



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska

Parks & Recreation Department

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630

P.O. Box 196650

Anchorage, AK 99519

Tel 907-343-4355

URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 12th 2025

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

Cc: Shanna Gamble, Acting Director

From: Jon Glover, AFD Wildfire Division Chief

Project: PRC 25-12: Wildfire Mitigation Overview 2025

INTRODUCTION

This memo outlines a series of proposed wildfire mitigation fuel break projects across the Municipality of Anchorage. These projects are designed to enhance fire resilience and reduce the growing threat wildfires pose to life, property, and critical infrastructure in high-risk wildland urban interface (WUI) areas. As climate conditions trend warmer and drier, proactive fuel treatment has become a key strategy in ensuring community safety, maintaining access routes, and supporting effective emergency response operations.

BACKGROUND

Anchorage faces significant wildfire risks, particularly in hillside and heavily wooded neighborhoods with limited access and egress routes. Over the last seven months, Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Division has worked closely with landowners, community councils, and partner agencies to identify priority zones for strategic fuel breaks. These projects focus on areas with dense vegetation, large populations, vulnerable infrastructure, and limited evacuation options.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

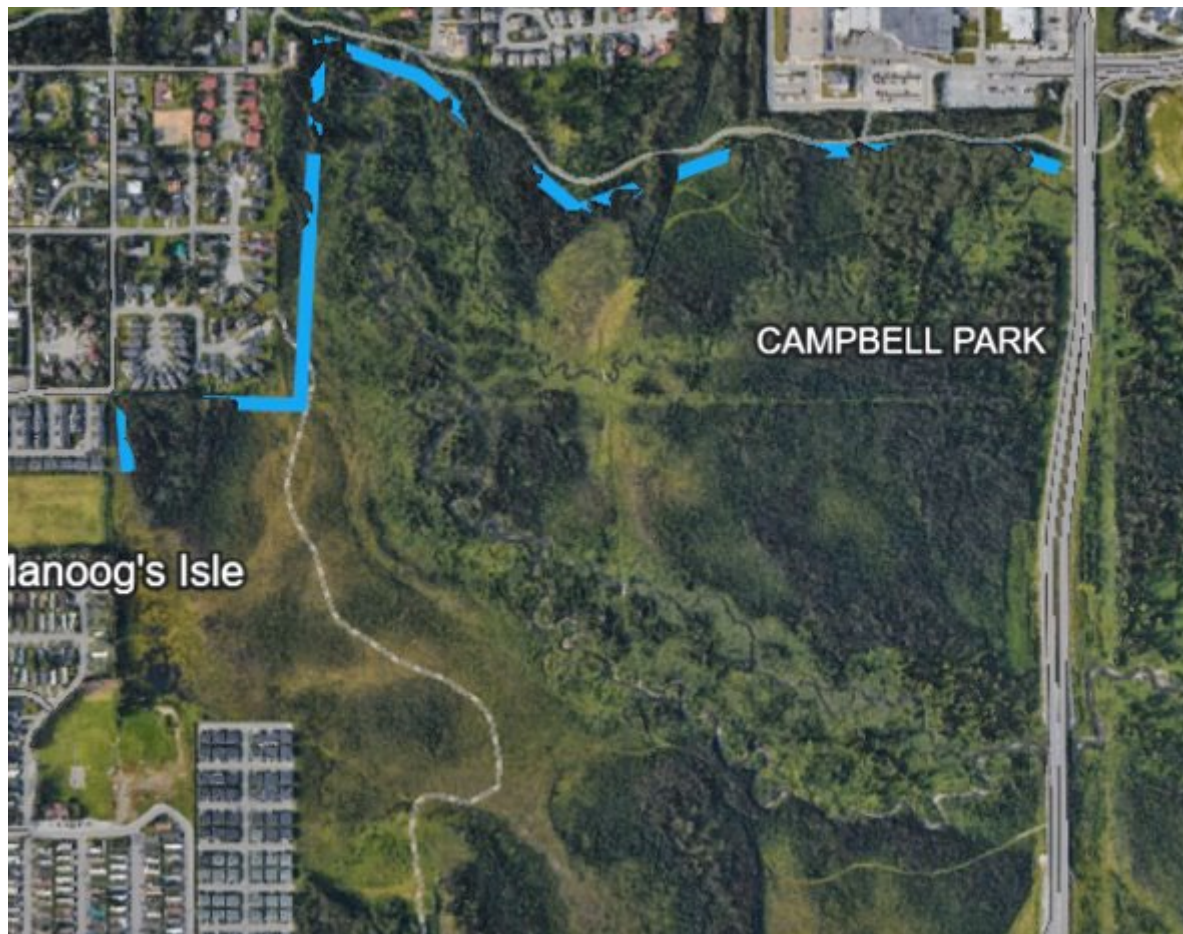
1. Potter Fuel Break

- **Location:** Potter Creek-Golden View Dr, Pennington Park subdivision
- **Objective:** 200' shaded fuel break
- **Methods:** Mastication & hand crews
- **Impact:** 36.5 acres treated, \$1.28B in property protected, 3,613 residents, 1,900 properties
- **Timeline:** Start 2026, duration 4 months
- **Partners & Land Ownership:** HLB, AWWU, MOA Real Estate; partners include Rabbit Creek CC, HALO, WUI Community Action Team



