



Eugene City Council

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www.eugene-or.gov

AMENDED AGENDA EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

February 19, 2020

**12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Harris Hall, 125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401**

**Meeting of February 19, 2020;
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding**

Councilors

Emily Semple, President

Mike Clark

Chris Pryor

Betty Taylor

Jennifer Yeh, Vice President

Greg Evans

Claire Syrett

Alan Zelenka

Note: This agenda was amended to reflect the addition of Item 1.

12:00 p.m. CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

- 1. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e)**
- 2. WORK SESSION: Fuels Reduction Update**

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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Fuels Reduction Update

Meeting Date: February 19, 2020
Department: Fire
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 2
Staff Contact: Fire Chief Chris Heppel
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-7115

ISSUE STATEMENT

The risk of wildfire has become an increasing concern. Eugene's south hills present all the challenges associate with an urban wildland interface area: residential development intermingling with forested areas, steep slopes, and limited egress routes.

BACKGROUND

City Council allocated \$200,000 on July 1, 2019, for fuels reduction work with a workforce development priority. In April, a Wildland Urban Interface Collaboration was started between Eugene Springfield Fire, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space, Northwest Youth Corp, and Oregon Department of Forestry to scope the project. The Southeast Hills Neighborhood Association was selected as the area for this pilot project. Partnerships were established with Oregon State University Extension, Cascade Raptor Center, 4J School District, and the nearby neighborhood association president.

On May 4, 2019, a community informational meeting with a site visit (to one residential property with good defensible space and one that needed some work) was held to kick off the project. Contracts were signed with the Northwest Youth Corp and the Oregon Department of Forestry. The NWYC component of the project was twofold. First, an intern was hired to engage the public and coordinate outreach, education, and the fall boots-on-the-ground work. Second, the NWYC teams conducted the fuels reduction: cutting, thinning, chipping.

The summer months focused on outreach and education. A community chipper weekend was held July 27 – 28, 2019, staffed by representatives from collaboration agencies. Individual property assessments began in earnest in August. Criteria was developed to prioritize the work to be conducted by NWYC teams. Considerations included primary egress routes, number of interested properties in the vicinity, ties in to any other mitigation work in the area, needs of the property, benefit to be gained, etc.

As summer turned to fall and fire season in Oregon came to an end, crews were ready to get to work. Oregon Department of Forestry provided training to the NWYC crews and came in to assist on properties with more complex prescriptions. City of Eugene Parks and Open Space provided the chipper and crews to assist and guide some work on public property and natural areas.

The scheduled work and intern coordination wrapped up the week of November 18, 2019, with approximately 200 acres treated. Remaining contracted funds to Oregon Department of Forestry and Northwest Youth Corp are currently being used to: 1) provide some additional cleanup and chipping of downed material in the Mt. Baldy and Raptor Center areas; 2) provide some chipping assistance to the Hendrick's Hill and TreeHouse homeowners associations' planned cleanup project; and 3) engage with Team Rubicon regarding what resources, skills and capacity they have to support ongoing efforts.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Information
- B. Promoting Healthy Forests Flyer
- C. Tip Sheet
- D. Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction Project

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Staff Contact: Fire Chief Chris Heppel

Telephone: 541-682-7115

Staff E-Mail: CHeppe1@eugene-or.gov

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

A CWPP is a plan developed by a community in an area at-risk from wildfire. The Community Wildfire Protection Planning process is the collaboration between communities and agencies interested in reducing wildfire risk. A valid CWPP has three minimum requirements. First, the plan must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties. Second, the plan must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments, as well as recommending methods of treatments that will protect at-risk communities and essential infrastructure. Third, the plan must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) requires that three decision-makers mutually agree to the final contents of the CWPP. The three are the applicable local government (i.e. counties or cities), the local fire department(s) and the State entity responsible for forest management (ODF). These three are directed to consult with and involve local representatives of the USFS and BLM and other interested parties or persons in the development of the CWPP.

The statutory definition of a CWPP appears in Title I of the HFRA. The HFRA decrees that communities, which have a CWPP in place, will be a priority for receiving hazardous fuels reduction funding administered by the USFS and BLM.

Lane County is currently updating their 2005 CWPP. The update includes new wildfire risk maps from OSU/ODF's Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer and guiding action items for the next 5 years of plan implementation. The city of Eugene along with other cities, rural fire protection districts, federal and restoration land managers have been engaged to inform an "Opportunities Map". Each stakeholder has provided a map with identified locations of concern within and surrounding their communities. The update is expected to be submitted for Commissioner Approval by summer of 2020.

Additional Resources

2005 Lane County CWPP

https://www.lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/public_works/land_management_division/land_use_planning_zoning/lane_county_community_wildfire_protection_plan

Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer

https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE_HtmlViewer/index.html?viewer=wildfireplanning#

The City of Ashland's CWPP

<https://www.ashland.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=13513>

PROTECT YOUR HOME, LAND AND COMMUNITY FROM WILDFIRE WHILE PROMOTING HEALTHY FORESTS

ATTACHMENT B

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is using grant money from the Western States Fire Managers USFS Grant Program in the form of an ODF Fuels Reduction Crew, landowner Rebates and Cost-Shares to fund eligible residents and community projects that will protect structures and reduce risks of wildfire on private property.

**Funds are limited and projects have already begun in your area.
Call today to schedule an onsite assessment with your local ODF Fire Planning Coordinator!**

Our Goal:

Healthy Forests

- Retain native, fire resistant trees and shrubs.
- **Mimic healthy forest disturbance** previously provided naturally by surface fires.
- Remove small, stunted, dead and disease prone trees
- Clear understory invasive species.
- Reduce potential for forest fires and fire spread rate by thinning understory.
- Improve resiliency to insects & diseases.



