

What is the Wildfire Fuels Mitigation Project?

In collaboration with: Municipal Parks and Recreation, Anchorage Fire Department, and The Office of Emergency Management



Scope of Work

- To reduce the risk of wildfire to homes the Anchorage Fire Department and MOA Parks & Recreation Department have partnered to remove the fuel for potential hazards.
- Crews will remove dead standing and fallen spruce trees caused by bark beetle infestation from park lands.
- Removing dead, woody material and pruning residual trees will protect nearby homes by decreasing wildfire potential.
- The risk to the trails, park facilities, and trail users from falling trees and debris will also be reduced.
- Work area tracking with ArcGIS Maps:
<https://muniorg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/6262460512ba4c46801e6bb303118315>

Trail Etiquette and Safety

- Please watch for signs indicating that the crews and chippers are working.
- Give them plenty of space while using the park.
- To keep crews and your pets safe please keep your dog(s) leashed and close by when passing work areas.
- Please be aware of noise levels as it may be loud near chainsaw use.
- Pay attention to any chipper machines and vehicles.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is mitigation work being done at these locations?

Answer: Cutting back dead spruce will create safer access for wildfire crews in key locations with high fire risk that must be reached by first responders.

What happens to all that dead spruce once its felled?

Answer: it is either chipped or included in an MOA-Parks and Rec public fire-wood giveaway. Please watch for posted signage on these times and locations throughout the summer.

What about nesting birds and other wildlife?

Answer: Crews will be aware of and avoid animal homes and nests to the best of their ability.

Is it safe to move spruce beetle infested wood?

Answer: Harvested trees should be used or chipped within a year of processing, ideally before the next spring before any beetles begin to spread during their flight period of May-July. It is recommended to cut logs into small lengths, splitting, debarking, or chipping within a year. Stacking firewood to maximize drying, away from other susceptible spruce trees is also important.

Where can I get more information about spruce bark beetles in Alaska?

Answer: Please visit the following website: <https://www.alaskasprucebeetle.org> a collaboration of the U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry & Fire Protection, and the UAF-Cooperative Extension Service.