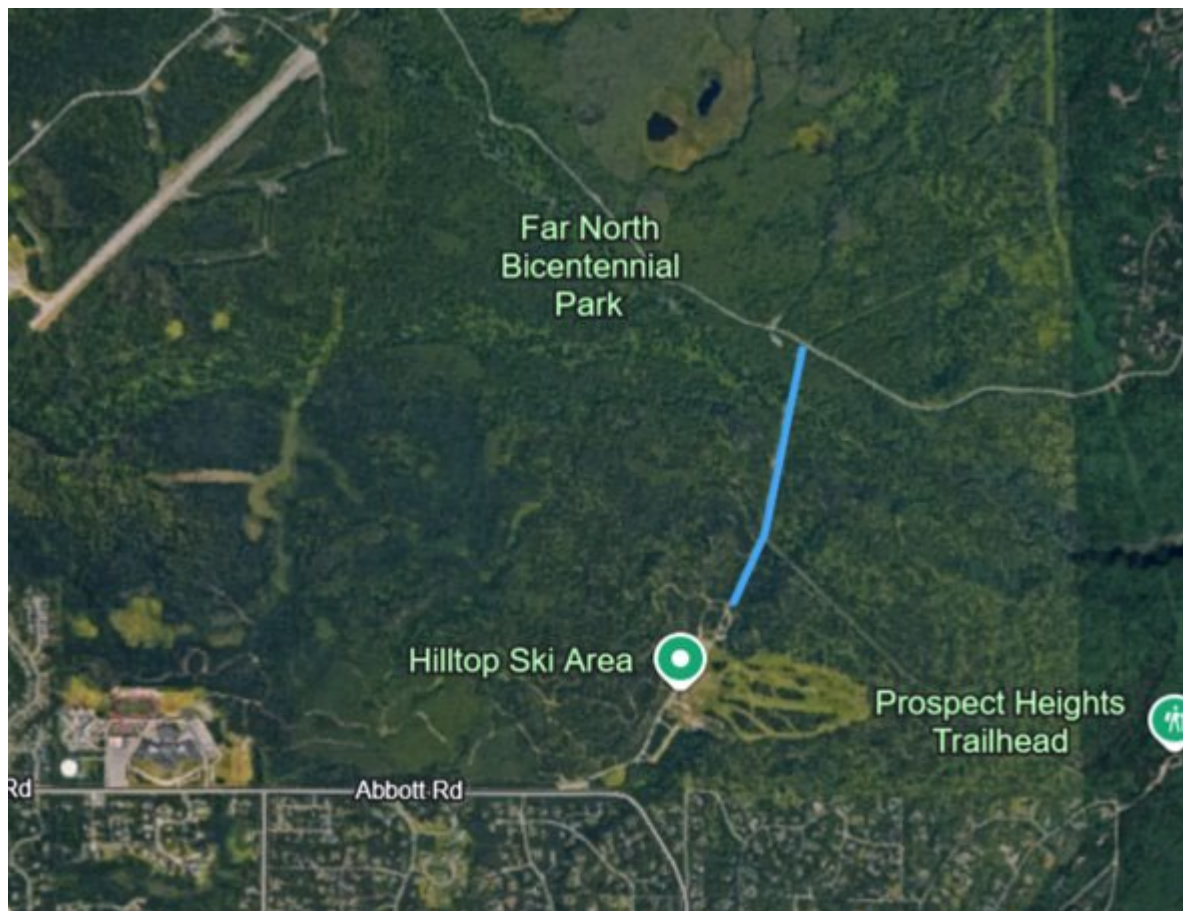
2. Campbell Park Fuel Break

- **Location:** North side of Campbell Park trail, west perimeter
- **Objective:** 150' shaded fuel break
- **Methods:** Hand crew w/chipper or mastication
- **Impact:** 20 acres treated, \$377M in property protected, 2,726 residents
- **Timeline:** Summer 2025, 3 months duration
- **Key Assets:** APD communication tower, municipal facilities
- **Ownership:** MOA Parks; support needed from Campbell Park CC