Firewise Communities

- Organized efforts from the community are more effective in reducing wildfire hazards.
- Firewise helps communities organize around wildfire protection & prevention goals.
- Firewise creates connections with local, regional, state, and federal fire response organizations.
- <http://www.firewise.org>



Grant Matching Dollars for Landowner Cost Share & Rebate Projects

- Cost share and rebate funding is available to offset some of the costs of defensible space and cost-share (away from structures) projects using forest restoration science and techniques, possibly including prescribed burning.
- Landowners can hire a contractor, complete the project themselves, or a combination of both.
- Ten year maintenance is required



Fuels Crew Projects

- All projects completed by an Oregon Department of Forestry Fuels Reduction crew are at **no cost to the landowner**.
- Create a 100+ foot safety buffer using healthy forest techniques to protect your home, surrounding structures and fire fighters (defensible space).
- Create 20 foot buffers along driveways and shared roads allowing fire engines to safely approach the house.
- Ten year **maintenance is required**



It's Just Not Possible To:

- Remove Large Dead Trees (Diameter over 10 inches).
- Remove tree limbs overhanging houses or work where there is a potential to damage houses, fences or other personal property.
- Work on your neighbors property without their interest and consent.
- Provide compensation for work already completed.



Want to Know More?

Please contact the Fire Planning Coordinator at the Western Lane District of the Oregon Department of Forestry with questions or to schedule a site visit. Phone: 458-201-1174. E-mail: alex.j.rahmlow@oregon.gov
Mail: 87950 Territorial Rd. Veneta, OR 97487



10 Tips

One Reason



1 Define Your Defensible Space

Create 30 – 100 feet of fire-resistant space around your home to prevent fires from starting near or spreading to your home.

2 Reduce Flammable Brush Around Your Home and Under Nearby Trees

Trim or remove brush to eliminate a direct path for fire to reach your home or spread into trees.

3 Prune or Remove Trees

Prune low hanging branches and thin out dense stands to reduce the potential for fire to reach tree tops and spread to other trees.

4 Keep Grass and Weeds Cut Low

Trim grass and weeds to less than 4" to prevent rapid spread of fire and high flames.

5 Clear Wood Piles and Building Materials Away from Your Home

Keep combustible materials at least 30 feet away from your home and outbuildings. Keep all brush and weeds at least 10 feet away from wood piles and propane and fuel tanks.

6 Keep Your Yard and Roof Clean

Clear pine needles, leaves and debris from your yard, deck, roof and gutters to reduce places where embers can smolder and ignite your home. Remove overhanging and dead tree branches.

7 Keep Address Signs Visible

Post easy-to-read address signs and trim vegetation away from driveways so emergency personnel can find and access your home quickly.

8 Choose Fire-Resistant Building Materials and Lawn Furniture

Use fire-resistant roofing, siding, decking and fencing materials. Choose non-combustible lawn furniture to prevent the spread of fire to your home. Install and maintain spark arrestors on chimneys.

9 Recycle Yard Debris – Avoid Burning

Instead of burning, recycle or compost your yard waste.

10 Be Prepared to Respond to Wildfire

Keep a 72-hour kit handy. Know evacuation routes from your neighborhood and practice them with your family, using a checklist of what to do before leaving.



ACT NOW

Follow these tips today to protect your home from being destroyed or damaged by wildfire.

February 19, 2020, Work Session – Item 2

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE
FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

Ian Appow







WUI FUELS REDUCTION **PROJECT**

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WUI FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Ian Appow



Dear Partners,

The past few months of this project has been quite the journey! Not so long ago, our best options were cold calls and going door to door in hopes of finding interest in the program from residents. Five months later, we have an overflow of community members insisting on wanting to know what comes next for this project and how they can get involved.

When this project started, I called fifteen different established community fuel reduction programs in California and Oregon, asking for advice on how to achieve sustained success for this type of work. When they asked what we were doing, all of them thought as admirable as it was, our project mission was going to be impossible to pull off starting from scratch with only a five-month window.

"Present equitable opportunities for as many residents of the Southeast Neighborhood to improve the community's wildfire resiliency"

This program is groundbreaking, and I couldn't be prouder of this team. We have given this community hope. Too many people initially reached out overwhelmed with fear in how they could survive if a wildfire sparked in their neighborhood, and now? They're hosting meetings, giving presentations, and pushing city council for more programs like ours. Your organizations have earned these people's trust in ways that will have them championing you not only now, but for years to come.

I also want to take a moment to thank the exceptional young women and men of the Northwest Youth Corps crews that executed this tremendous task over the past few months.

"These crews comprised of young adults are involved not only to gain fieldwork experience but to specifically develop workforce opportunities within the Fire Service, Forest Service, Land Management, Urban Forestry, and Park departments"

I'm not sure many of them had any idea what "fuels reduction" meant coming into this project, yet quickly became the real ambassadors of this program for the community. There was every possible bit of diversity thrown at them, and yet they prevailed through over 200 acres of treated properties. I honestly believe that their involvement was what made this experience special for so many homeowners; it was honest work, by honest working youth, something that inspires all of us. To quantify this further, the crews had multiple instances where neighbors made them food as thanks and offer them keys to their house so they could use the bathrooms or warm-up on colder days. I hope that they were able to realize how much of a positive impact their past few months have been for not only the collaboration but for the Southeast Neighborhood.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the partners in the collaboration for turning what started as an internship position into a passion project for me. The experience has been immeasurable in what I can bring forward to the next step in my career. I would have never imagined being able to connect with so many different workgroups and communities with the confidence I have gained and couldn't be more grateful. I hope you are as proud of this project as I am and look forward to working with you all again in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian J. Appow". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

IAN APPOW
Project Coordinator

WUI FUELS REDUCTION COLLABORATIVE



Eugene Springfield Fire

Appointed Project Lead. Engaged with stakeholders and collaborative to administer the strategy and mission to ensure success throughout the project. Provided informational resources on wildfire safety and accompanying topics for public participants wishing to learn more. Supplied truck for tow-behind brush chipper as well.



