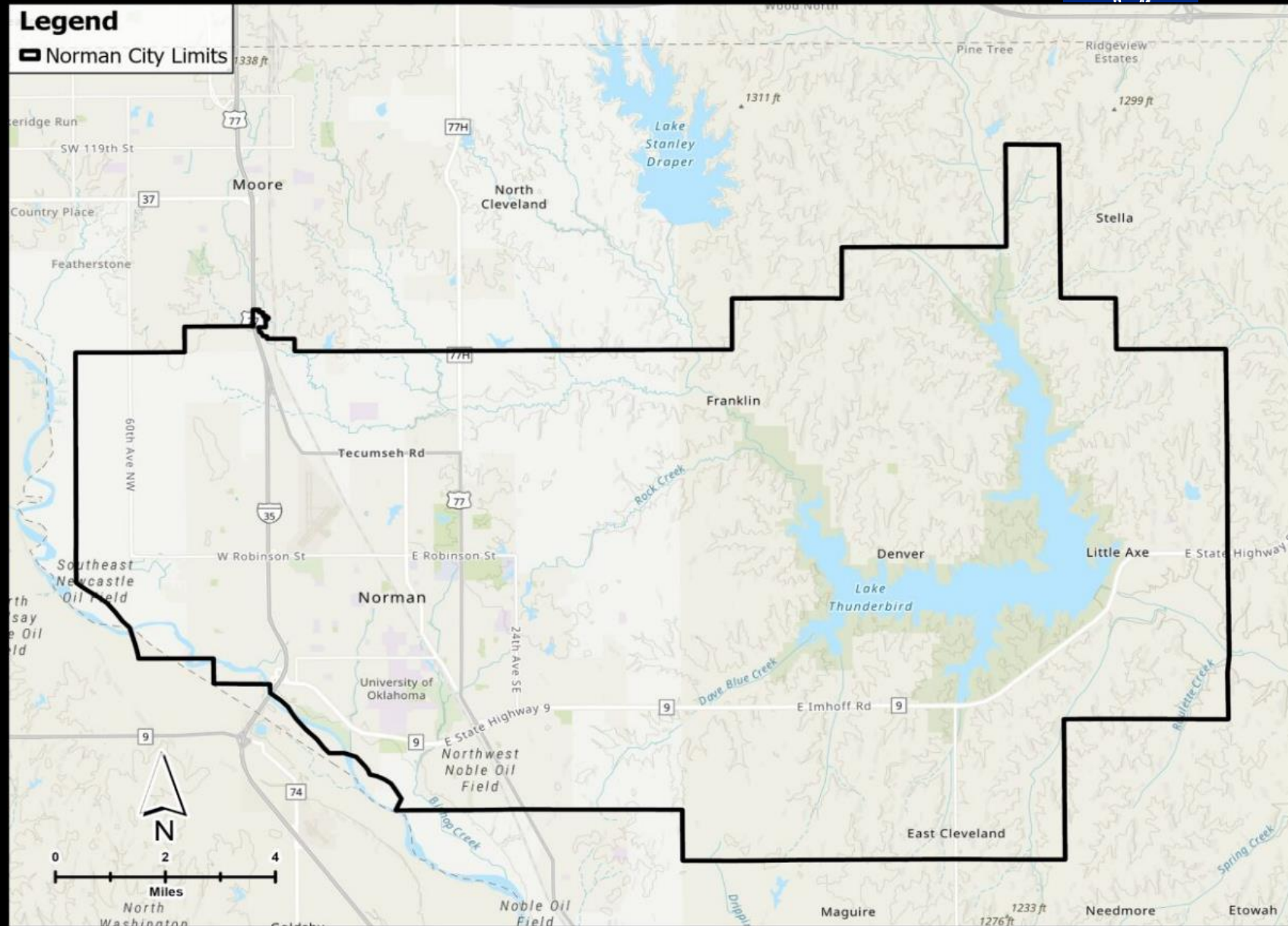
The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003

- Gives priority to hazardous fuel reduction projects for communities or watersheds with Community Wildfire Protection Plans

At-Risk Communities and the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)

- US Forest Service: a place where “humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuel”.
- Areas containing at least one housing unit per 40 acres

Planning Area Overview

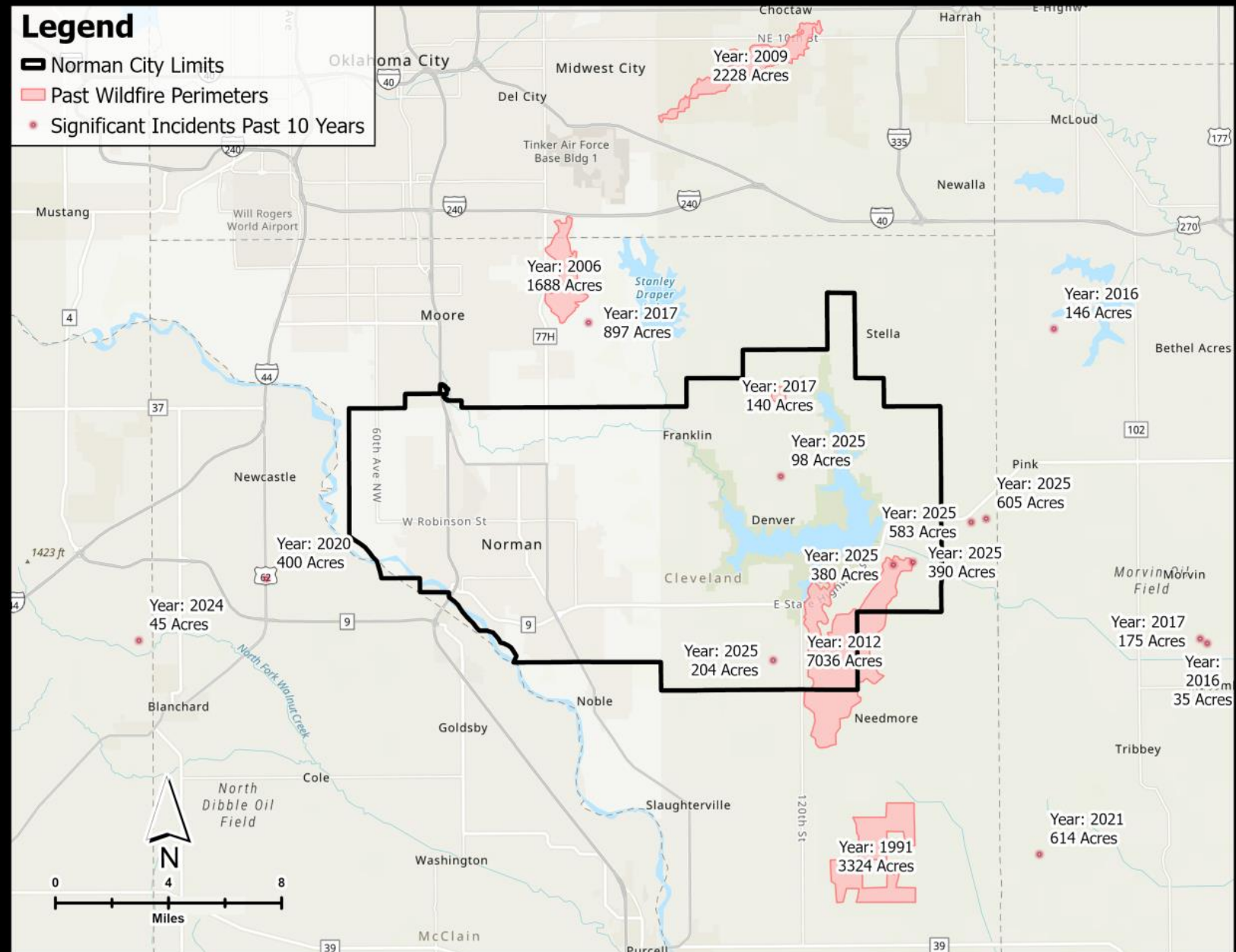


Norman Fire Responses (2019-2023)



