



Agenda

Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Special Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Cowles Council Chambers In-Person & Via Zoom Webinar

Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Zoom Webinar ID: 990 6701 0473 Password: 295088

<https://cityofhomer.zoom.us>
Dial: 346-248-7799 or 669-900-6833;
(Toll Free) 888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247

CALL TO ORDER 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA (3 minute time limit)

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10 minute time limit)

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA All items on the consent agenda are considered routine and non-controversial by the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission and are approved in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Commissioner in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

A. Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2023

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS (5 minute time limit)

A. Staff Report PARC 24-002, Parks Maintenance Report - January 2024

B. Staff Report PARC 24-001, City Council Actions and Relevant PARC Information

C. Staff Report PARC 24-003, Community Recreation Report January 2024

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

A. Memorandum PARC 24-004 from Parks & Trails Planner re: Karen Hornaday Park Plan

B. Memorandum PARC 24-005 from Parks & Trails Planner re: Bayview Park Plan

NEW BUSINESS (15-20 minute time limit)

- A. Memorandum PARC 24-007 from Parks & Trails Planner re: Diamond Creek Recreation Area Trails Connector Route

Ordinance 24-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis.

- B. Memorandum PARC 24-006 from Recreation Manager re: Proposed Community Recreation Center

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. PARC Annual Calendar 2024

- B. City Manager's Report

CM Report for City Council Meeting on January 8, 2024

- C. City of Homer Newsletter

Newsletter for January 2024

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER (If Present)

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

CALL TO ORDER

Session 23-09, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Robert Archibald at 5:35 p.m. on November 16, 2023 from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar. The Commission has one vacancy. A worksession was scheduled at 4:30 p.m. to conduct the Annual Training but a Quorum of the body was not obtained and canceled.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, FAIR, GALBRAITH, ROEDL AND

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS HARRALD AND LEWIS, STUDENT COMMISSIONER WALKER (EXCUSED)

STAFF: DEPUTY CITY CLERK KRAUSE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KEISER, RECREATION MANAGER ILLG AND PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR FELICE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Acting Chair Archibald read the supplemental items into the record and requested a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

FAIR/GALBRAITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Michael Hawfield, city resident, commented in support of the proposed South Slope Trail stating that he was a property owner and residents of the area have been discussing for some time now about a way to ensure that South Slope Drive does not continue south to Nelson due to the belief that it would create nightmare traffic issues and make it difficult for the neighborhood as there are a lot of people who use Nelson to go out to East End Road or up towards the hospital. Mr. Hawfield stated that it would provide for a very nice trail if it was improved and maintained.

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Unapproved Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 19, 2023

Acting Chair Archibald requested a motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda.

FAIR/GALBRAITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Staff Report City Council Actions since the October Commission Meeting

Acting Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg

Recreation Manager Illg provided a summary review of the information provided.

There was no discussion or comments from the Commission.

B. Spit Campground 2023 Report: Analysis, Revenues, & Expenditures

Acting Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg.

Recreation Manager Illg reported that he extended an invitation to Matt Clarke, Port Director and he declined to attend but stated that he would provide the recent report he gave to the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission on November 8, 2023 for this meeting that is provided in the packet. Mr. Illg stated that he would be unable to answer any questions about the information contained in the report and believed that there were still some issues to be ironed out between the Harbor & Public Works as indicated in the report but believes that financially it worked out well with the Harbor taking over operations of the campgrounds on the Homer Spit.

Public Works Director Keiser provided clarification that Matt Clarke was the Harbormaster, Bryan Hawkins is the Port Director. She then provided a status update regarding a meeting this afternoon that Parks Maintenance Felice and she had with Harbormaster Clarke regarding the operations of the spit campgrounds. She reported the following:

- Public Works strongly supports the Harbor continuing the operations of the campgrounds for the following reasons:
 - o The Harbor is better equipped to address:
 - the parking enforcement
 - collections of camp fees
 - o Portion of the revenue funds one custodial position to ensure that there is consistent janitorial services performed for city facilities on the spit.
 - o Services such as mowing, building maintenance and trash collection are shared by divisions within the Public Works and Harbor
- There are still areas that require further definition on responsibility such as Mariner Park has a campground and day use area, the Fishing Lagoon/Water Trail Pavilion is next to the Pier One Campground

- Harbormaster Clarke is responsible to providing reports for the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission and is reluctant to take on additional obligations to report to another Commission.
 - o He was encouraged to continue providing information to the PARC Advisory Commission since the commission has a vested interest in parks and camping facilities and to maintain open communication. The Harbormaster would take that under advisement and speak with his superiors.
- The Port & Harbor is aware of needing to make some investment both capital and operating to the campgrounds
- Revenues for camping goes into the Port & Harbor Enterprise Fund where before the revenue went into the general fund.
- Public Works will be reviewing capital needs for the campgrounds and creating a list for the next budget cycle.
- Making the change to have the Port take over campground operations did not have adverse effects on parks maintenance but allowed Parks Maintenance staff to address some long deferred maintenance at several parks and the playground at Karen Hornaday and provided the necessary funding for additional needed janitorial support.
- Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice will be meeting again over the winter to refine the process and roles with parks/campgrounds on the spit.