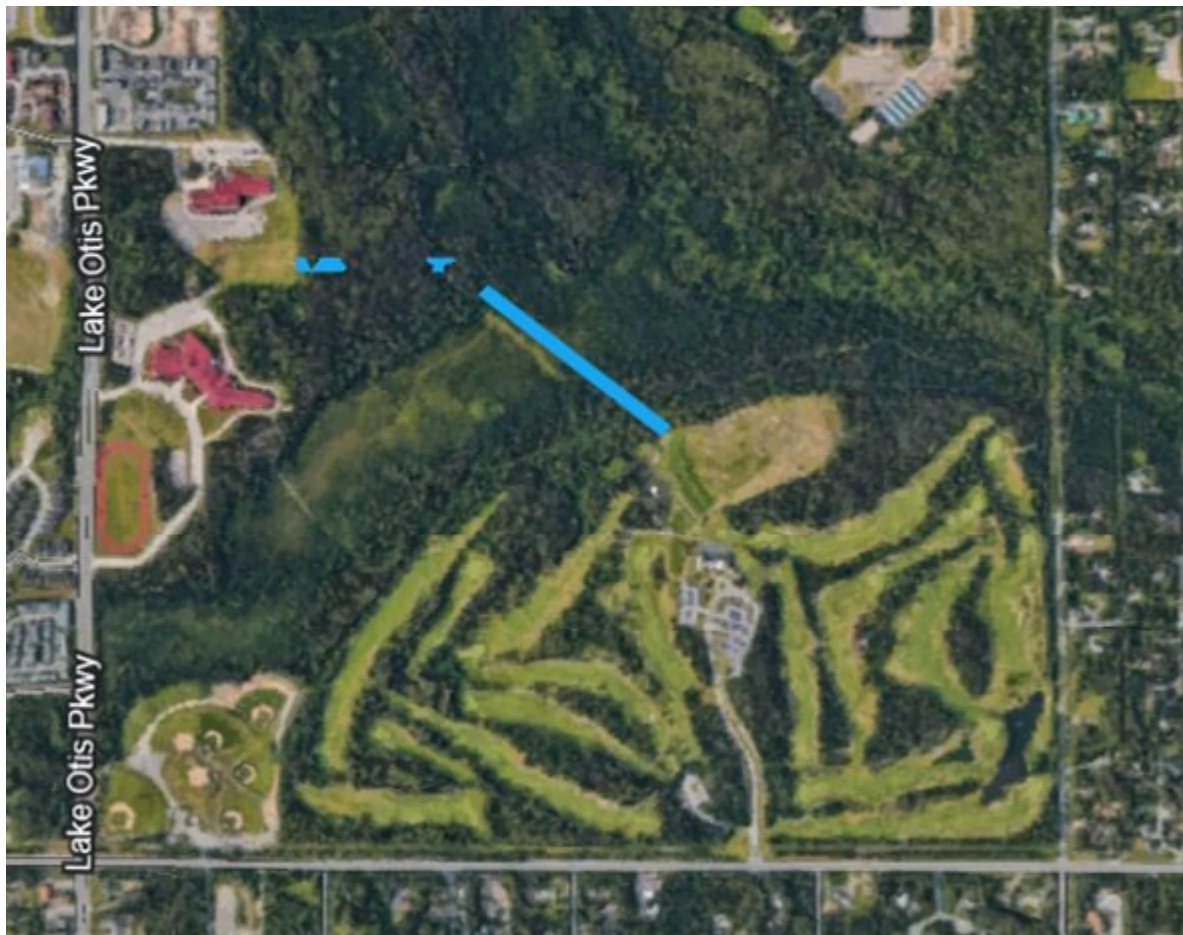
3. Gasline Trail Fuel Break

- **Location:** Hilltop Ski Area to Campbell Airstrip Rd
- **Objective:** 200' shaded fuel break
- **Methods:** Mastication, hand, chipping
- **Impact:** 15.82 acres; key corridor protection; connects with Campbell Airstrip Rd project
- **Timeline:** Start 2026, 6 months
- **Partners:** Hillside CC, HALO, Singletrack users