Northwest Youth Corps

Executed the prescribed fuel reduction labor for the project. The work force was composed of two young adult crews, one group was made up of Eugene residents, the other comprised of out of state's. NYC also was responsible for staffing the project coordinator. This position adhered to collaborative priorities by creating marketing material, conducting outreach, giving evaluations, making community presentations, organizing crew work, administering quality control, and reporting of the project.



Oregon Department of Forestry

Provided support to the Project Coordinator in creating defensible space treatment plans with landowners as well as provide limited training to the NYC crews to treat hazardous fuel while meeting the specifications of landowner treatment of plans. As the project evolved ODF transferred primary duties to provide logistical support to transport and ensure safe operation of the wood chipper.



City of Eugene's Public Works

Urban Forestry

Aided in identifying suitable neighborhood/community partners, undertake the support of Northwest Youth Corp with tree work in the public right-of-way and provide the collaborative team with a tow-behind brush chipper.

Parks & Open Space

Provided oversight for habitat conservation during fuels reduction work in both public and private properties. Included in their contribution was access to GIS applications and data on taxlots and zoning for the City of Eugene allowing for responsible designations of worksite priorities.

Photo:

NYC Crew NCS 4 manages a worksite adjacent to Spencer's Butte that has suffered from severe storm damage. Even though this property has been managed over the years, fuel builds up quickly in forests with this level of density.

Photo Credit: Liana Germick, Northwest Youth Corps



Why a Fuels Reduction Project? City of Eugene's Climate Action Plan 2.0

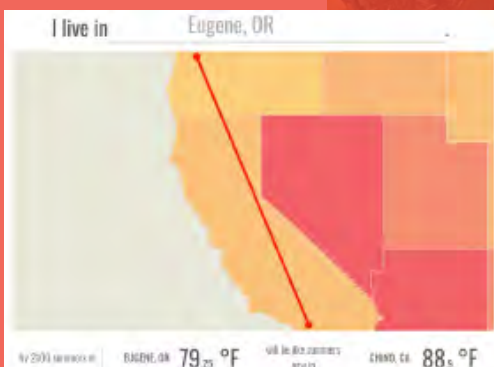
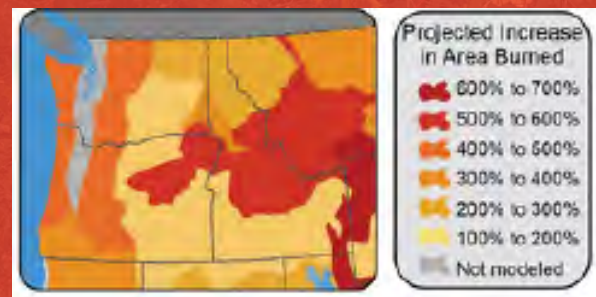
Left

Average Summer Increase of 10° - 12 ° by 2100 . This means our 79° summer average will be about 88.9°(Comparable to Chino, California)

Right

Wildfire surface area increasing by 400-500% acres burned by 2040.

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/48135/CAP20-Full-Documents-Appendices>



WORK DEVELOPMENT

NETWORK BUILDING

Community Engagement

Engaging NYC crews with community members to develop relationships and opportunities while showcasing their work. Interactions lend to building customer service skills and problem solving. Opportunities like working with the Cascades Raptor Center allow for a holistic approach to learning about the importance of natural habitats.



SKILLS TRAINING

NYC

The Young Adult Program (Ages 19-26) delivers local jobs that evolve soft skills, physical endurance and technical abilities. The Leadership Development Program (Camping Program, Ages 20+) focuses on leadership training with members spanning across the country. The LDP curriculum is centered around conservation work and management.



FORESTRY EDUCATION

ODF

ODF served as the foundation for the fuels reduction work itself. They administered topic training, worksite quality, and equipment troubleshooting for the NYC crews. Their staff's professional experience provided on site solutions to a wide range of issues on a regular basis. ODF gave homeowners and crews trust in delivering high-standard final products.



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

City of Eugene

ESF and Public Work departments aided with fielding situations that called upon their specific expertises (Fire, Ecology, Urban Forestry). They provided vehicles and chipping equipment for crews. These groups had the most relationships with the community and served as the project organizers. Their influence helped demonstrate effective management.



“

***Providing
Opportunities For
Youth and Young Adults
to Learn, Grow, and
Experience Success.***

Photo on left

Kyle of Urban Forestry helps facilitate heavy equipment during Chipper Day event held in July.

Photo on right

Relative Fire Hazard map of Eugene and Springfield. The Southern hills of Eugene that line the UGB are some of the most highly vulnerable locations.

