

Mat-Su Borough Fish Passage Program 2024



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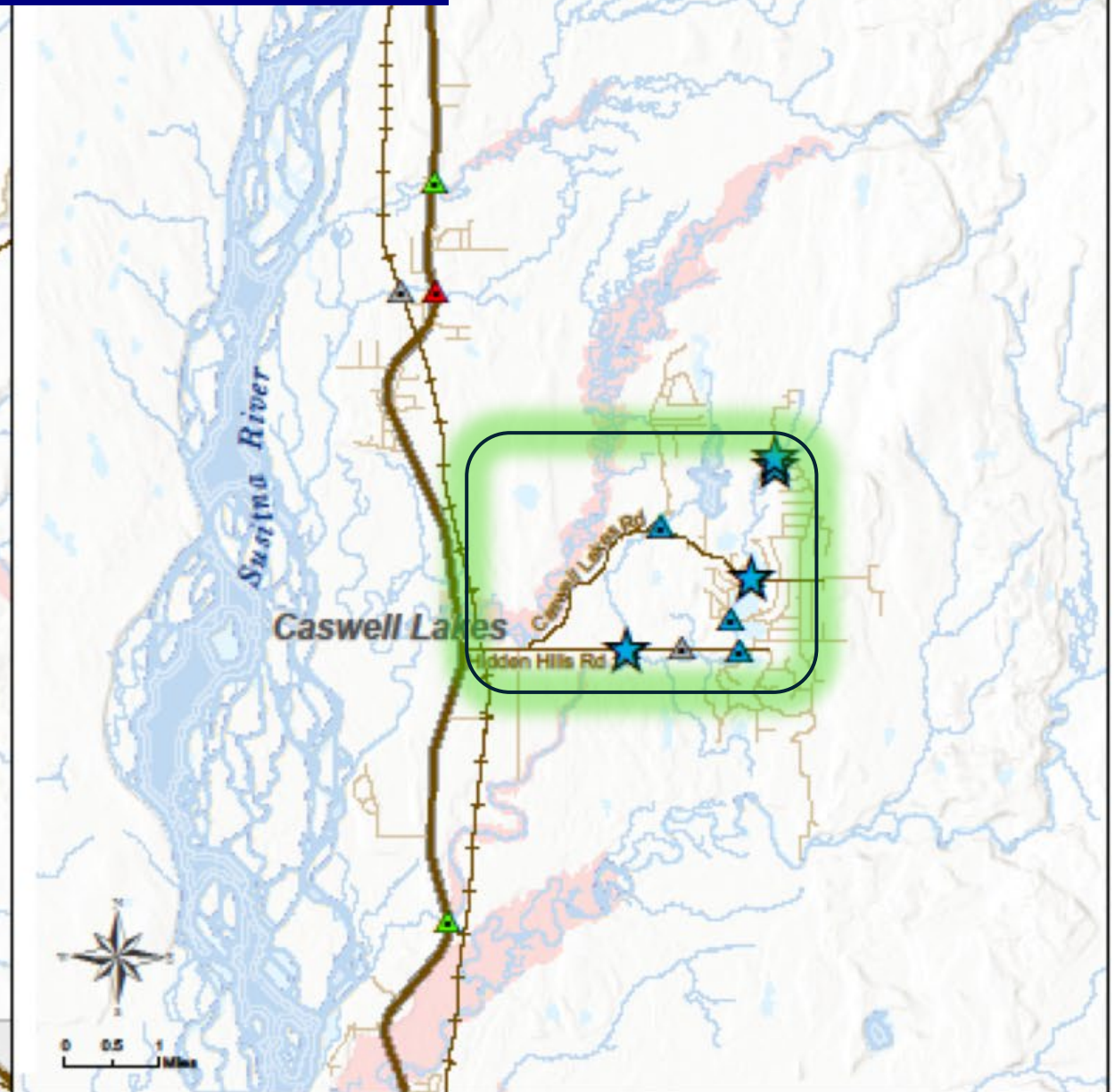
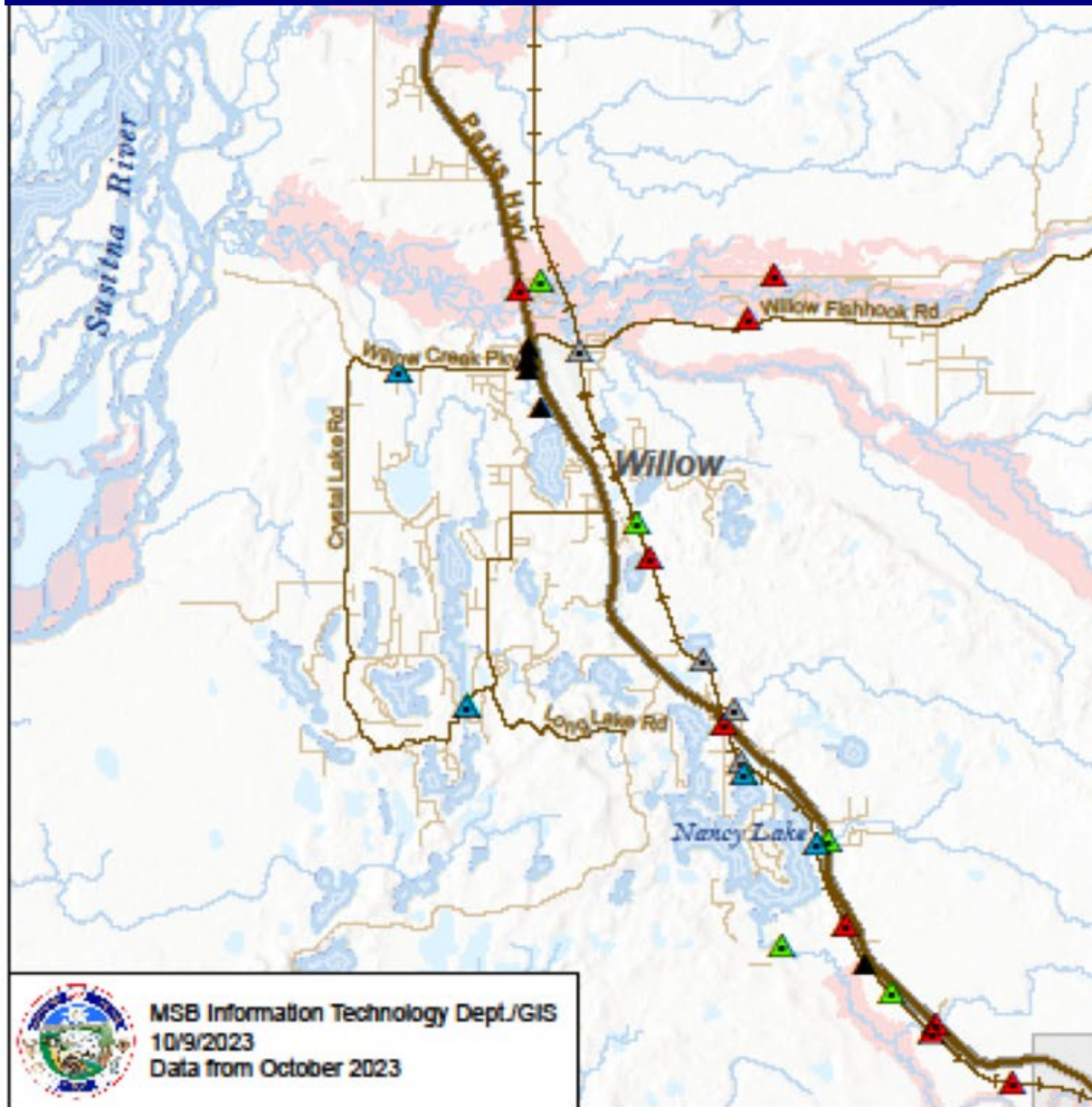
Topics