C. Community Recreation Report: October/November 2023 – Recreation Manager Illg

Acting Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg

Recreation Manager Illg reported that it was difficult to just do a written report and spend only 5 minutes talking about all that they have done since the last meeting. He hopes the Commission reviews the calendar and that they see the amount of interaction that is had with the public every single day. He is incredibly busy and cannot express enough the benefits the additional staffing has brought. He reported that Community Recreation is working behind the scenes on the new Community Recreation Center project. Mr. Illg reported spending substantial time in training to learn the new Recreation software which is schedule to rollout in January. He provided some benefits that the software will bring such as accepting online payments, volunteer management, calendaring, etc. He has also been working with SPARC to organize a teen night for Fridays.

Recreation Manager Illg facilitated brief discussions on the following:

- collection of credit card and online payments for recreation fees
- SPARC new floor
- Working with the After School Resilience Group to bring back Boys & Girls Club
 - o Creating a similar program here that was created in Iceland for at risk youth regarding athletic and after school programs

D. Parks Monthly Report: November 2023 – Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice

Acting Chair Archibald introduced the item and deferred to Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice provided a summary of his written report and responded to questions regarding the following:

- Jack Gist Park sewer stub in was completed yesterday, there is no timetable for the water

E. Public Works Monthly Report

Acting Chair Archibald invited Public Works Director Keiser to provide her report.

Public Works Director Keiser provided a verbal report on the following topics:

- This will be her last month of employment with the city, the New Public Works Director was in town and was scheduled to start on Monday but called back to Florida due to a personal emergency. No timeline was provided by the City Manager as to when he is expected to return.
 - o There is a list of approximately 90 items that are in or scheduled to be in process for the new public Works Director to manage. She has them arranged with name, project name or issue and people involved, funding involved, policies involved so people can review and know where to go and who to speak to;
 - o The City Manager and New Public Works Director will be developing the job description for a City Engineer position.
- Finalizing designs for the Ben Walters Lane Sidewalk project, it was discovered that there was a pressure reducing valve that needed replacement so an ordinance will be in the November 27th council meeting for introduction.
- Proceeding with the Svedlund Sidewalk Design which will be scheduled for construction in FY2026
- Programmed the construction of an elevated trail to replace the trail by the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, the gravel berm section because it impedes the flow of water from the wetland area out to the salt marsh they will remove the berm and replace with an elevated walkway.
- The Property owner to the east of Ben Walters Park is interested in donating a portion of land that is approximately 8 acres with 50% wetlands. The have contracted with Seabright Surveys to do a preliminary plat which would provide the wetlands area from the uplands are and then draw out some proposed elevated walkways through the wetlands.
 - o Funding is programmed in for this project in a few years.

Public Works Director Keiser expressed her heartfelt appreciation for being able to work with the Commission as the City Engineer and Public Works Director and looks forward to seeing them in the future.

Acting Chair Archibald commented that Ms. Keiser has had a good run and she has definitely shaken things up in this town to its benefit.

Ms. Keiser facilitated brief discussions on the following:

- Elevated Walkway project location
- Floating dock replacement
- Utility Right of Way location for the elevated walkway project
- Beluga Lake access for recreation and Float Planes airway

Mr. Illg expressed that he tips his hat to Ms. Keiser as during his 21 years with the City she has accomplished more than any Public Works Director that he has seen and then commented that her skill level is such they need to hire two people to replace her.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Portable Restrooms for City Parks
Memorandum PARC-23-027 from Parks Maintenance Coordinator as backup

Acting Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading the title and deferred to Parks Coordinator Felice.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice reviewed his memorandum for the Commission. He provided additional comments on the proposed units being used by many communities in Alaska and also in the Lower 48, noting in particular the cost savings to the City.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice facilitated discussion on the following:

- Shipping Costs to Seward from Washington was \$5000 for two units
- The unit could be connected directly to water and sewer services
- The unit would be removed and stored under cover in the winter
 - o Location of storage will need to be determined, additional covered storage may need to be constructed.
 - o They can be constructed for year round use as they do come equipped with a heater. He reported that communities in Idaho use them year round and they have harsh winters.
- Each unit will have two standard toilet rooms and one ADA toilet room, all rooms will be equipped with porcelain commodes and sinks, can be easily hosed down and cleaned. There will be a ramp with handrails to access the ADA unit.
 - o Each trailer will be lowered hydraulically to minimize the height from the ground
 - o Wheels & axles remain attached to the unit
 - o Unit will be open during park times only and locked by janitorial staff after cleaning. Parks maintenance staff or Building Maintenance will unlock units at the beginning of each day.
- Cost of two units is 50% or less of one brick and mortar restroom facility
- Each unit can be constructed in seven days cost is \$60,666.75 per unit as shown
 - o Units can be constructed with holding tanks and could serve as replacements for Portable Toilets on the Spit in various locations including Mariner Park
- Units have been used by other communities for as long as 14 years with scheduled maintenance and needed repairs.

Public Works Director Keiser explained that they are prepared to submit an ordinance to be introduced at the November 27th regular meeting and will have public hearing and adopted at the January 8th meeting. They will request that City Council move the funds allocated in the FY25 Budget to FY24 Budget so they can get this done. If Council approves then restrooms would be received and installed in time for baseball season.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator reported that he met with the Adult Softball Association and Little League and both organization support this project. Little League had proposed constructing a two story Refreshment and Scoreboard with restrooms and storage facility but they do not have the funding and the city would not be able to get the funding for constructing something like that for quite some time.

FAIR/ROEDL MOVED THAT THE PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS CITY COUNCIL FUND THE PURCHASE OF TWO BATHROOM UNITS FROM COMFORTS OF HOME SERVICES FOR KAREN HORNADAY PARK AND JACK GIST PARK.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Public Works Director Keiser stated that credit should be given to Mr. Felice as he brought back the idea and did the research after seeing the units being used in Wrangell, Alaska, when attending the annual Alaska Recreation and Park Association Conference.

B. Amending Homer City Code to Create Departments
Memorandum from Recreation Manager as backup

Acting Chair Archibald introduced the item and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg

Recreation Manager Illg provided a summary review of the memoranda in the packet. He noted the following:

- City Manager brought forward the ordinance to create the Community Development Department and relocate the Divisions of Economic Development, Planning and Community Recreation from the Administrative Department to within the new Community Development Department, this department will also have the future Building & Code Enforcement Division; transition IT and the Library Divisions into Departments.
- There has been a lot of discussion and public comment, which has been provided for the Commission in the packet, and Council postponed the ordinance to January 8th regarding the concerns received from the public to create and Parks & Recreation Department.
- Council appears to be on board for creating the Library and IT Departments.
- Council asked the City Manager if the Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission has weighed in on this issue, noting that the Library Board, EDC and Planning Commissions have provided comment.
- Separate but related issue regarding this is the potential to have a soon to be created Parks & Recreation Department.
- Questioned if Community Recreation Division is the right fit for the Community Development Department, or should stay where it is until the Parks and Recreation Department is created instead of jumping around.
- Acknowledged some cross over with Economic Development such as special events because Community Recreation holds a number of events which relate to or work with economic development.

Mr. Illg specifically asked the Commission to comment on what they thought about moving the Community Recreation division under Community Development Department.

Acting Chair Archibald commented on the numerous entities in that planning, parks and rec section of the Ordinance 23-49.

Recreation Manager Illg interjected that it was only the Community Recreation division that will be relocated under Community Development.

Gaining the floor, Public Works Director Keiser referred to page 87 of the packet, line 230, of the paragraph describing the proposed Homer City Code 2.57.010 Department of Community Development stated that it does include parks. She further added that the city has a new Associate Parks & Trails Planner position that was filled by Matt Steffy and he works under Economic Development Division which will move under the Community Development Department but they are not talking about moving Parks Maintenance under Community Development that Division will stay at Public Works.

Further discussion facilitated by the Staff present touched on the following points:

- attempted to provide clarification for the Commission on the purpose of the ordinance
- the benefits or detriments to relocating Community Recreation division under Community Development Department or leaving it under Administration until a Parks & Recreation Department is created in the future;
- what the community is advocating for;
- that it was not strategically forward moving but sideways;
- The city needs a Parks and Recreation Department, it is what the community wants and where community recreation should be.
- The City Council did not expressly ask for the Commission's comments, Staff requested permission from the City Manager to put the Ordinance before the Commission.
 - o It is preferred to provide comments and questions for submittal by the January 8th meeting and since the Commission does not meet in December it is strongly recommended not to postpone submitting a response.