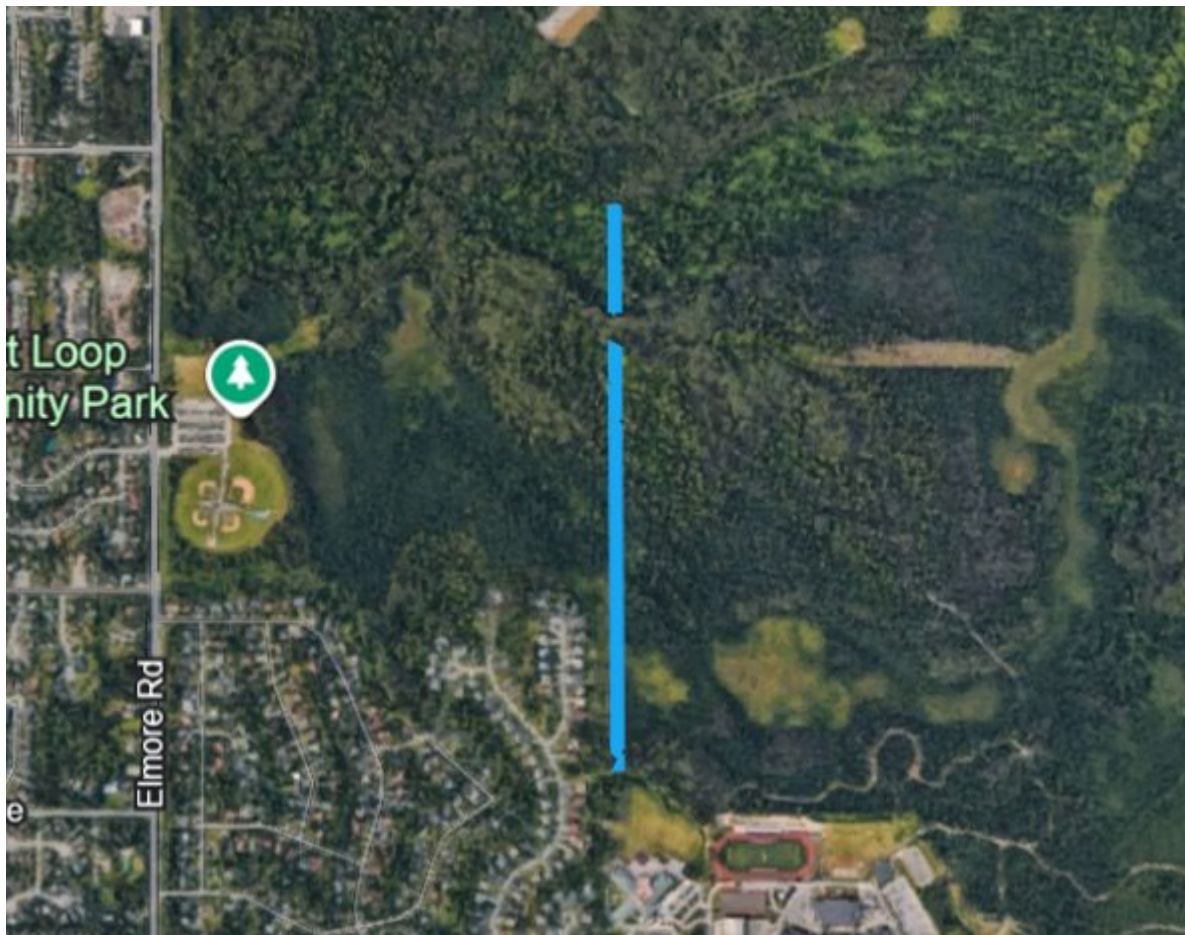
4. Spring Hill Fuel Break

- **Location:** NW of Anchorage Golf Course to Spring Hill Elementary
- **Objective:** 200' shaded fuel break
- **Methods:** Mastication & hand
- **Impact:** 10.62 acres, \$2.21B protected, 34,612 residents, 4,752 parcels
- **Timeline:** Summer 2025, 3 months
- **Partners:** HALO, Huffman/O'Malley CC, WUI CAT