Source: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20573/Eugene-Springfield-Multi-Jurisdictional-NHMP-2014?bidl=>

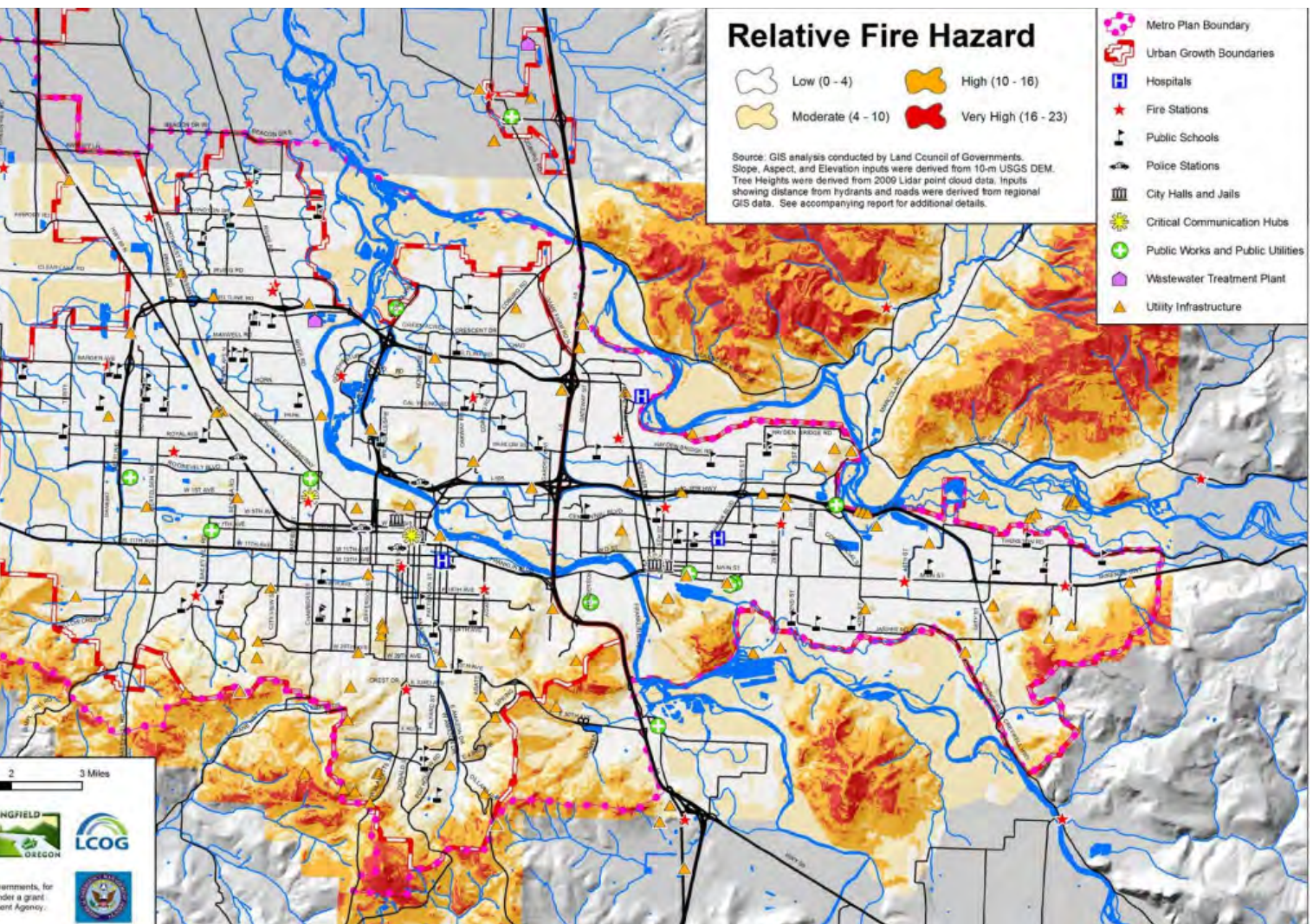


PROJECT STRATEGY

"Fire is an essential part of Oregon's ecosystem, but it is also a serious threat to life and property particularly where urban areas encroach upon forested, open range or grassland areas. Wildfires occur when fire impacts large vegetated areas that require a suppression response. In this region, changes in historic vegetation, climate and fire occurrence are resulting in changes to the patterns and character of fire.

In short, the risks and potential impacts of wildfire are increasing."

*[Eugene-Springfield Natural Mitigations Plan](#)
2.6.1 Causes and Characteristics of Wildfires*



To be a success we had to create clear targets that would be obtainable in five months, but also appropriately scale into a larger format in the future. The goal was to positively influence the community and habitat in the most equitable way possible.

We first needed to decide on a geographical target and referenced the "Relative Fire Hazard" map above. The distribution of "high-very high" in and adjacent to the Southeast Neighborhood Association (SENA) stood out as an organized location to start. Focusing on that section would allow us to focus our messaging and get a better understanding of the public's reaction to wildfire safety.

The first action item was hosting a "Chipper Day" at Charlemagne Elementary where we invited adjacent neighbors to bring any brush or woody material to be processed free of charge. This allowed us to start the narrative for the project and get some work done in July right before fire season.

Then using the knowledge of what resonated with homeowners the project coordinator marketed the program to other residents,

local businesses, and the SENA Board which led to over 6,000 postcards being sent to homeowners with invitations to the program. This stage was set to expand on educating the public about wildfire safety by giving free personal defensible space evaluations of their private property. Based on those evaluations each property was given an objective score based on:

1. Severity
2. Location Vulnerability
3. Financial Accessibility
4. Fire Marshall's Assessment

The higher the total score, the higher priority that particular location was given for potential work to be done by NYC using the defensible space evaluation as a prescription. **In totality we were able to conduct 152 property evaluations, treat 204 acres of land, and in turn affect 218 primary units (main structures, not including sheds, storage, garages, etc.) from the fuels reduction work this program provided.**

PROJECT VISION & MISSION

VISION

This project is to carry out fuel reductions in the Southeast Neighborhood of Eugene. This area is considered a Wildland Urban Interface and susceptible to wildfire due to fuel density and topography in conjunction with urban growth. The goal is to educate property owners in the Southeast Neighborhood on the value of defensible space by offering private consultation, educational resources, and prescription-based fuel management. The first step is in making free defensible space evaluations available to households by subject matter experts.

The collaboration then looks to use the assessments to identify and prioritize residents that would benefit most from financially aided fuel reduction work via Northwest Youth Corps.