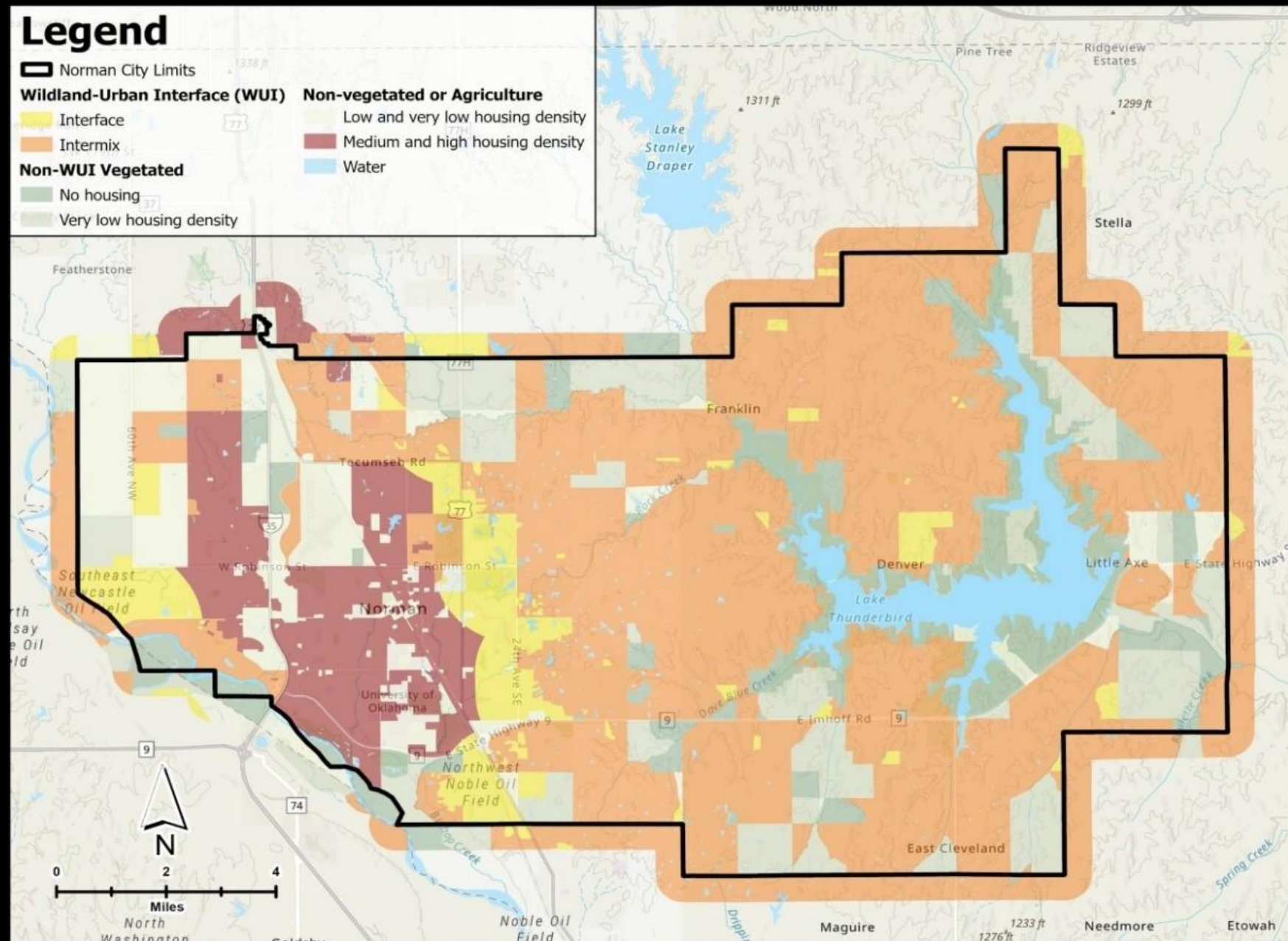
Number of Incidents	Percentage	Incident Type
3,497	55.4%	Outside Fires
1,664	26.3%	Structure Fires
944	14.9%	Mobile Property/Vehicle Fires
211	3.3%	Other

Recent Wildfire History



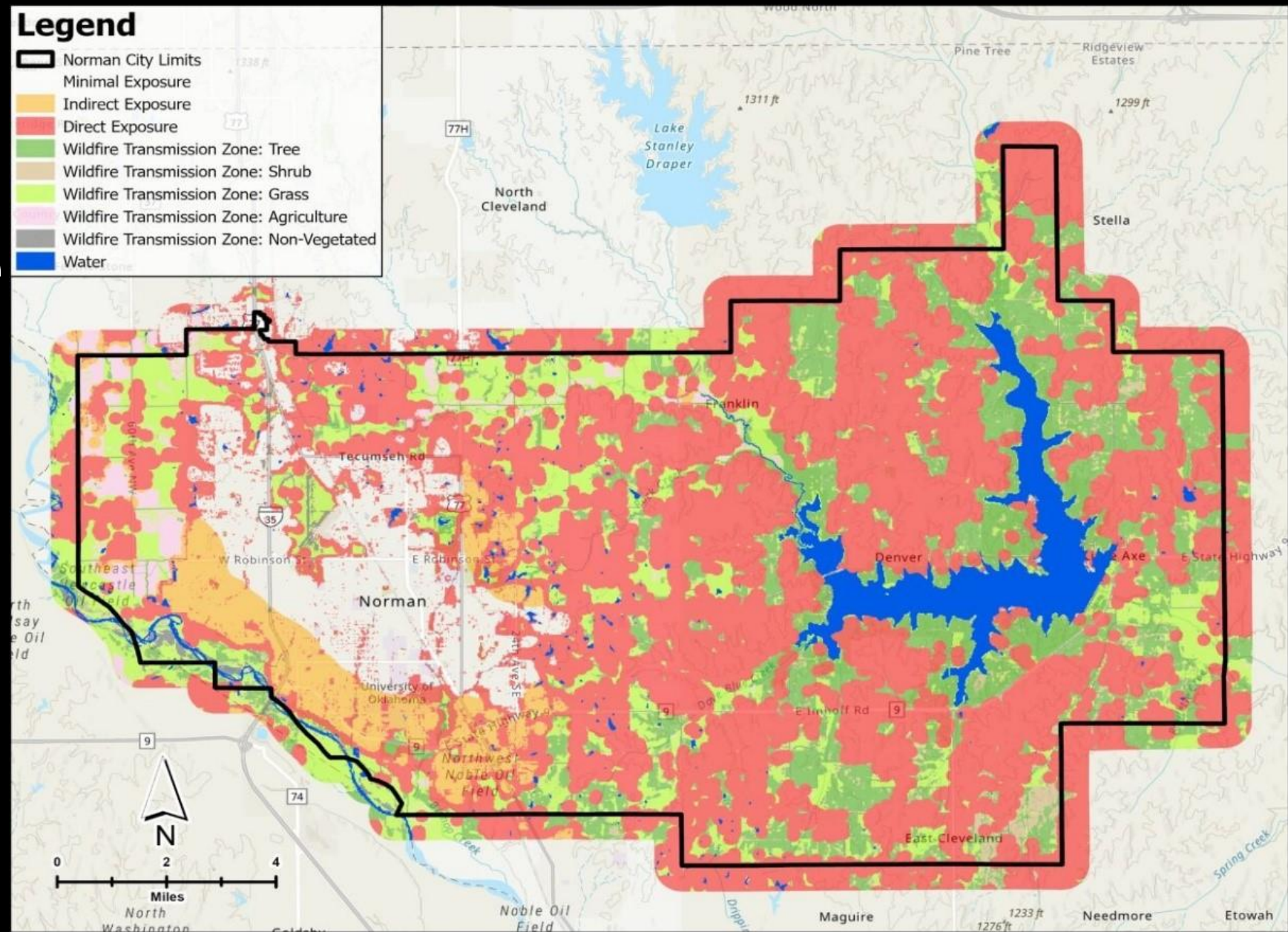
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

- Identifies priority locations for wildfire mitigation treatments, targeted community outreach and education, enhanced evacuation planning, and improved infrastructure resilience measures.
- The goal of this assessment is to guide proactive wildfire risk management, strengthen community resilience, and minimize potential wildfire impacts throughout the Norman WUI.