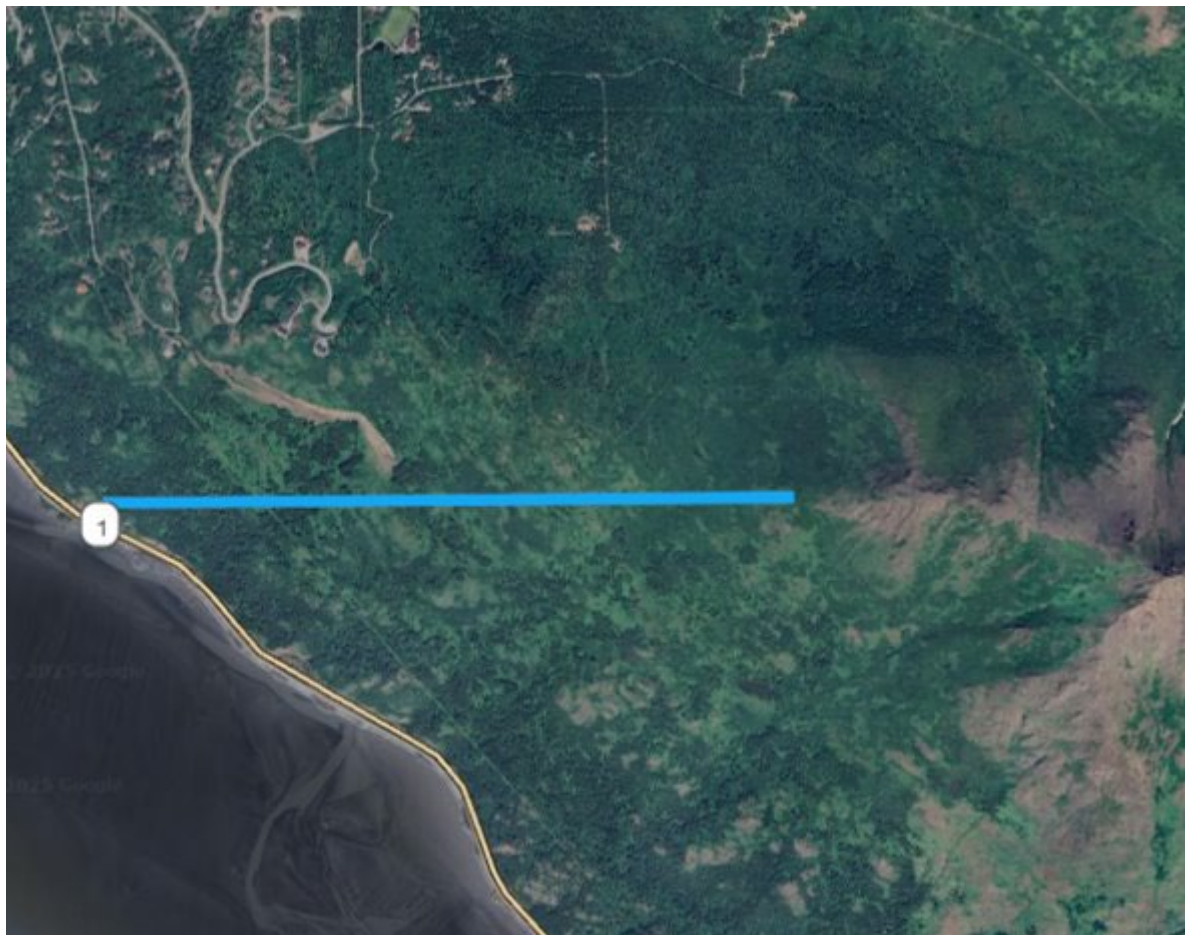
5. Sahalee Fuel Break

- **Location:** North of Service HS, east of private property to BLM lands
- **Objective:** 200' shaded fuel break
- **Methods:** Mastication & hand
- **Impact:** 15.8 acres, \$258M protected, 930 residents
- **Timeline:** 2025, 6 months
- **Ownership:** MOA-ASD, AWWU, Parks; partners include BLM, WUI CAT