- Locations of Culverts in the Borough
- Culverts Ratings and Upgrade Status
- 2023 Projects
- 2024 Project – Settler's Bay Drive
- Future Projects
- Partnerships and Opportunities



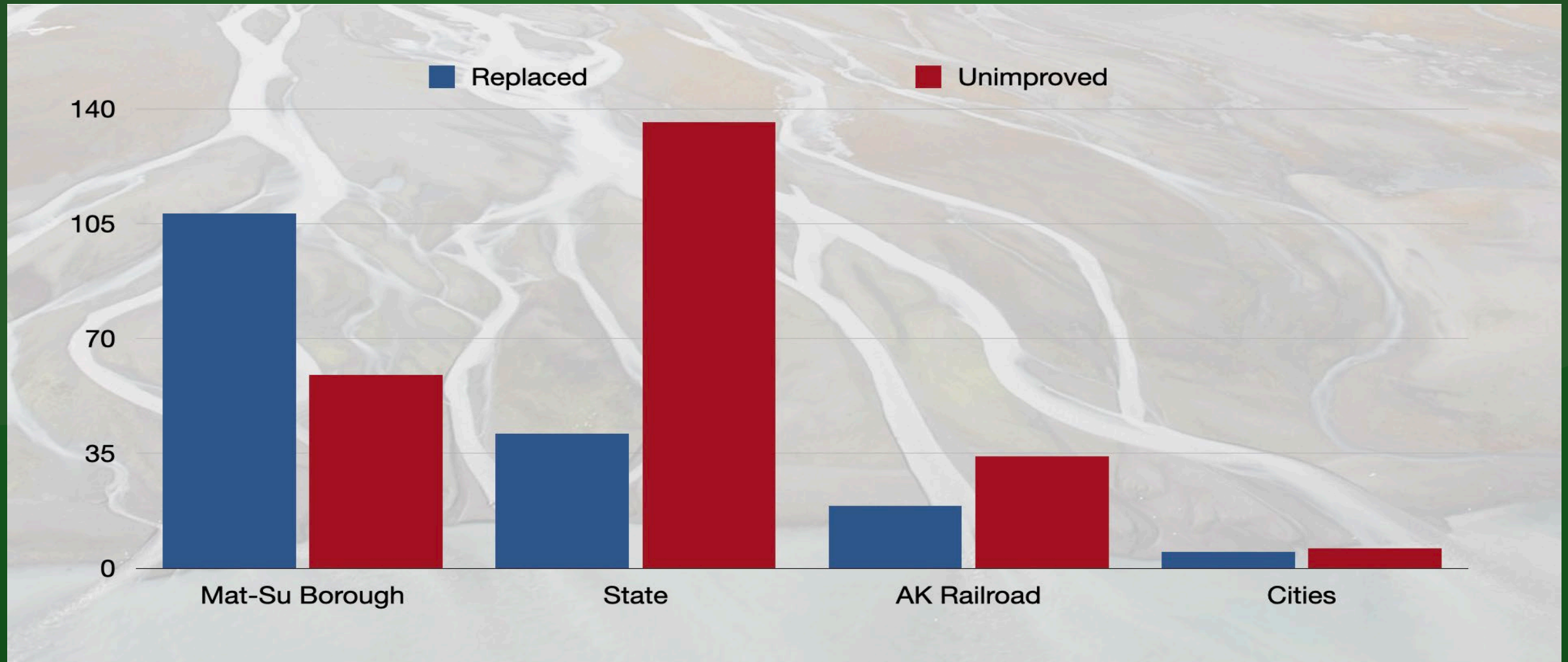
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- A map of Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska. The town of Talkeetna is marked with a dot and labeled. A rectangular area in the southern part of the borough is hatched with diagonal lines, indicating the study area. The hatched area is labeled 'Study Area'.