Public Works Director Keiser after hearing the indecision from Commissioners sitting at the table, pointedly asked each Commissioner if they could support the ordinance as written. Commissioners responded in the negative.

Commissioner Roedl expressed concerns that this would lower Community Recreation in the organizational chart, inserting a middleman instead of having direct contact with the City Manager.

Commissioner Fair expressed concerns on reorganization for the benefits of reorganizing when it does not provide benefit for the overall body. He would like to have a better understanding of the purpose of the ordinance to explain the reorganization of the departments or divisions.

Commissioner Archibald expressed being agreeable to be included with the Economic Development Division but disagreed with having Community Recreation placed with the Planning Department.

Public Works Director Keiser asked if Commissioner Harrauld was in attendance.

Deputy City Clerk noted that Commissioner Harrauld was having difficulty in keeping her connection to the internet where she was traveling, so she was not in attendance for the meeting and was excused.

Commissioner Galbraith echoed the concerns expressed by the other Commissioners.

Public Works Director Keiser then summed up the following after hearing all the discussion, stating that the Commission can make a comment to City Council on the following:

- The benefits of moving the Community Recreation Division from Administration Department to Community Development Department have not been clearly defined;
- The desire and longtime goal of the Commission is for Parks and Recreation to have a higher significance within the organizational structure to reflect the importance of these attributes of the city.
- There is no connection between Community Recreation division and the other proposed divisions to be moved into the newly created Community Development Department with a small exception of Economic Development.
- The Commission fully supports the ordinance as it relates to Information Technology and the Library.

Deputy City Clerk Krause confirmed that this memorandum would be addressed to Mayor and City Council through the City Manager from the Commission. She clarified that Homer City Code does allow the Commission to submit memoranda directly to City Council but it is preferred to submit all correspondence through the City Manager.

A few additional points discussed briefly were:

- Postponing action until after the November 27th presentation to Council on Resolution 23-47(S) directive to develop a Strategic Financial Plan and Services Vision for Parks & Recreational Facilities and Services
 - o A special meeting can be scheduled in December if the Commission determines to postpone.
 - o There is no urgency to submit comment, however staff stated that it would be preferential to submit comment for the November 27th meeting.
- The Commission will have a January meeting but Ordinance 23-49 is before Council on January 8th and could be decided at that meeting so postponement was not supported by Staff.

FAIR/ROEDL MOVED THAT THE PARKS, ART RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF A LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT BUT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS DOES NOT FULLY SUPPORT INCLUDING COMMUNITY RECREATION WITHIN THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

1. THE BENEFITS ARE NOT CLEARLY DEFINED.
2. DOES NOT SUPPORT THE FUNCTION OF COMMUNITY RECREATION HIGHER IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE CITY MANAGER;
3. THERE IS NO CONNECTION TO THE PLANNING, BUILDING OR CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISIONS AND LIMITED CONNECTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UNDER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.
4. SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF A PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO BRING FORWARD THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF COMMUNITY RECREATION AS EXPRESSED BY THE STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

C. South Slope Road Easement for Trails

Acting Chair Archibald introduced the item by reading of the title and deferred to Recreation Manager Illg.

Recreation Manager Illg noted that Commissioner Lewis requested this item to be on the agenda and he has provided an aerial map to reference the area of the proposed trail but turned the floor over to Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice to facilitate the discussion.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice assisted discussion on the proposed South Slope Trail noting the following:

- The proposed trail would improve an existing, informal pathway
- The proposed trail area was reviewed by Parks Maintenance Coordinator and Public Works Superintendent
 - o Previously used as a construction access road
 - o Very muddy
 - o Neighboring property owners did not want it to be a through road due to the added traffic impacts to the neighborhood
 - o It can be made into a trail but it would require side ditching and proper ground work to bring the trail to standards and then they can maintain it with equipment.
 - o Estimated costs are \$30,000 to \$35,000 and it can be added to the trail financial plan with minimal impact
 - Funding was needed to complete the elevated trails that the Public Works Director was planning
 - Volunteer labor was suggested to lower costs
 - Adopt a Trail Program introduced to neighboring property owners
- Concerns expressed by the commission were limited to vehicular access to the trail, annual maintenance, and if there was a trail easement.
 - o Trail would be built within a right of way, similar to the Fairview Avenue Trail

GALBRAITH/FAIR MOVED THE PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH SLOPE TRAIL AS PROPOSED AND ADD IT TO THE TRAIL FINANCIAL PLAN.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMIOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. 2023 PARC Annual Calendar

- B. Reappointment of Commissioner Harrald
- C. City Manager's Report
 - CM Report for October 23, 2023 Council Meeting
 - CM Report for November 13, 2023 Council Meeting
- D. City Newsletter for November 2023

Acting Chair Archibald read the informational items into the record and open the floor to comments or questions from the Commission. There were none offered. He then requested a volunteer to report at the City Council meeting on November 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Galbraith volunteered to make the report stating he will submit a written report to the Commission for review prior to the meeting to make sure he captured everything correctly.

