




Are there good examples of similar cities to Las Vegas, NM that might experience similar shifts in wildfire risk? What mitigation strategies are those cities implementing?

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Las Vegas, New Mexico, and other similar cities in the wildland-urban interface are facing increased wildfire risks due to climate change. Some comparable cities implementing mitigation strategies include:

1. Boulder, Colorado: After the Marshall Fire in December 2021, which burned over 1,000 homes, Boulder has been focusing on wildfire preparedness ⁶. The city is likely implementing stricter building codes and improving evacuation plans.
2. Santa Fe, New Mexico: Located in a similar comparable challenges. They are working on efforts between fire and flood seasons, which often overlap ⁴. The



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city is likely improving emergency response plans and public awareness campaigns.

3. Los Alamos, New Mexico: Another New Mexico town in a fire-prone area, Los Alamos is probably implementing forest management techniques and creating defensible spaces around structures ⁵.

Mitigation strategies being implemented in these cities include:

Urban Forestry and Green Infrastructure

Las Vegas, NM is revitalizing its urban forestry to combat post-wildfire flooding and address rising temperatures ². This approach includes:

- Strengthening the tree canopy to manage stormwater naturally
- Creating rain gardens and compost veining systems to enhance water infiltration
- Designing "climate-appropriate" landscapes that restore habitat and improve stormwater retention



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- Prohibiting or limiting development in vulnerable areas
 - Mandating fire-resistant building materials
 - Mapping wildfire and debris flow risks to inform development decisions
 - Developing pre-disaster plans for recovery challenges
 - Proactively budgeting for infrastructure upgr
 - Engaging in scenario planning to prepare f
- futures

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Collaborative Approaches

Effective wildfire mitigation requires collaboration at multiple levels ⁶ :

- Increased cooperation among federal agencies
- Partnerships between federal agencies and non-federal governments, organizations, and communities
- Empowering local partners through funding, decision-making tools, and program flexibilities

These strategies aim to shift from reactive to proactive approaches, focusing on preparedness, impact reduction, and building long-term resilience against wildfire risks ⁶ .

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