Fish Culverts in Willow Area- Hidden Hills



Culverts Ratings and Upgrade Status

Mat-Su Borough leading the way on fish culvert replacement

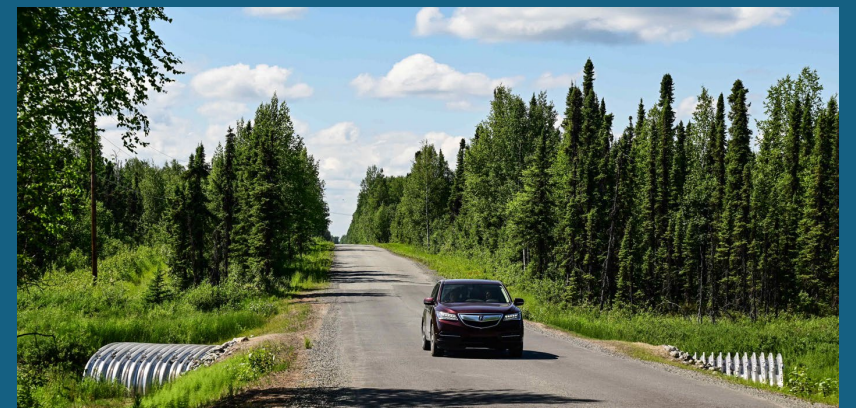


2023 Fish Passage Projects

- Recent years focused on Settler's Bay Area and the Caswell Creek watershed.
- Replaced culverts on O'Brien Creek and Caswell Creek at Hidden Hills in 2022/2023