Acting Chair Archibald informed Commissioner Galbraith to send it to the Clerk and that she will distribute it to the commission so they do not go against Open Meetings Act.

There was a brief discussion on the regulations including reply all emails and serial meetings facilitated by Deputy City Clerk Krause.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Public Works Director Keiser expressed her desire to become a member of the Commission after her retirement noting the regulations against employees being a member of the advisory body. She then expressed her disappointment that Matt Steffy was not attending the meeting as he is the Associate Planner for Parks & Trails and as such he should be there to answer questions regarding the proposed trail and such things. She understood there was conflict within the organization that prohibited his attendance and she expressed her hopes that that silo could be broken down and he can have a regular attendance at the Commission meetings which she believed was very valuable, especially in light of the bigger vision creating a broader service of parks and community recreation for the Homer community. She wished everyone the best of holidays and will see them in the coming year.

Recreation Manager Illg thanked Jan for her remarkable job while she has been the Public Works Director and believed she has accomplished more than anyone else who has filled that position. He expressed his appreciation for the staff all working together and keeping things going. He will look forward to having Jan on the Commission. He then wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice wished everyone a good holiday and expressed his thanks to the Commission.

Deputy City Clerk Krause had no comments.

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Galbraith expressed his appreciation and patience of the Commission and thanked Jan for her service.

Commissioner Roedl thanked everyone for their work, and wished everyone Happy Holidays!

Commissioner Fair thanked Jan and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Acting Chair Archibald expressed his enjoyment chairing the meeting and apologies for not being quite as snappy as he should have been. He then stated his belief that everyone should be able to have the opportunity to express their opinions but we were able to get everything taken care of even though we had to rein it in a few times. Mr. Archibald stated that he has been serving on the commission for a long time and been in Homer for a very long time. He has fought for parks numerable times in this building, does not plan to quit, and will try to get these parks into a shape they can be proud of as that is what he believes was the Commission's primary duty. He reported speaking with Dr. Bell about Jack Gist Park and every time he tries to do something out there it gets sidetracked. Mr. Archibald noted that they have some great volunteers in this town.

Mr. Archibald offered to assist Parks Maintenance Coordinator Felice with his big tractor on any projects. He further expressed his belief that they had a great commission and encourage Public Works Director Keiser to take some time off and then come back and get on the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. Meetings will be conducted at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom webinar.

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II

Approved: _____



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

Memorandum

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: CHAD FELICE, PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR
DATE: JANUARY 15, 2024
SUBJECT: PARKS REVIEW FOR DECEMBER

KAREN HORNADAY PARK PLAYGROUND

- Purchased an ADA ramp for the sand box
- Snow removal/sanding
- Started on clearing some alders in the campground area

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

- Snow blowing, plowing and sanding of trails
- Continued cleaning up between Hazel and the Story trail to make it more open and visible
- In talks with public works crew on how to handle the ground water problem along Hazel Street

JACK GIST PARK

- Started on the warning track in the adult softball field
- Sewer line is in
- Water line set to go in the spring
- New drainage ditch dug on the East side of the park
- Started on some parking lot improvements on the East side

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Thinning out alders by library along Heath St.
- Sanding roads, parks, and sidewalks
- Inventory



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Community Recreation

HHS/600 East Fairview Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

communityrecreation@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-6090

(f) 907-235-8933

Memorandum

TO: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
FROM: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager
DATE: January 9, 2024
SUBJECT: City Council Action Related to PARCAC for January 18th Meeting

The following City Council resolutions and ordinances activity relevant to the Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission since the last PARCAC meeting on November 16th, 2023.