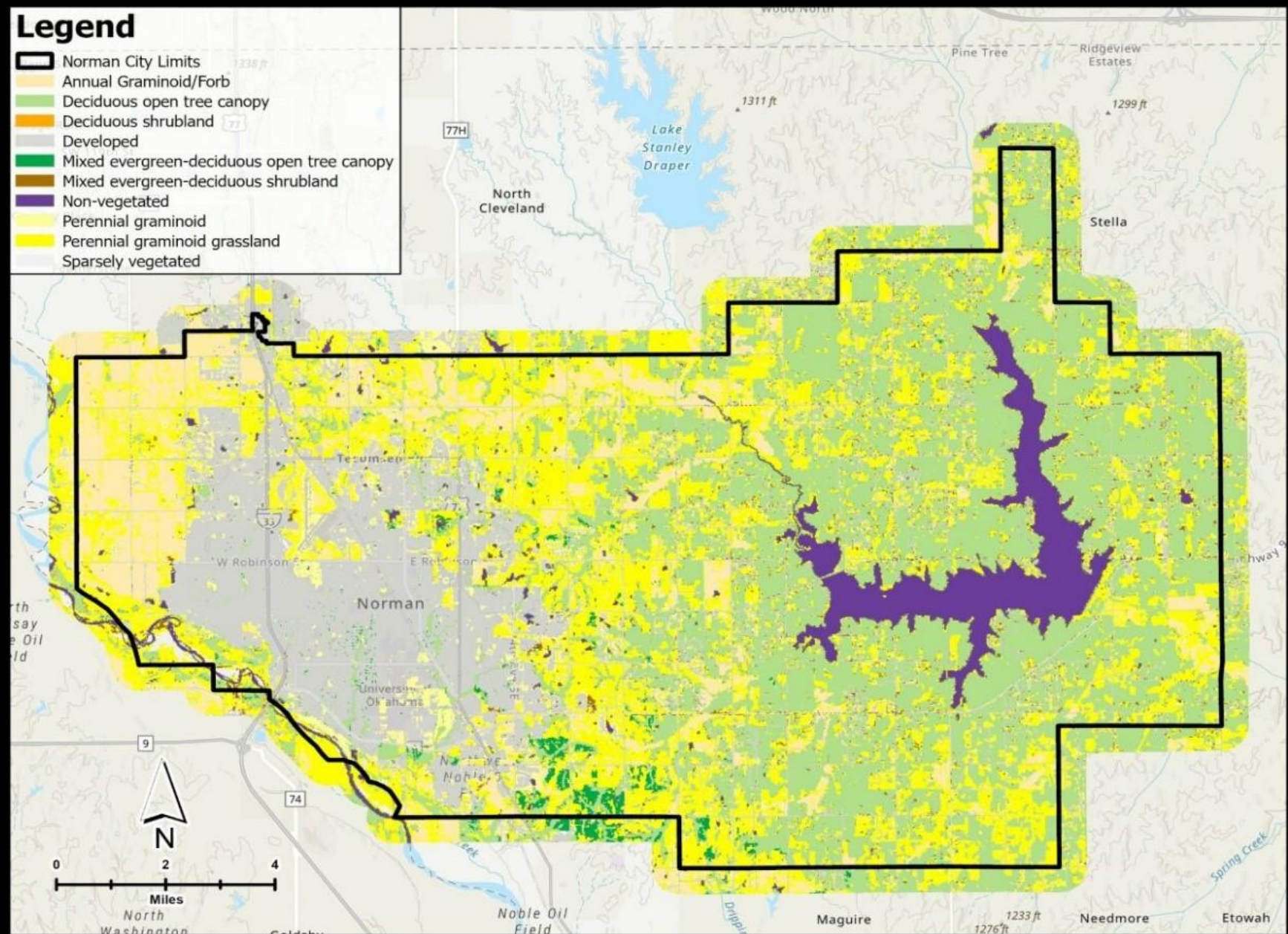
Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Zone (CWiRRZ)

- A comprehensive visualization of wildfire exposure and potential wildfire transmission zones
- Emphasizes significant direct exposure around the urban fringe and along river corridors