2024 Hidden Hills fish passage replacement

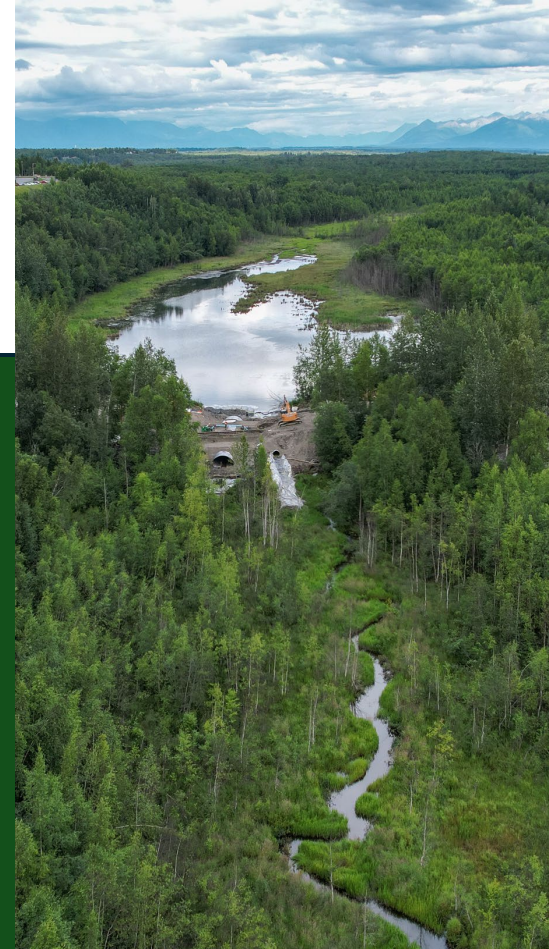


2024 Settler's Bay Drive fish passage peplacement

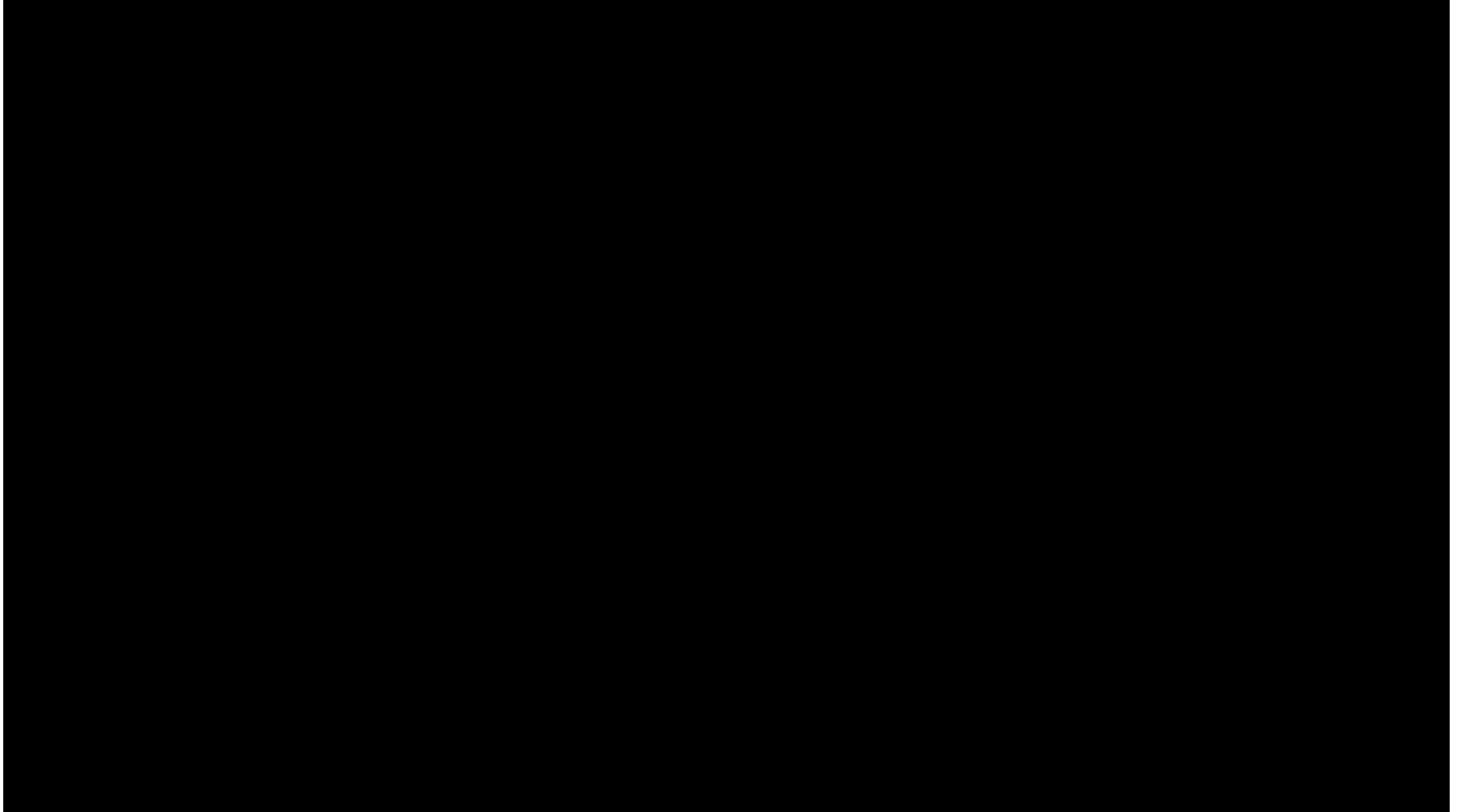
- Overview – replaced a perched culvert at the outlet of an impounded swamp. Lowered impounded lake level about 3 feet
- Perch removed by constructing an extended stream channel at outlet
- New culvert is aluminum arch pipe (insert size here)
- Low flow channel
- Construction highlights
 - Diversion with super sacks – did an adequate job, took some work to set up on lake side
 - Utilities left in place during construction incl. except for water line at culvert depth

2024 Settler's Bay Drive Fish Passage Replacement

- Construction highlights
 - Meier Excavation – 1st timers
 - Diversion with super sacks – did an adequate job, took some work to set up on lake side
 - Utilities left in place during construction incl. except for water line at culvert depth.
 - Used temporary bypass culvert during construction instead of pumping – ADF&G required open fish passage during construction.
 - Coir logs used in lieu of willows due to willows blooming before installation. Willows planned for spring '25.