November 27, 2023 City Council Work session Meeting

Resolution 23-047(S) follow up presentation by Parks Coordinator Felice, Economic Development Manager Engebretsen and Recreation Manager Illg Re: Strategic Financial Plan and Services Vision for Parks and Recreational Facilities and Services within the City of Homer. **No action, informational only.**

November 27, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting

Memorandum CC-23-271 from Mayor Castner re: Appointment of Jessica Williams to the Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission. **Failed.**

January 8, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting

Ordinance 24-03, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Re-Appropriating \$77,500 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to Install a Mobile Restroom at Jack Gist Park. **Introduced January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.**

Ordinance 24-04, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Re-Appropriating \$150,000 from the Homer Accelerated Water and Sewer Program (HAWSP) Fund to Purchase Two Mobile Restrooms to be Placed at Karen Hornaday Park. **Introduced January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.**

Resolution 24-006, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Approving and Accepting the Donation of a Lighthouse Sculpture Created by Mooserun Metalsmiths of Homer, Alaska Commissioned by the Stuart Craig Family to be Located in the Gardens at the Baycrest Hill Overlook and Included in the City of Homer Municipal Art Collection. **Adopted.**

Ordinance 23-49(S), An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending Homer City Code Title 2, Chapters 2.32 Departments and Boards, 2.44 Department of Administration, 2.48 Public Library, and Enacting Chapters 2.46 Department of Information Technology and 2.57 Department of Community Development. **Adopted.** Note: As advised by PARCAC, parks and community recreation is not part of the new Community

Development Department and currently remain in their existing structure until the city is ready to move forward with a new parks and recreation department.

Ordinance 24-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. **Introduced January 8, 2024 Public Hearing and Second Reading January 22, 2024.**

2.57 Department of Community Development

2.58 Boards and Commissions

2.60 Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission

2.64 Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

2.68 *Repealed*

2.70 Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Board

2.72 Planning Commission

2.76 Economic Development Advisory Commission

2.78 *Repealed*

2.80 *Repealed*

2.84 Public Release of Record

2.92 Public Records Management

2.96 *Repealed*

Section 2. Homer City Code Chapter 2.32 Departments and Boards is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 2.32
DEPARTMENTS AND BOARDS¹

Sections:

2.32.010 Departments – Directors.

2.32.020 *Repealed.*

2.32.030 Designation and function of departments.

2.32.040 Departmental administrative fee schedule.

Prior legislation: Ords. 1-100.4 and 73-8.

2.32.010 Departments – Directors.

There shall be principal subdivisions of the City government known as departments. Each department shall be headed by the City Manager until such time as the ~~Council~~ **City Manager** shall approve the appointment of a “director” who shall then head the designated department. The director shall be appointed by and be responsible to the City Manager. These departments are the functional units under which all matters of an administrative, organizational or utilitarian nature shall fall and shall be all-inclusive of every City function as defined in this chapter. Each department may be further subdivided into divisions for operational purposes. [Code 1967 § 3-400.1; Code 1981 § 1.40.010].

2.32.020 Boards and commissions.

Repealed by Ord. 18-38(S). [Ord. 92-30(S)(A), 1992. Code 1967 § 3-400.2; Code 1981 § 1.40.020].

2.32.030 Designation and function of departments.

The City departments are designated in this section and their functions set forth:

Chapter 2.36 HCC	Department of Finance
Chapter 2.40 HCC	Department of Port and Harbor
Chapter 2.44 HCC	Department of Administration
<u>Chapter 2.46 HCC</u>	<u>Department of Information Technology</u>
<u>Chapter 2.48 HCC</u>	<u>Department of the Public Library</u>
Chapter 2.52 HCC	Police Department
Chapter 2.53 HCC	Fire Department
Chapter 2.56 HCC	Department of Public Works
<u>Chapter 2.57 HCC</u>	<u>Department of Community Development</u>

[Amended by City in August 2017; Ord. 91-7 § 2, 1991; Ord. 85-35 § 2, 1985. Code 1981 § 1.40.030].

2.32.040 Departmental administrative fee schedule.

Unless established by ordinance or resolution of the City Council, the director of each department of the City shall have the authority, subject to the approval of the City Manager and ratification by the City Council, to promulgate and maintain an administrative fee schedule for services provided by that department. Fees for identical services shall be uniform throughout all departments. A current copy of the departmental administrative fee schedule shall be available for inspection by any person at the front reception area of the department and at the office of the City Clerk. Unless otherwise provided by ordinance or resolution, all fees collected under this schedule shall be forwarded to the Finance Department for deposit into the general fund. [Ord. 92-07(S)(A), 1992. Code 1981 § 1.40.040].

¹ For Alaska Statute provisions authorizing municipalities to establish and prescribe the functions of departments, officers and agencies, see AS 29.35.010.