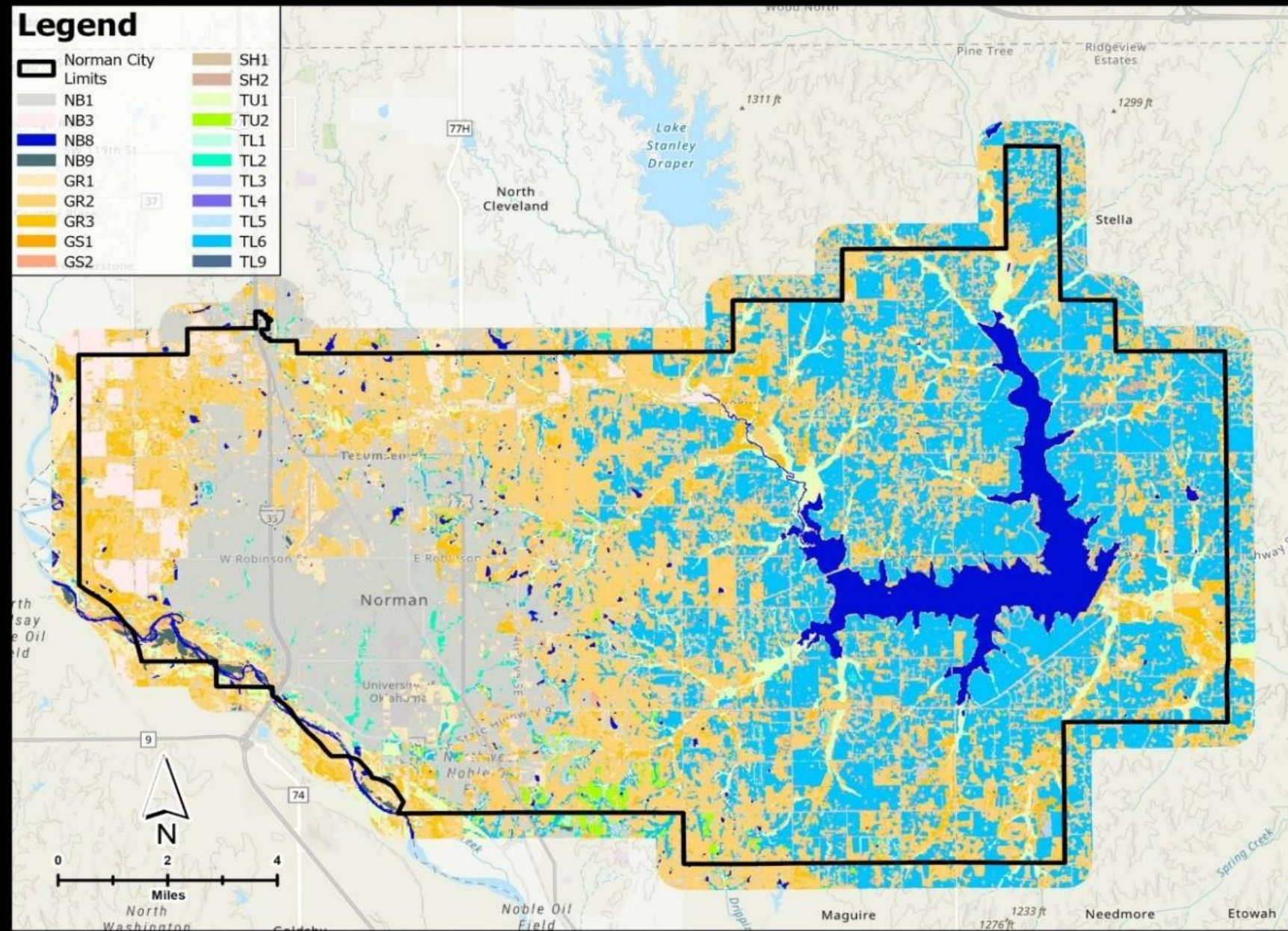


Vegetation

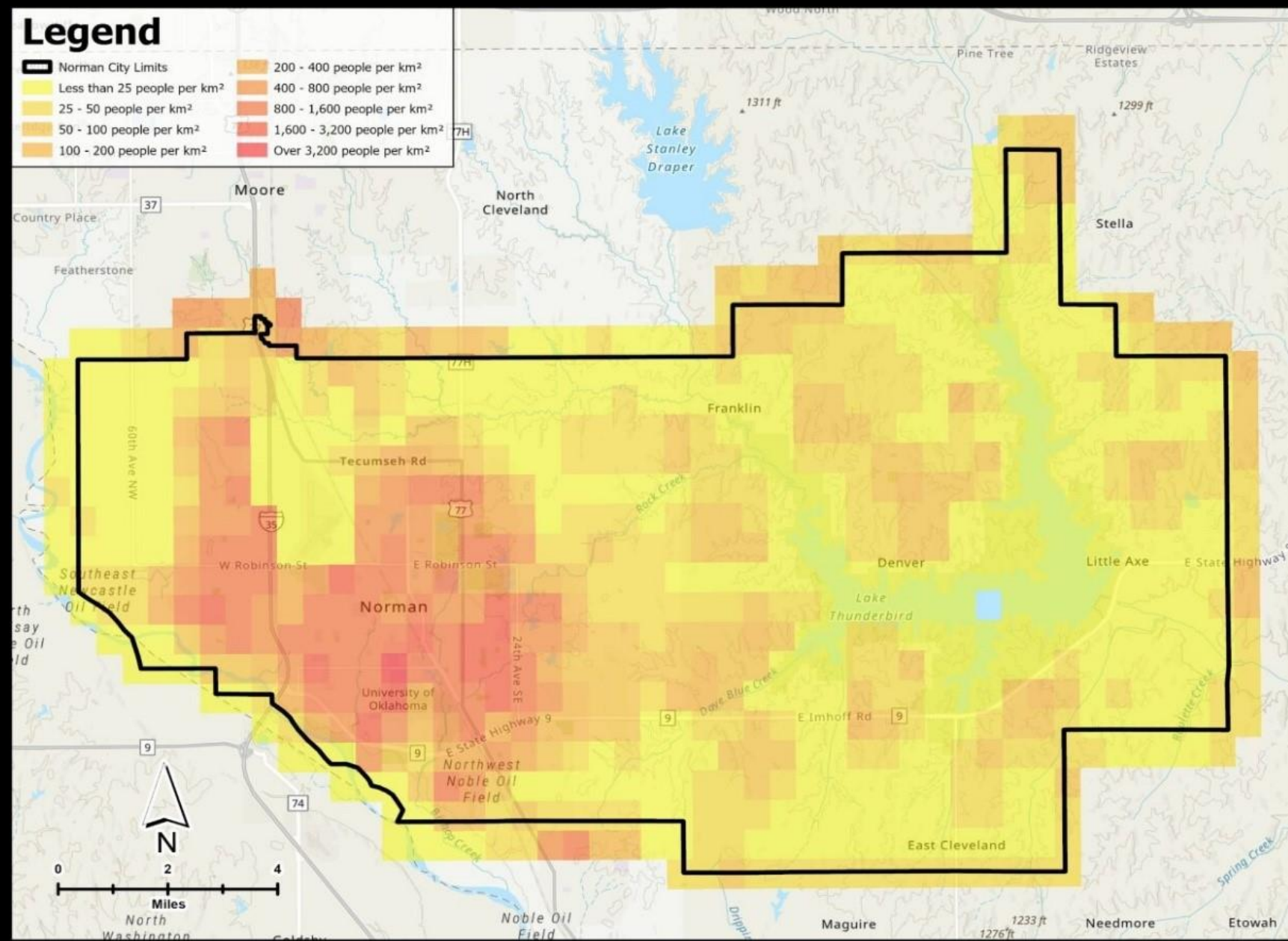
- Vegetation and land cover classifications across the Norman Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), highlighting vegetation types that directly influence wildfire behavior and risk.
- It identifies a diverse mix of vegetation cover, including deciduous and evergreen closed and open tree canopies, shrublands, mixed evergreen-deciduous areas, grasslands, and sparsely vegetated zones.



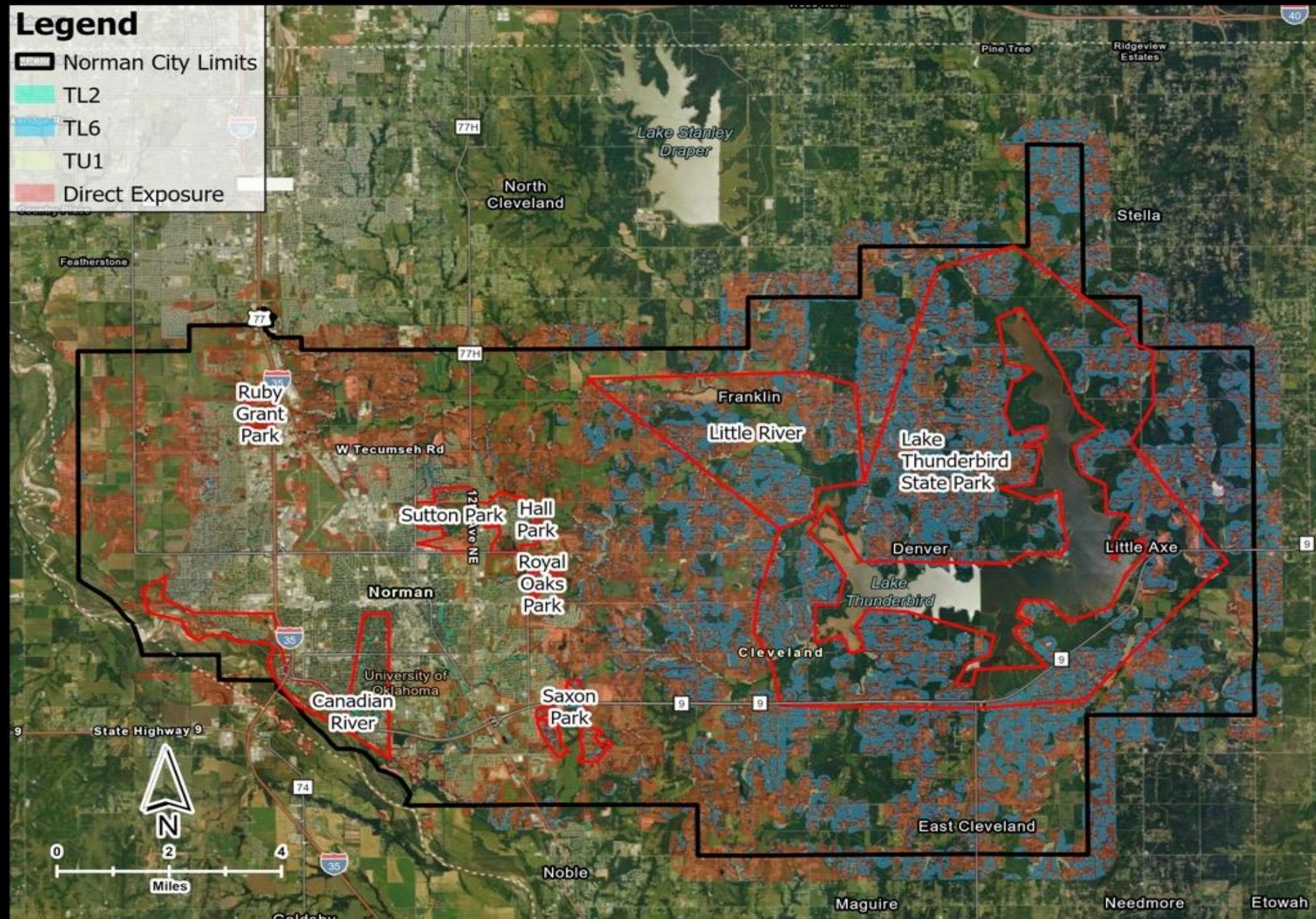
40 Scott and Burgan Fire Behavior Fuel Model (FBFM40)