Settler's Bay fish passage project 2024 - VIDEO

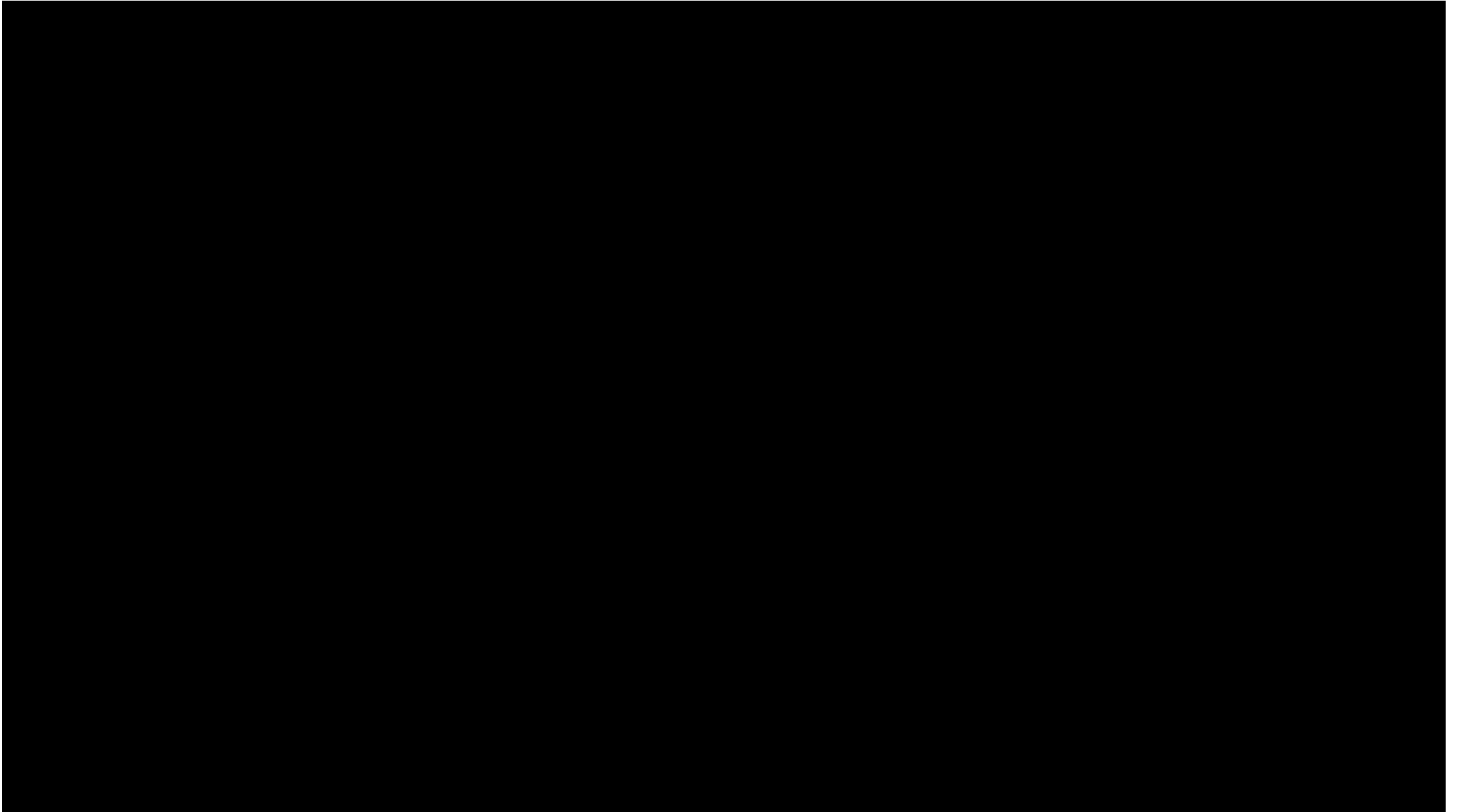




Upcoming Fish Habitat Projects

- Cottonwood Creek at Fern Street - in design phase
- Cottonwood Creek at Homebuilt Circle - design phase
- Lynda Lakes at Beaver Lake Road – postponed indefinitely due to pike infestation
- Cheri Lake tributary to Meadow Creek at three City of Houston Roads
- Anderson and Kings Lakes – applied for grant funding

Hidden Hills passage project 2024 - VIDEO





Partnerships Matter

Many of these projects are not possible without technical and financial assistance. Currently, the Borough is partnering with:

- City of Wasilla on Fern Street - City provided match funding, MSB grant and project management
- Knik Tribe and City of Houston – Knik Tribe is providing grant management, MSB providing design and construction management
- Chickaloon Tribe – working with tribe to potentially replace culverts in Buffalo Mine area
- ADF&G – technical and grant writing assistance, AKSSF funding
- USFWS – technical and grant assistance and field work, project funding
- DOT&PF and Wasilla – partnering on stormwater planning to protect water quality
- Great Land Trust – purchased Settler's Bay land directly adjacent to Crocker Creek in 2020 and transferred to the Borough. It is now a park with a protected stream bank on one side.

A group of approximately 20 people are gathered on a dirt path above a small, arched metal bridge. The bridge spans a stream with turbulent, white-water rapids. The scene is surrounded by dense green foliage and trees. The word "Questions" is overlaid in large white text across the center of the image, positioned over the bridge and the stream.

Questions