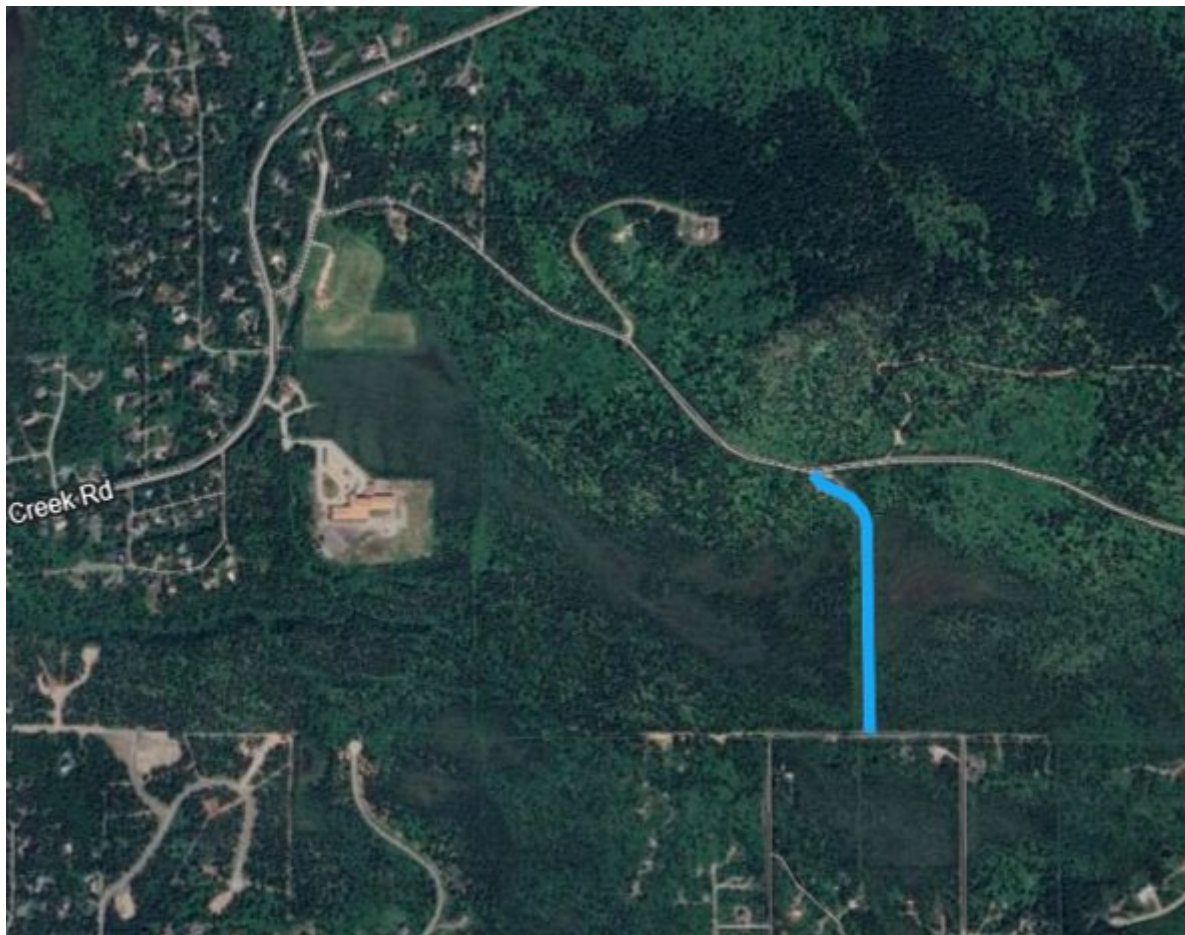
6. McHugh Fuel Break

- **Location:** McHugh Peak to Seward Hwy
- **Objective:** 200' shaded fuel break
- **Methods:** Mastication & hand
- **Impact:** 33.7 acres, \$263.7M protected, 914 residents, 614 properties
- **Timeline:** 2026, 6 months
- **Ownership:** State DNR; partners: WUI CAT