Population Density



Areas of Concern



Areas of Concern

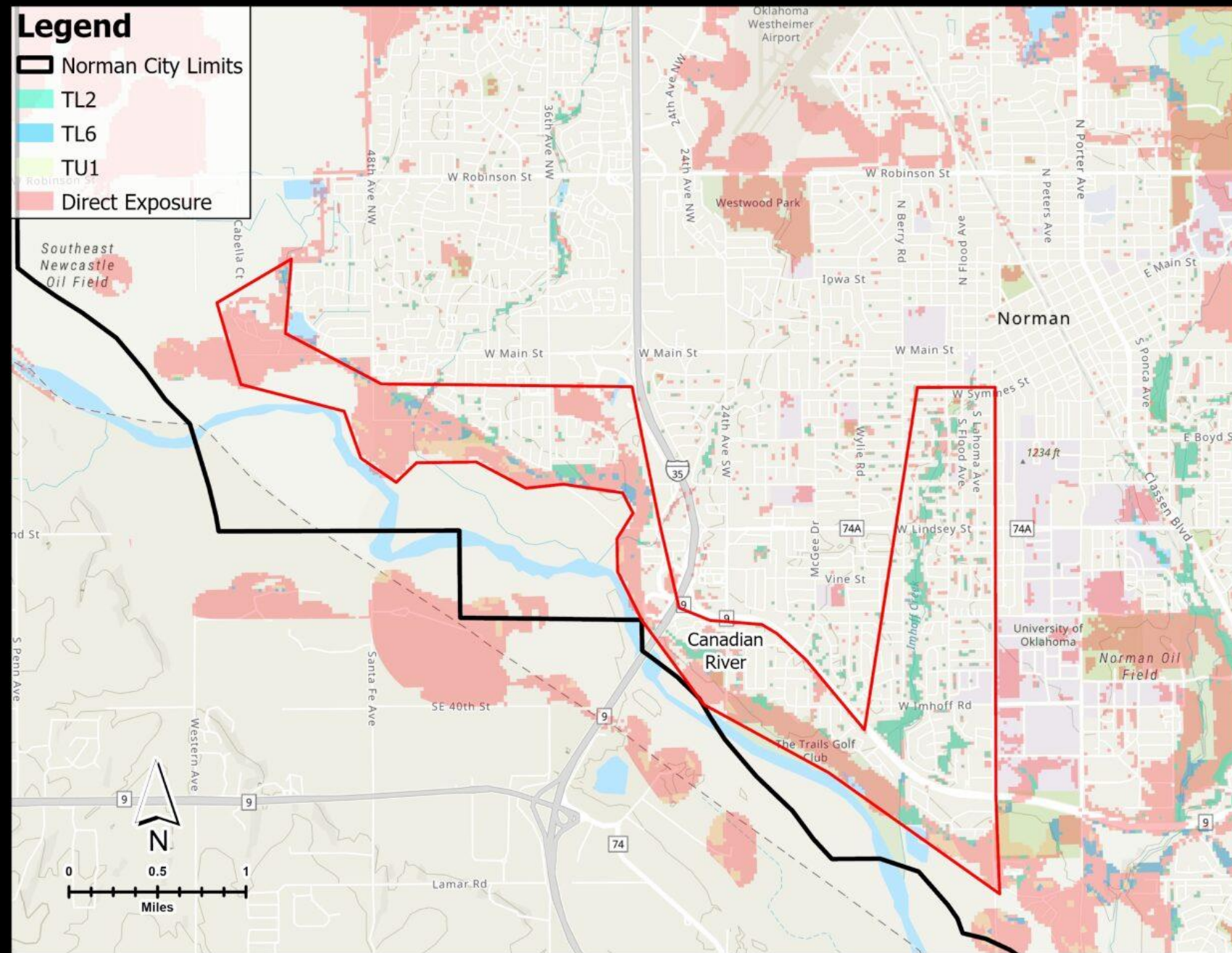


Area Name	Description
Canadian River	A 2,269-acre area runs through rural and urbanized areas, with riparian vegetation and grasslands
Thunderbird State Park	A 23,204-acre recreational area with dense forests, grasslands, and a large lake
Saxon Park	A 477-acre park with wooded areas and grasslands, surrounded by residential areas
Hall Park	A 617-acre public park with a mix of wooded areas and open grasslands, surrounded by residential neighborhoods
Royal Oaks Park	A 102-acre park area with wooded and grassy sections, located near residential developments
Little River	A 5,601-acre natural corridor with riparian zones, rural communities
Sutton Wilderness	A 627-acre park with grasslands and red cedar encroachment, located near homes
Ruby Grand Park	A 148-acre developed park with sports fields, trails, and open spaces

Canadian River

Fuel Type – FBFM40	Description
TL2 (Timber litter)	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.
TL6 (Timber litter)	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.
TU1 (Timber Understory)	Fuel bed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.

Vulnerabilities	Recommended Mitigation Actions
Limited access for emergency response	Fuel reduction along riverbanks.
Nearby residential areas with vulnerable populations	<p>Creation of firebreaks and defensible space</p> <p>Improve access routes for emergency response.</p> <p>Public education on evacuation plans</p>

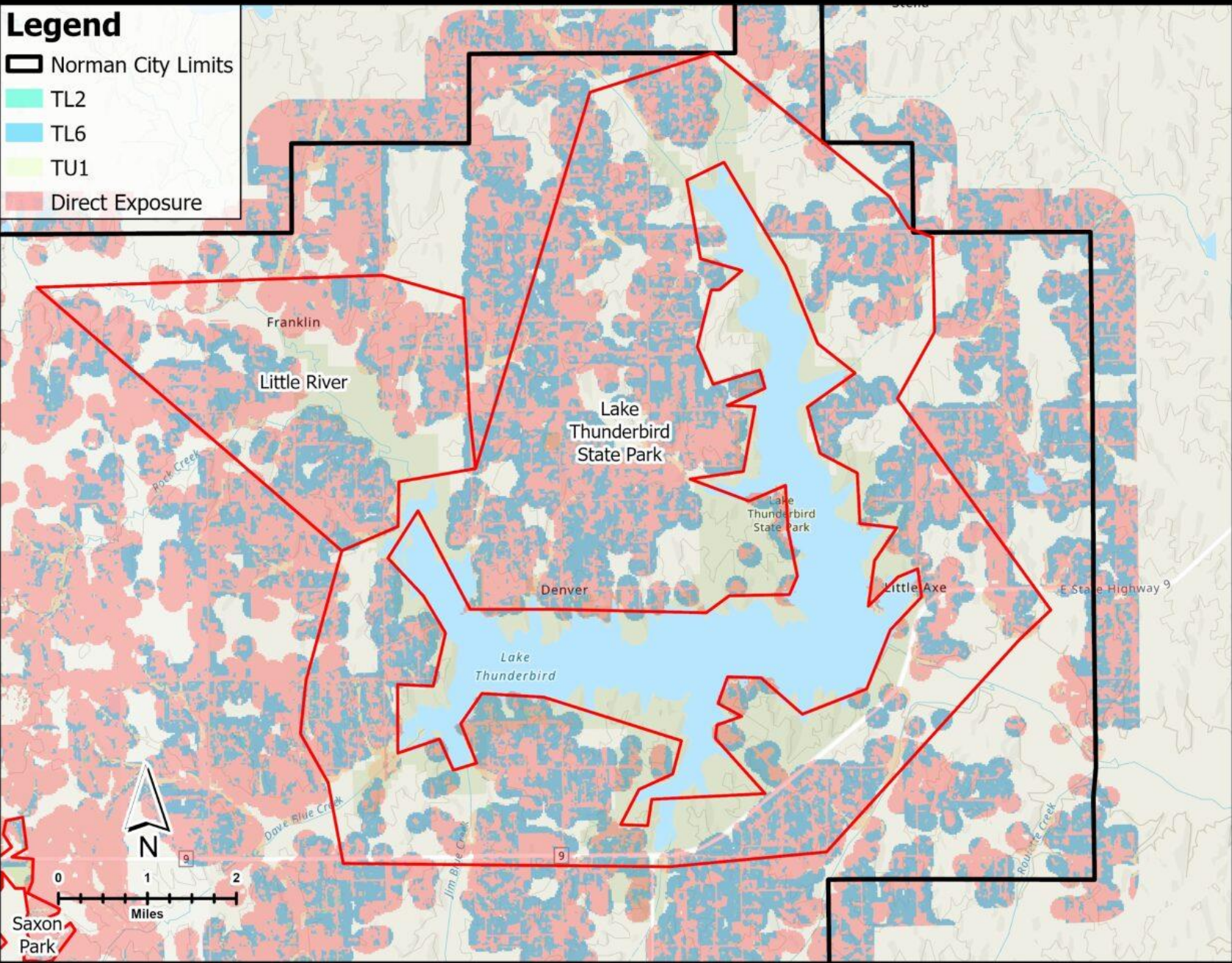


Thunderbird State Park

Fuel Type – FBFM40	Description
TL2 (Timber litter)	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.
TL6 (Timber litter)	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.
TU1 (Timber Understory)	Fuel bed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.

Vulnerabilities	Recommended Mitigation Actions
Dense vegetation in the park and proximity to residential areas with limited evacuation routes	<div>Develop fire management plans for the park.</div> <div>Increase defensible space for surrounding homes.</div> <div>Community education and awareness campaigns.</div> <div>Emergency evacuation drills for visitors.</div>