Section 3. Homer City Code Chapter 2.44 Department of Administration is hereby amended to read as follows:

Bold and underlined added. ~~Deleted language stricken through~~

The Department of Administration is created which shall be headed by the City Manager or his designee. Within this Department will be the City Clerk and such other personnel as may be necessary to provide such services as personnel administration; ~~City-wide planning; zoning and platting; permitting and inspection; services such as parks, recreation, Community Recreation Program, and library programs;~~ administration of the Homer Advisory Planning Commission, the ~~Homer Advisory Parks, Art, and Recreation,~~ **& Culture Advisory** Commission, the City of Homer Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board** and the Library Advisory Board; major capital projects administration; ~~economic development~~ and City enhancement programs and such other services or programs as designated by the City Manager or requested by the City Council. The Department may be subdivided into divisions with their own supervisors as deemed necessary. [Ord. 10-16 § 1, 2010; Ord. 85-35 § 4, 1985. Code 1981 § 1.43.010].

Section 4. Homer City Code Chapter 2.46 Department of Information Technology is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Chapter 2.46
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2.46.010 Department of Information Technology.

The Department of Information Technology is created which shall be headed by the Director of Information Technology, also known as the Chief Technical Officer of the City. The Director shall be appointed by the City Manager for an indefinite term and shall be removable by the City Manager. The Department may be subdivided into divisions with their own supervisors as deemed necessary.

Section 5. Homer City Code Chapter 2.48 Public Library is hereby amended to read as follows:

Chapter 2.48

Department of the PUBLIC LIBRARY¹

Sections:

2.48.005 Department of the Library

2.48.010 Library functions.

2.48.020 Library Director – Appointment.

2.48.030 Library Director – Duties.

2.48.040 Board – Creation and membership.

2.48.050 Library Advisory Board – Powers and duties.

2.48.060 Library Advisory Board – Vacancies.

2.48.070 Use of library.

2.48.005 Department of the Library.

[**Bold and underlined added.** Deleted language stricken through]

The Department of the Library is created which shall be headed by the Library Director. The Director shall be appointed by the City Manager for an indefinite term and shall be removed by the City Manager. The Department may be subdivided into divisions with their own supervisors as deemed necessary.

2.48.010 Library functions.

The major functions of the library are the operation of the Homer Library, including control and supervision of library use, acquisition of library property and other related matters. [Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 1, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.010].

2.48.020 Library Director – Appointment.

The head of the Homer Library is the Library Director, who shall be appointed by the City Manager. **The Library Director must hold a master's degree in library or information science, or other relevant credential, as required for library grant eligibility by the State of Alaska** [Ord. 09-28(S) § 1, 2009; Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 2, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.020].

2.48.030 Library Director – Duties.

The Library Director of the City shall be responsible for and shall have supervision and control of the library and hold responsibilities as denoted in the job description for the position. [Ord. 09-28(S) § 1, 2009; Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 3, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.030].

2.48.040 Board – Creation and membership.

There is created the City of Homer Library Advisory Board, referred to in this chapter as the Board, which shall act in an advisory capacity to the Library Director and the City. The Board shall consist of seven members comprised as follows:

- a. At least five members of the Board shall reside within the corporate limits of the City.
- b. Members shall serve for three years with initial appointments to be made for staggered terms as follows: Two one-year terms; two two-year terms; and three three-year terms.
- c. Members shall serve without compensation. [Ord. 09-28(S) § 1, 2009; Ord. 98-7, 1998; Ord. 95-5, 1995; Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 4, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.040].

2.48.050 Library Advisory Board – Powers and duties.

The Library Advisory Board shall:

- a. Establish operational policies for the library program, and submit same to the City Council for approval. There shall be an annual review of policies and revisions may be recommended by the Board.
- b. Assist the Librarian in preparation and presentation of the annual budget request to the City Council.
- c. Adopt bylaws and regulations for internal operations governing the proper and orderly discharge of its responsibilities.
- d. Make recommendations through the City Manager to the Mayor and City Council concerning the library and its programs.

Bold and underlined added. ~~Deleted language stricken through~~

e. Solicit donations of money and/or property for the benefit of the library. Any money donations shall be deposited to the City treasury in a reserve fund designated for public library use. If property, it shall be accepted by deed or other conveyance subject to approval by the City Council. Such property shall be held or disposed of for public library purposes as the Council may direct. The Board may make recommendations for disposition of money or property so received and such recommendations shall be considered and acted upon by the Council. [Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 5, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.050].

2.48.060 Library Advisory Board – Vacancies.

a. In the event of a vacancy on the Library Advisory Board, the Mayor shall appoint a person to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term, subject to confirmation by the City Council.

b. If any Library Board member is absent for three consecutive meetings (unless a majority of the other members have previously granted a leave of absence, not to exceed six months), the seat of that member shall be declared vacant and a new member appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the City Council. [Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 6, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.060].