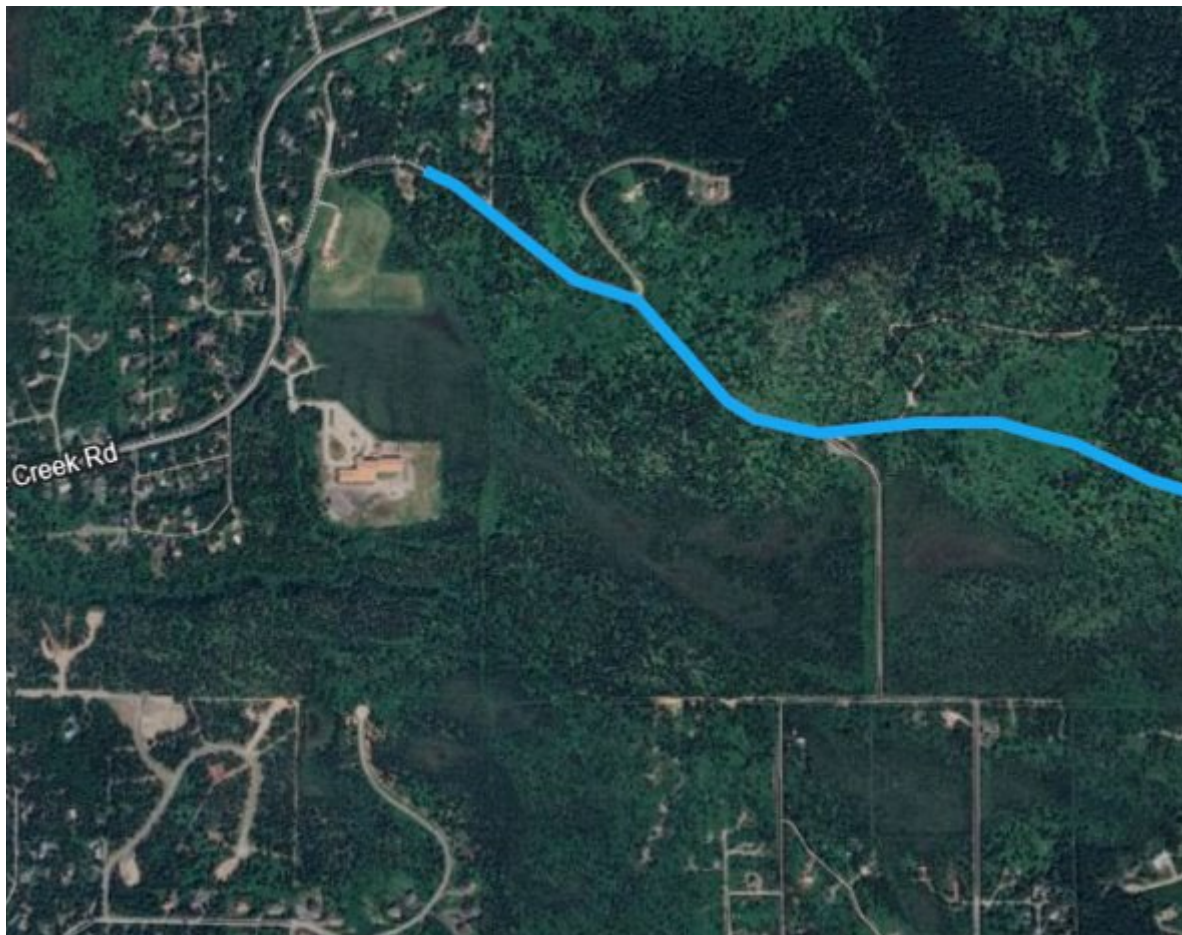
7. Heights Hill Fuel Break

- **Location:** Heights Hill from Clarks to Jamie Ave
- **Objective:** 100' clear cut along west side of road
- **Methods:** Mastication
- **Impact:** 31 acres, \$158M protected, 775 residents
- **Timeline:** 2025, 6 months
- **Ownership:** HLB; partners: HALO, Hillside CC



8. Clarks Road Fuel Break

- **Location:** East of 7220 Clarks Rd to Kings Way Dr
- **Objective:** 100' shaded fuel break on both sides of road
- **Methods:** Mastication & hand
- **Impact:** 31 acres, \$158M protected, 775 residents
- **Timeline:** Late 2025 (pending funding), 6 months
- **Ownership:** HLB, MOA Parks; partners: HALO, Hillside CC, WUI CAT



PUBLIC PROCESS

Each project will include robust public outreach including community council presentations, municipal website updates, social media messaging, and engagement through the Wildland Urban Interface Community Action Team. Public comment will be encouraged before final scope approval. Some projects will require formal resolutions of support from community councils.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends advancing the outlined fuel break projects on schedule as proposed. These efforts are vital to reducing wildfire risk in vulnerable neighborhoods, protecting community infrastructure, and preserving safe evacuation routes. Early planning, interagency coordination, and transparent community engagement will be key to ensuring successful implementation across the Municipality.



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PRC RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08
Wildfire Mitigation Overview 2025

WHEREAS, the risk of wildfire across the Municipality of Anchorage is increasing due to warming, drying, low snowpack, earlier start to fire season, threatening life, property, and infrastructure in wildland urban interface (WUI) areas; and

WHEREAS, fuel breaks are a proven, proactive method to mitigate wildfire risk by reducing hazardous vegetation and improving emergency access and egress routes; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Division has identified and prioritized several key locations for shaded fuel breaks in partnership with landowners, community councils, and interagency partners; and

WHEREAS, the following fuel break projects have been proposed:

- Potter Creek-Golden View
- Campbell Park
- Gasline Trail
- Spring Hill
- Sahalee
- McHugh
- Heights Hill
- Clarks Road

WHEREAS, these projects collectively treat over 190 acres of high-risk land and provide protection to tens of thousands of residents, billions of dollars in property, and critical municipal infrastructure, including communication towers, schools, and single-access neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, all proposed projects will be funded through existing or forthcoming grant mechanisms and do not require direct funding from the Municipality or community councils; and

WHEREAS, these projects will include public outreach and transparency through council engagement, resolutions of support, and community briefings, ensuring public awareness and participation throughout planning and implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports the proposed fuel break projects as a critical step toward increasing Anchorage's wildfire resilience, safeguarding community members and infrastructure, and supporting long-term public safety goals.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of June, 2025.

Chair – Brian Looney
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

Shanna Gamble, Acting Director
Parks & Recreation Department