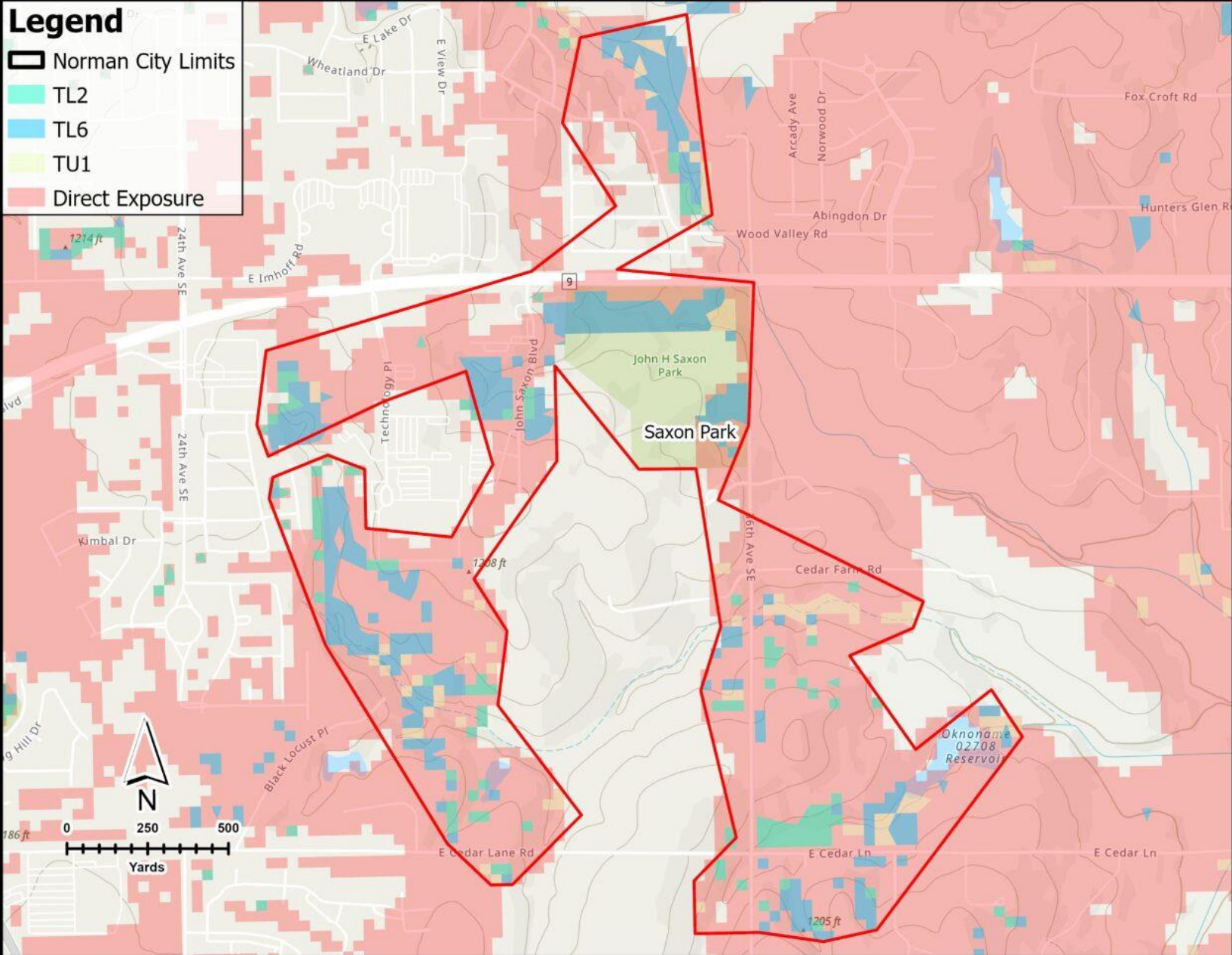
High priority project



Saxon Park

Fuel Type – FBFM40	Description
TL2 (Timber litter)	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.
TL6 (Timber litter)	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.
TU1 (Timber Understory)	Fuel bed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.

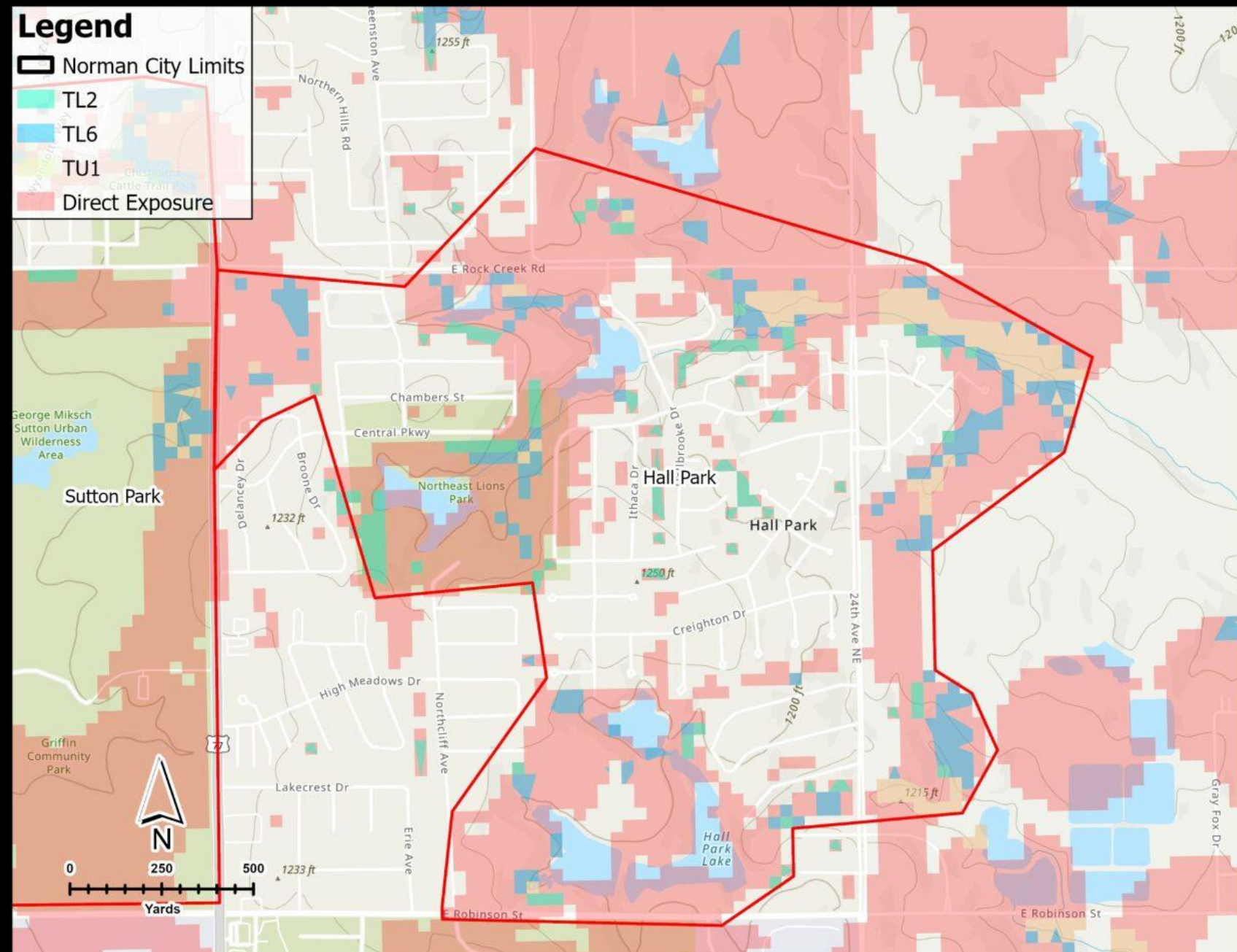
Vulnerabilities	Recommended Mitigation Actions
Proximity to homes, limited access, and high fuel loads in surrounding areas	Focus on invasive species removal, enhance firebreaks, and establish community fire safety programs



Hall Park

Fuel Type – FBFM40	Description
TL2 (Timber litter)	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.
TL6 (Timber litter)	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.
TU1 (Timber Understory)	Fuel bed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.

Vulnerabilities	Recommended Mitigation Actions
Dense vegetation within the park and residential areas with limited defensible space	<p>Fuel reduction and defensible space around the park.</p> <p>Improved firebreaks and access routes for firefighters</p> <p>Community outreach and education on wildfire risks</p>