Northwest Youth Corps crews are then assigned to administer the suggested fuels reduction work via cooperative agreements between coordinator and homeowner. These crews comprised of young adults are involved not only to gain fieldwork experience but to specifically develop workforce opportunities within the Fire Service, Forest Service, Land Management, Urban Forestry, and Park departments.

MISSION

Present equitable opportunities for residents of the Southeast Neighborhood to improve the community's wildfire resiliency. This starts with educating as many homeowners we can on what they can do themselves first and then supplementing that knowledge with prescribed fuel reduction recommendations from the free defensible space evaluations. Supporting youth workforce development with opportunities to positively impact the adaptive resiliency of this community provides both immediate and future barometers of success in this project.

Top Photo

Matt Grimes of ODF describes species differentiation to the young adult crews.

Bottom Photo

Josiah Grey of NYC administers chipping material on Owl Road.



CORE VALUES

ENVIRONMENT

Protecting the Future

Enriching canopy coverage by thinning suppressed and dead/dying understory trees. Removing invasive species like blackberries, scotch broom and poison oak. Promote ecosystem health by keeping habitats and native species a priority.

FINANCIAL

Access to Prosperity

Investing in wildfire resiliency practices to mitigate chance of property damage. Increasing property values by lowering disaster risk. Upfront maintenance addresses other potential property damage potential like storm or fall damage from trees.

SOCIAL

Equal Opportunity

Prioritizing residents that may have a harder time financially accessing fuels reduction work. Leaning on community education and relationships to establish geographic fuel breaks. Embolden homeowners to develop disaster preparedness strategies.