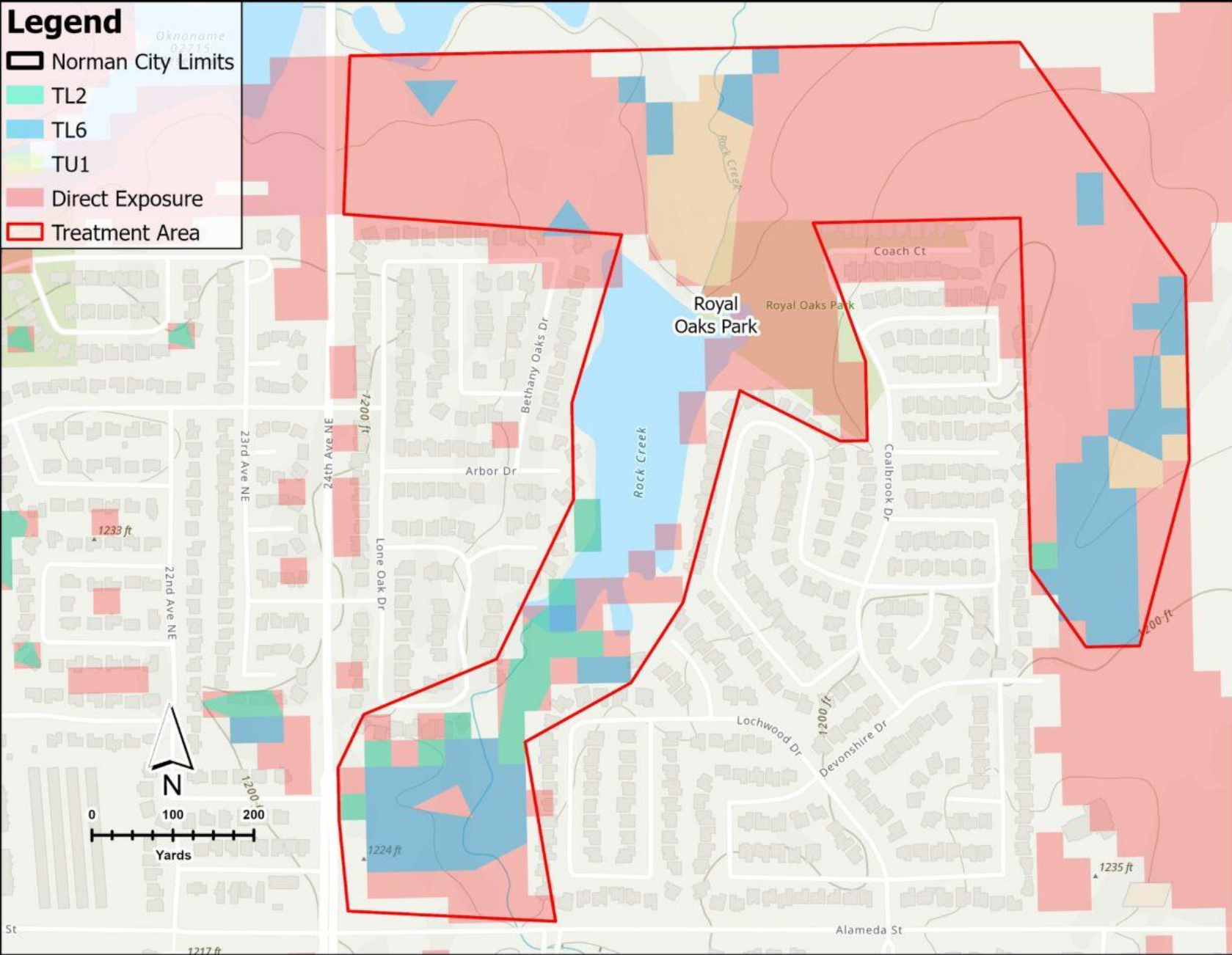


Royal Oaks Park

Fuel Type – FBFM40	Description
TL2 (Timber litter)	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.
TL6 (Timber litter)	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.
TU1 (Timber Understory)	Fuel bed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.

Vulnerabilities	Recommended Mitigation Actions
Dense vegetation in the park and limited access for fire suppression teams	<div>Increase defensible space for nearby homes.</div> <div>Fuel reduction within the park.</div> <div>Improve evacuation routes for residents.</div> <div>Fire-resistant building materials for nearby homes.</div>

Moderate priority project

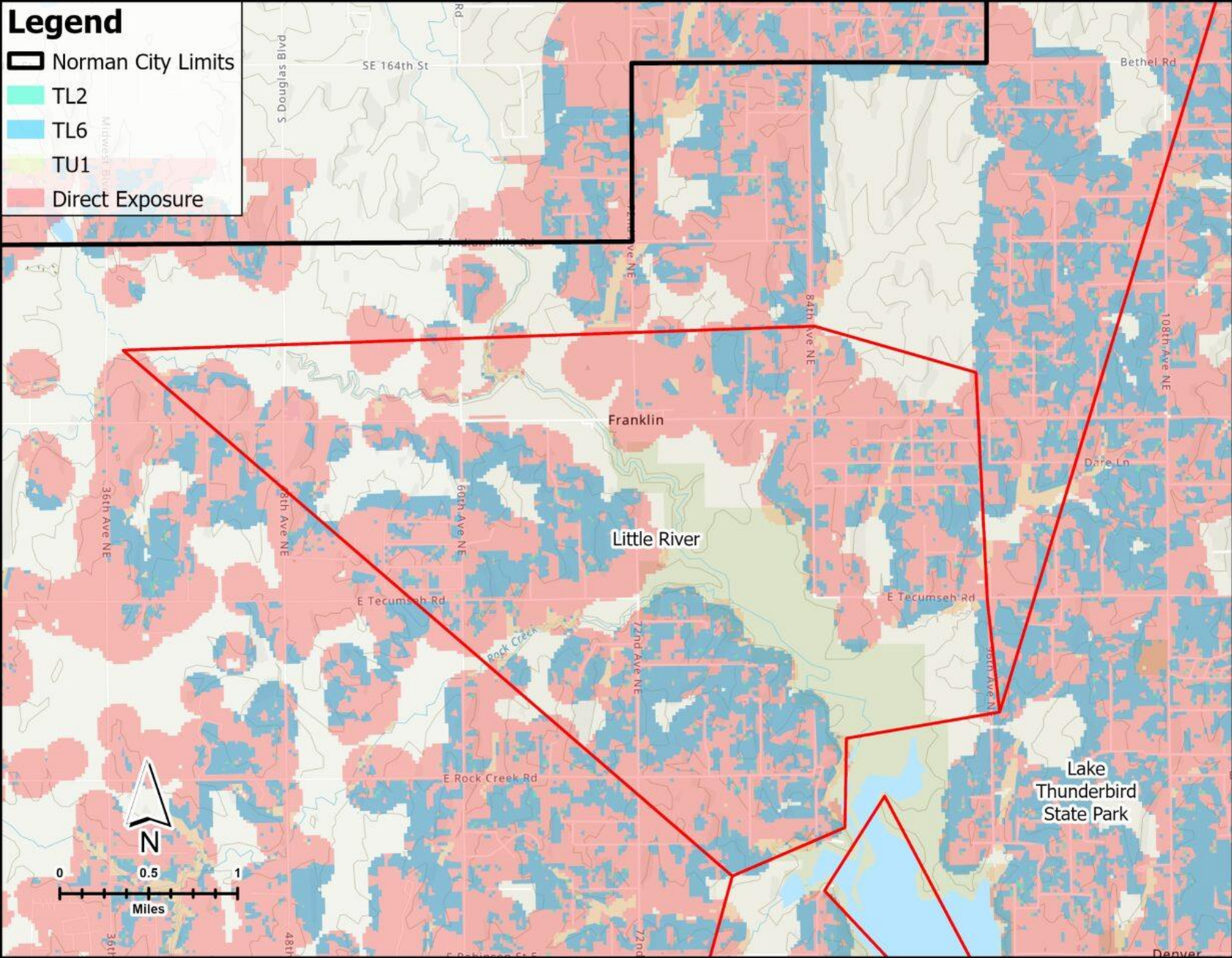


Little River

Fuel Type – FBFM40	Description
TL2 (Timber litter)	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.
TL6 (Timber litter)	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.
TU1 (Timber Understory)	Fuel bed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.

Vulnerabilities	Recommended Mitigation Actions
Dense brush and forested areas along the river, limited evacuation routes, and rural areas with agricultural activity and livestock at risk	Fuel management and defensible space for rural properties. Community engagement on fire prevention. Improve road access and create firebreaks in critical areas

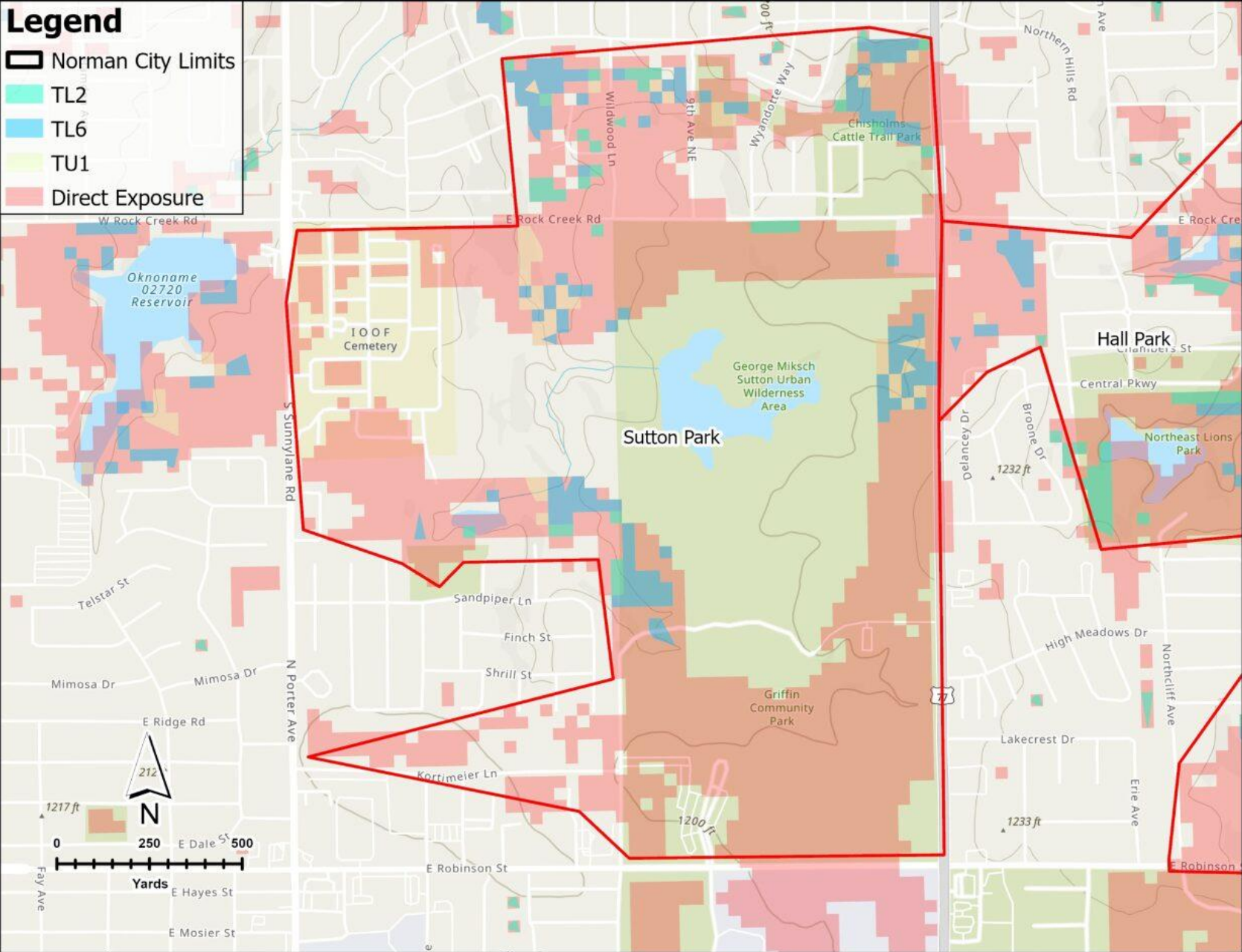
Moderate priority project



Sutton Wilderness

Fuel Type – FBFM40	Description
TL2 (Timber litter)	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.
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TU1 (Timber Understory)	Fuel bed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.

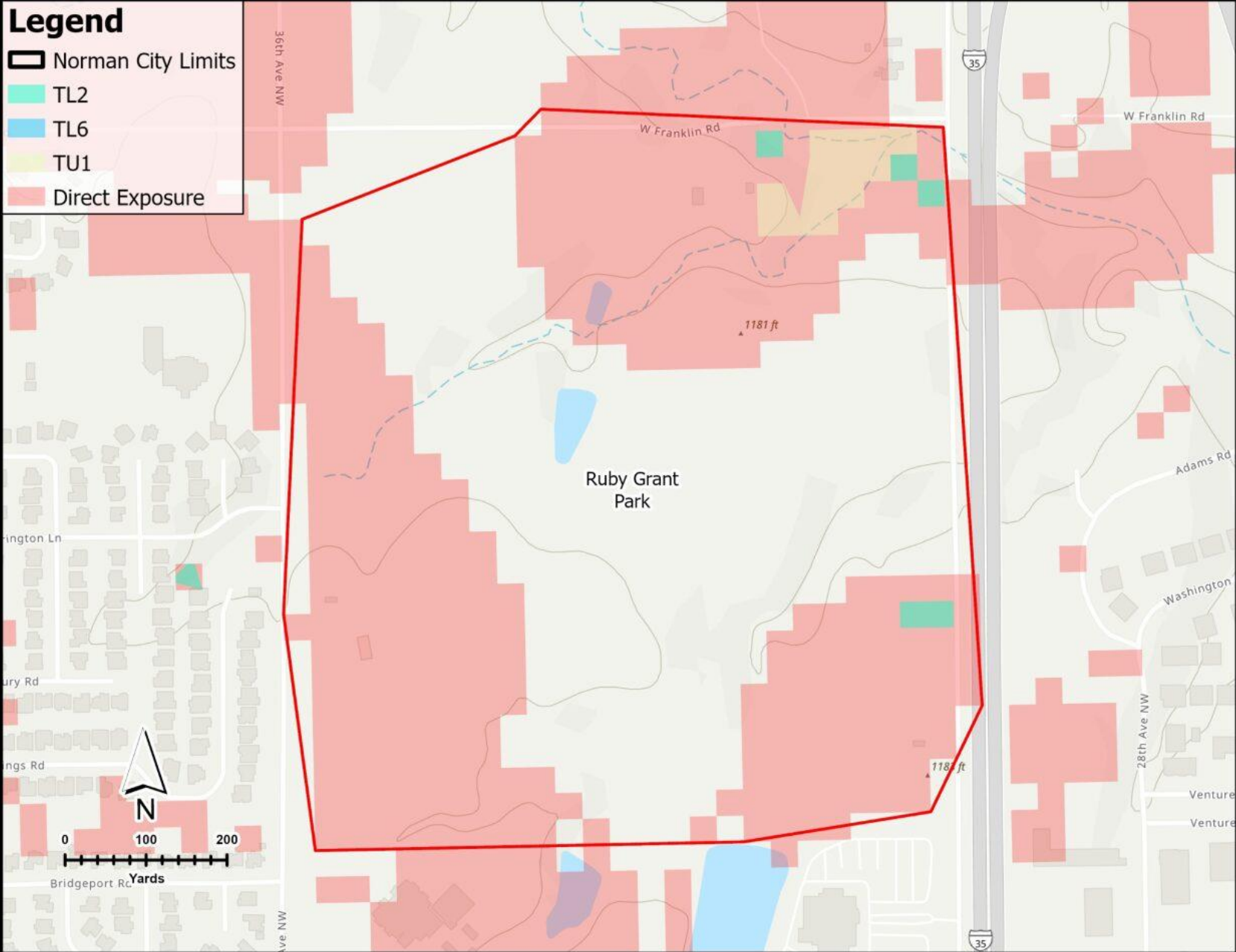
Vulnerabilities	Recommended Mitigation Actions
Residential proximity and limited evacuation routes	Conduct prescribed burns, reduce invasive species, and improve community fire preparedness.



Ruby Grant Park

Fuel Type – FBFM40	Description
TL2 (Timber litter)	Low load, compact. Spread rate is very low; flame length is very low.
TL6 (Timber litter)	Moderate load, less compact. Spread rate moderate; flame length low.
TU1 (Timber Understory)	Fuel bed is low load of grass and/or shrub with litter. Spread rate low; flame length low.

Vulnerabilities	Recommended Mitigation Actions
Lack of defensible space around park infrastructure	Clear vegetation around high-risk areas, install fire barriers, and educate the public on fire safety.





Recommendations

- Fuel reduction and vegetation management
- Enhanced defensible space
- Evacuation Planning and Access Improvement
- Community Outreach and Public Education
- Emergency Response Capacity Building
- Infrastructure protection (e.g., BPA lines, hospitals, communication corridors)
- Enhanced Interagency Coordination
- Regulatory updates, incentives, and community outreach

Next Steps



- **Seek Funding and Resources**
 - Apply for state and federal grants (e.g., FEMA, U.S. Forest Service, Oklahoma Forestry Services) to fund fuels reduction, public education, and mitigation infrastructure.
 - Partner with local nonprofits, utilities, or businesses for support.
- **Implement Mitigation Measures**
 - Carry out vegetation management/fuels reduction in high-risk areas (e.g., prescribed burns, thinning, defensible space creation).
 - Improve infrastructure: fire breaks, signage, access roads, water sources.
 - Incorporate CWPP priorities into land use planning and building codes.
- **Community Engagement and Education**
 - Launch public education campaigns on fire safety, evacuation planning, and home hardening.
 - Conduct workshops, drills, and outreach events to keep residents informed and involved.

Thank You!



We appreciate your support and contributions.

- Colin Zink, City Forester
- James Briggs, Park Development Manager
- Joel Chessser, Assistant Fire Chief



Questions?

**Thank you allowing us to be a part of
your community planning!**