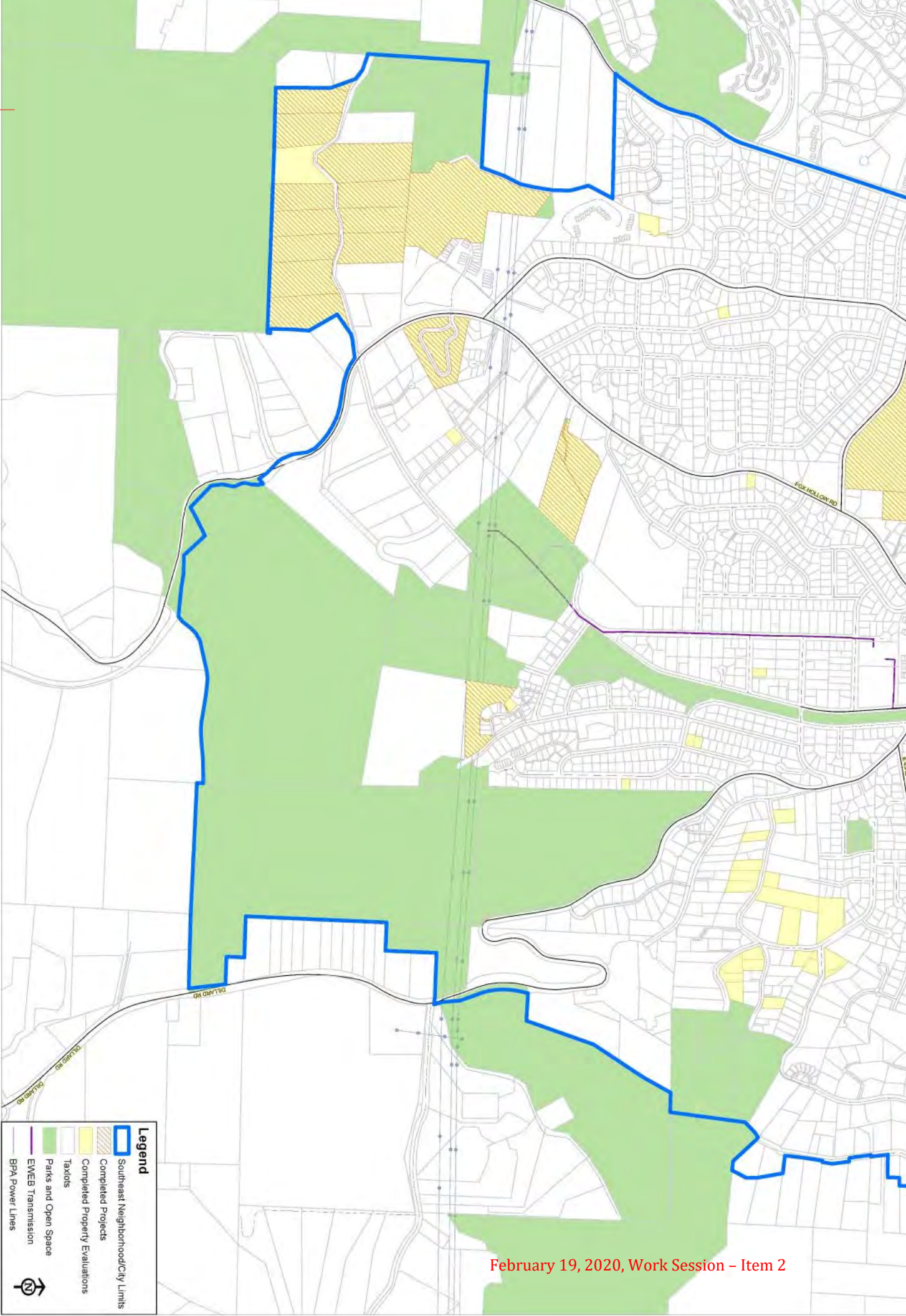
STEWARDSHIP

Keeping our Promises

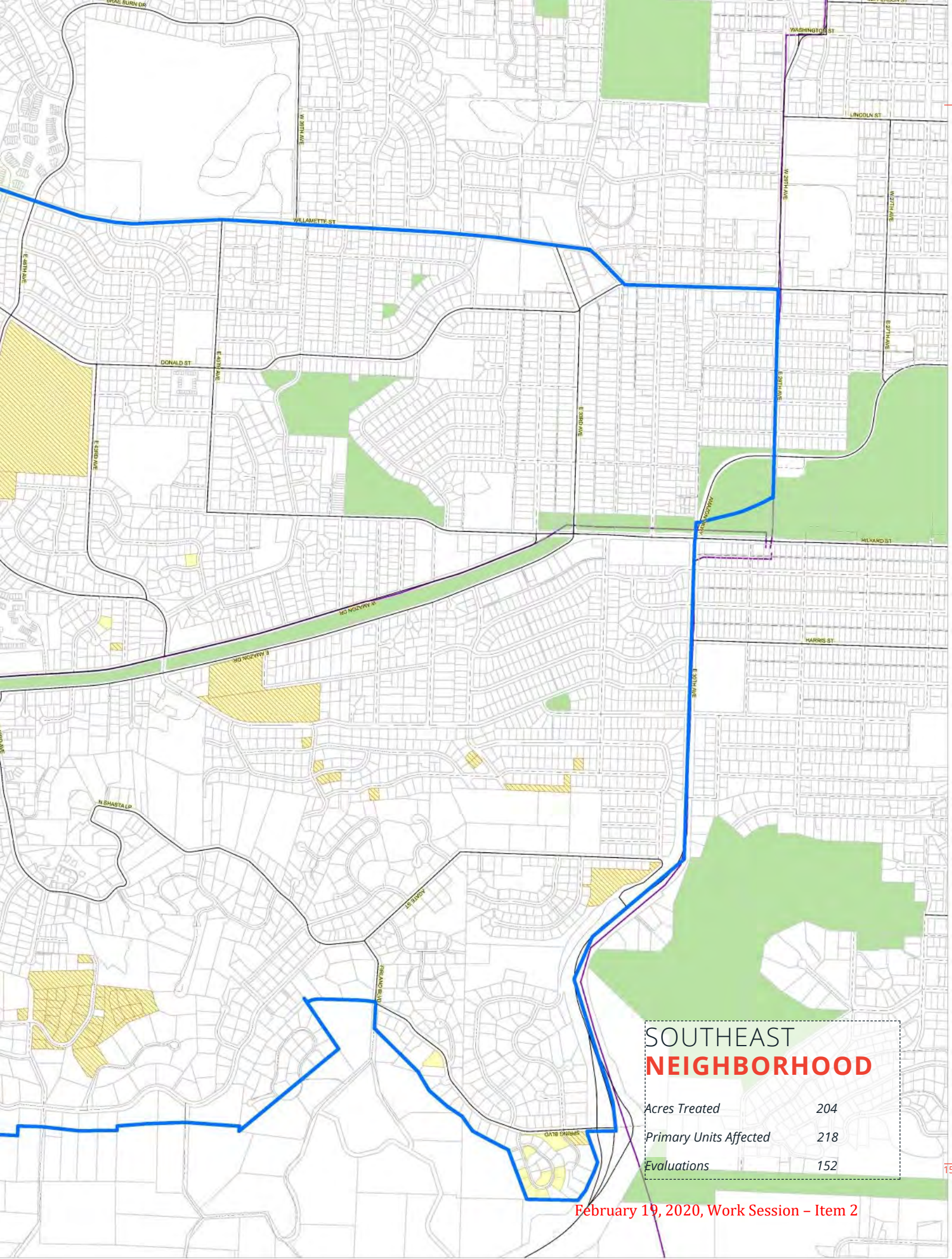
Proving that the budget allocated for this project from City Counsel was in the best interest of the public. Supplementing public work that was previously pending and creating new windows for constituents to see the strength of interagency projects when supported.



SE Neighborhood - WUI Collaborative Project - 2019



February 19, 2020, Work Session - Item 2



ENVIRONMENT

OWL & CLINE ROAD



Just north of Spencer's Butte and right on the the Urban Growth Boundary, both Owl and Cline Roads serve as the prototypical Wildland Urban Interface work sites.

Homes tucked away under dense canopied forests with Spencer's Butte in their backyard while only 15 minutes from downtown, this is some of Eugene's finest real estate. 23 houses reside in this area only connected through one-way in, one-way out access roads. Creating space on these roads for emergency vehicles to access is critical for their survival in the case of an emergency. However, due to the dense forest properties of these ecosystems there are many critical wildlife habitats present. Some residents had strong convictions that the risk was too great to have this work done. However, we took considerate time to work with the neighbors to present information and alternatives that helped make this a process they could trust. ODF and Public Works provided intensive support to help navigate the NYC crews to understanding the potential ecological impacts and where emergency access had to take priority. This was as a major learning experience in balancing stakeholder's interests.

*Upper left photo
Before*

*This Willamette Pine failed
in a recent ice storm on
homeowners property.*

*Bottom left photo
After*

*With the fuels from the fallen
tree taken care of, the focus
is now on a replanting plan.*

SOCIAL 4J SCHOOLS

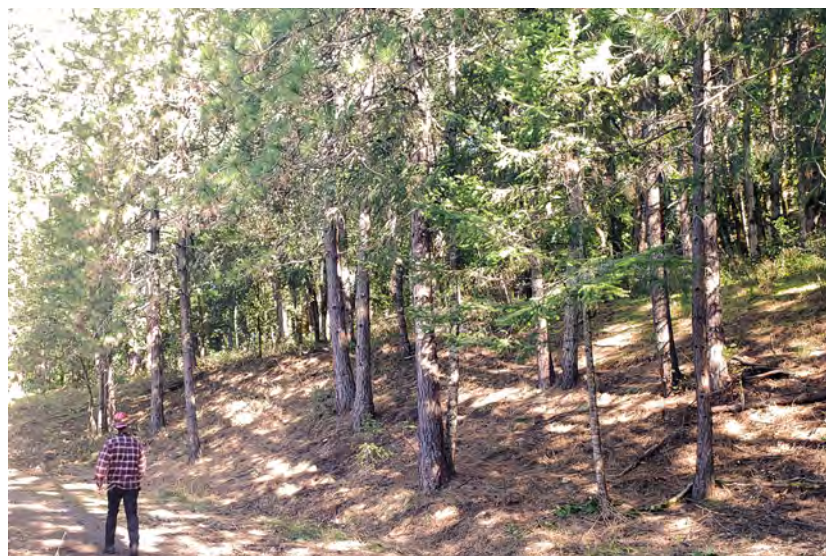


Spencer's Butte Middle School and Edgewood Elementary share a large forested area next to their buildings. Many students walk through this forest to get to and from school on a regular basis.

Most school campuses wish to keep their maintenance easy-meaning open grass fields. However, Facilities Manager of the 4J District, Daniel Temple connected with us to help promote their unique grounds.

[Academic research](#) shows that students perform better in classrooms that look out to forested landscapes compared to manicured lawns. Additionally, this type of environment helps strengthen the culture and identity of Eugene to it's rising leaders. Promoting healthy ecosystems within their learning institutions provides an undeniable precedent for what a healthy productive learning environment looks like.

Being involved with such a prominent local presence in 4J helped us earn trust through association with the public. There was also a lot of pride within the ODF and NYC staff working on this site, noting that it felt like more meaningful community engagement. We also loved that our work allowed 4J to allocate their budget for promoting other forestry enhancing projects.



*Upper Right Photo
Before*

Low hanging limbs that connect the ground to canopy on a steep hill outside Edgewood Elementary.

*Lower Right Photo
After*

Trees are thinned, and pruned so a ground fire is not as likely to climb vertically into the forest.

FINANCIAL WOODLEAF VILLAGE



Woodleaf Village is a low-income housing community off of Fox Hollow Road. Their limited maintenance budget makes projects like fuel reduction work hard to justify, but that's where we came in.

This started as an inquiry from Woodleaf facilities manager Christina Knighten calling about two failing street trees. Urban Forestry received the call, made a site visit and referred her to this project as a possible fit for additional support.

Upon the defensible space evaluation it was determined that there were multiple common areas that could greatly benefit from a fuels reduction treatment. The work itself was able to provide wildfire resiliency to the 60 unit community and save thousands on their budget to focus on future issues instead of only being able to react as problems arose.

This was a great moment for the project as finding low-income participants proved to be harder than expected despite the potential benefit the supplemental work could provide. It seemed that the elusiveness came with a disbelief that these individuals were "actually" entitled to this program, and were afraid of a catch. This is where a consistency in the program would help alleviate this perception.



*Upper left photo
Before*

*A common area covered with
invasive blackberries, storm
damage, and suppressed
trees.*

*Lower left photo
After*

*Less hazardous horizontal
vegetations and native
species finally given a chance
to flourish.*



STEWARDSHIP 30TH & SPRING

30th Ave was a location that the public had expressed concerns to the Fire Marshall's Office and Public Works before the start of the project.

With it being a precarious enough job, it was difficult for the City to have previously administered the ask to manage this worksite. However, this was a perfect example of how the fuels reduction project can fill needs for work groups.

With a ton of storm damage, invasive species and a tremendously steep cliff into the busy 30th ave, citizens had felt that the site had been "abandoned". Yet with a bit of hardwork and good communication with the departments who had been hearing about this site for awhile, it looks almost unrecognizable with the work done. It helped alleviate City staff time dedicated to it and also won a major swing of support from the neighbors. This led to an additional involvement of 20+ homeowners with the program due to their satisfaction with how the situation was handled.

Being able to earn their trust by following up with their concerns and getting the work done quickly made them some of our biggest advocates.



*Upper right photo
Before*

Heavily trafficked area with dramatic topography. A cigarette or car accident would roar uphill.

*Lower right photo
After*

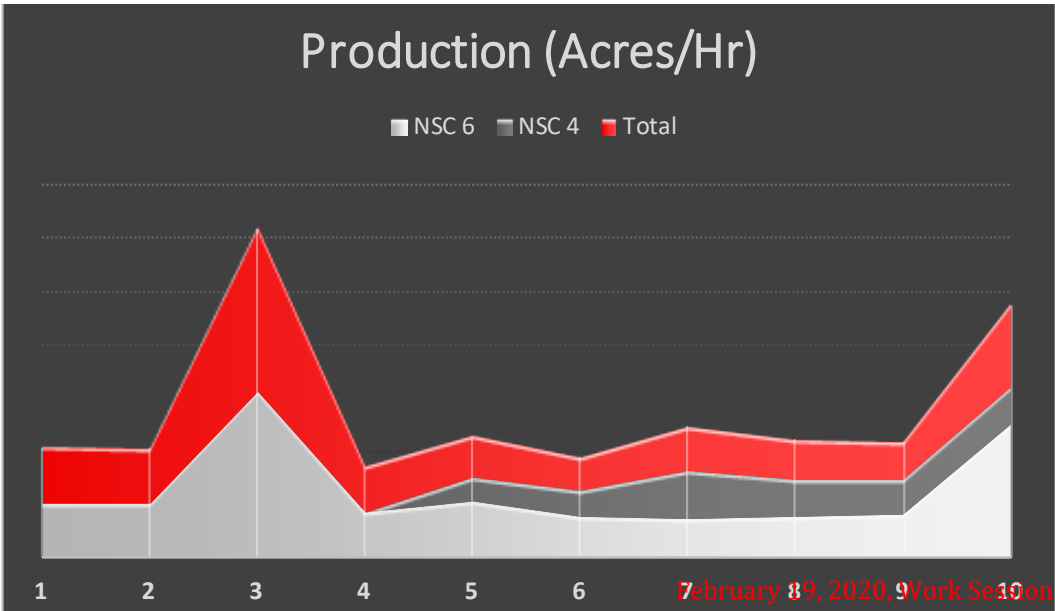
Invasive ground cover is removed, thinning is appropriate. Ground fires would have nowhere to go now.

PROJECT BREAKDOWN

Finding performance indicators in a project like this can be challenging. Fuels reduction work does not inherently lend itself to be tracked easily as there is high variance in the types of work, mechanical performance, and accessibility of the sites. The information below was my attempt to get a basic quantitative capture Expanding on these metrics will be critical in making reports in the future have more overall value and meaning.

WORK BREAKDOWN

Week	Description	Hours	Acres	Productivity (Acre/Hr)
1	Owl Road (NSC 6)	337.5	17.5	0.052
2	Owl Road (NSC 6)	360.5	18.5	0.051
3	Owl Road / 4J (NSC 6)	309	53.25	0.154
4	Cline Road / Owl Road (NSC 4 & 6)	536.5	19.25	0.043
5	Cline Road, 30th & Spring (NSC 4 & 6)	448.5	17.5	0.039
6	Fox Hollow, Edgewood, 30th, Kimberly Circle (NSC 4 & 6)	519.5	16.5	0.032
7	Woodleaf, 30th, Kimberly Circle, Fox Hollow (NSC 4 & 6)	448	18.5	0.041
8	Wendell Lane (NSC 4 & 6)	467	17.25	0.037
9	30th, Onyx, Overbrook (NSC 4 & 6)	504	18.5	0.037
10	Cascades & Graduation (2 Workdays) (NSC 4 & 6)	104	8	0.077
Average Per Week		407	20.48	0.056
Total Sum		541	205	



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON WILDFIRE RESPONSE
27 OF 37 RECCOMENDATIONS TOUCHED ON WITH THIS PROJECT

TAKEAWAYS

Goal 1: Creating Fire-Adapted Communities	Directly Addressed	Enabled Conversation
Transmission System Wild-fire Plan	X	X
Defensible Space	X	X
Building Codes		X
Land Use	X	X
Property Insurance		X
Health - Remove Barriers to Air Filtration Systems		X
Disaster Recovery - Local Economic Opportunity Fund		X
Goal 2: Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes	Directly Addressed	Enabled Conversation
Leadership & Government	X	X
Near-Term Capital Infusion	X	X
Prioritization+	X	X
Near-Term Restoration Treatments	X	X
Building Project Pipeline	X	X
Capacity Building	X	X
Program Expansion		X
Long-Term Barriers		X
Goal 3: Respond Safely and Effec- tively to Wildfire	Directly Addressed	Enabled Conversation
Financing Facility		X
Expansion of Protected Areas		X
State Suppression Capacity		X
Suppression Funding Formula		X
ODF Organizational Model		X
State-Federal Interagency Performance		X
Suppression Collaborative	X	X
Goal 4: Cross-Functional Support System	Directly Addressed	Enabled Conversation
Public Engagement	X	X
Organization & Governance	X	X
Workforce Development	X	X
Research & Decision Support	X	X
Funding	X	X

The most significant result of this project came in the community development. Even though giving a "free service" with the evaluations and potential fuels reduction work was a great package to deliver, it was met with a lot of skepticism. In the beginning, promoting the chipper day event with only a two week turnover time was not very successful and required more preparation in hindsight. So I stepped away from mass outreach strategies and focused on quality opportunities that would hopefully convey our commitment to the neighborhood. I started attending community events, giving presentations, connecting local programs, referencing previous citizen concerns from collaborative partners, and looking for endorsements from local businesses. This was the turning point, the in person interactions were by far the most successful medium in gathering participation. Developing genuine relationships with the people that care so deeply about their community created the foundation for how this project could succeed. Taking the time to understand the culture allowed me to understand where I could help, who we could help, and how we could help. As time went on, being able to have prominent local influencers vouch for the program along with having completed work to reference was what snowballed our public acclaim.

The work itself had an extremely high variance in specifications which is expected to come with such a customer service oriented mission, but put an intense strain on the NYC crews. Without specific project training beforehand, the case by case prescription details often became either overbearing or too hard to explain. The inconsistencies in interpretations of the evaluations between the homeowner, crews, and myself was an all too regular occurrence that consumed a tremendous amount of effort to rectify. I don't believe that anyone was misinformed, but the range of vision on the topic was so drastically different by each party, this result is no surprise. ODF's ability to support this specific issue not only saved the project countless times, but has been identified as one of, if not the most critical component to elevate future iterations. They have the unique experience to be able to intuitively manage the fluctuating standards of the homeowner while simultaneously support the technical work of the NYC crews on site.

A debrief I conducted with the NYC work group suggested a longer training period, more professional led work sessions like Edgewood Park (led by PW's Evan Gammon) or classroom sessions on ecological topics would have helped their performance significantly. Additionally, having the critical equipment for this work more accessible has to be a serious priority. The transportation alone of getting the truck from the FMO, the chipper from PW, to the worksite and back after each use cost a minimum of 80 staff hours.

Lastly, I believe that as strong as the results of this one time project were by triple bottom line standards, it can only be considered a true success if it is continued. The work itself requires regular maintenance and the community needs to see consistency to build the trust in the program to make it meaningful. Other than obviously acquiring additional funding, concentrating on a larger investment into the work development component of this project is key. Giving the young adult crews opportunities to extend their experience of the work is the real strength of the program and what makes this program so special. With the right support, they will become the true ambassadors of the collaborative and future of this community.

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