2.48.070 Use of library.

All persons shall be extended the use of library privileges subject to observing the rules and regulations established for the use thereof. The Library Director may prohibit any person from using the library who willfully or persistently violates any rule or regulation prescribed for the operation of the library. No person shall fail or refuse to leave the library when ordered to do so by the Library Director or other person in charge. [Ord. 09-28(S) § 1, 2009; Ord. 85-35 § 5, 1985; Ord. 80-2 § 7, 1980. Code 1981 § 1.48.070].

Section 6. Homer City Code Chapter 2.57 Department of Community Development is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Chapter 2.57

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2.57.010 Department of Community Development.

The Department of Community Development is created which shall be headed by the Director of Community Development. The Director shall be appointed by the City Manager for an indefinite term and shall be removable by the City Manager. Within this Department will be the City Planner and such other personnel as may be necessary to provide services such as city-wide planning; zoning and platting; permitting and inspection; economic development; City enhancement programs and such other services or programs as designated by the City Manager or requested by the City Council; services such as parks, and community recreation. The Department may be subdivided into divisions with their own supervisors as deemed necessary.

Section 7. This Ordinance is of a permanent and general character. and shall be included in the City Code.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA this ____ day of _____, 2023.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

YES:

NO:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

First Reading:

Public Hearing:

Second Reading:

Effective Date:

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PARKS

An Examination of the Fiscal Effects of Operations and Capital Spending
by Local Park and Recreation Agencies on the U.S. Economy



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

KEY FINDINGS

Local public park and recreation agencies in the United States generated more than \$201 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1.1 million jobs that boosted labor income by more than \$63 billion from their operations and capital spending in 2021.



Impact of Local Park and Recreation Agencies on the U.S. Economy – 2021

	Economic Activity	Employment
Total Impact	\$201.4 billion	1,065,832 jobs
Operations Spending	\$102.1 billion	609,093 jobs
Capital Spending	\$99.3 billion	456,739 jobs

Sources: IMPLAN and Center for Regional Analysis – George Mason University for NRPA, U.S. Census Bureau

Parks and recreation is essential infrastructure in healthy, vibrant and resilient communities. Through the tireless efforts of hundreds of thousands of full-time, part-time and seasonal workers — and supported by countless volunteers and advocates — local park and recreation agencies have a positive impact on the lives of millions of people. Park and recreation facilities, amenities and programming are diverse; they range from no- or low-cost fitness opportunities (such as a walking trail or a fitness class at a community center) and access to nutritious meals at out-of-school time programs for youth to providing our cities, towns and counties with cleaner air and water thanks to preserved open spaces.

Park and recreation professionals and their agencies make critical contributions to their communities as highlighted by the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Three Pillars:

- **Health and Wellness** – Local park and recreation agencies provide spaces, programs and services that are essential to a community's vitality. They also serve as key factors in advancing health equity, improving individual and community-level health outcomes, and enhancing quality of life. Park and recreation professionals are uniquely positioned to create — in partnership with the community, public health leaders and other local organizations — upstream solutions that catalyze and transform park and recreation agencies into holistic and people-centered Community Wellness Hubs.
- **Equity** – Every person in every community deserves to benefit from the power of parks and recreation. The very philosophy behind public parks and recreation is the idea that all people — regardless of race, ethnicity, age, income level, identity or ability — have access to programs, facilities, places and spaces that improve quality of life and build healthy communities. Parks and recreation truly builds communities — communities for all.
- **Conservation** – Creating resilient and climate-ready communities depends on parks and recreation. Park and recreation professionals are champions in addressing our most pressing environmental challenges; the parks and open spaces they manage maximize the benefits of nature to achieve positive and equitable health and economic impacts at the community level.

Park and recreation professionals and their agencies make another valuable contribution: promoting economic activity that makes our cities, towns and counties more prosperous. Just how significant is the impact of local park and recreation agencies on the U.S. economy?

To answer this question, NRPA joined forces with the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University in 2015, to conduct the first nationwide study on the economic impact of local park and recreation agencies' operations and capital spending. Since then, NRPA and the Center for Regional Analysis have partnered twice more to update that landmark 2015 research: in 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023. Each of the studies focuses exclusively on the direct, indirect and induced effects local park and recreation agencies' spending have on economic activity using U.S. Census Bureau data compiled for the analysis. This report summarizes the key findings of the 2023 research.

U.S. ECONOMIC IMPACT

Local park and recreation agencies employed nearly 326,000 full-time and part-time employees in 2021, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This includes almost 161,000 full-time park and recreation professionals. That translates to more than \$41 billion of operations spending by the nation's more than 10,000 local park and recreation agencies. This spending — combined with capital expenditures — ripples through the national, regional and local economies as park and recreation employees spend their paychecks, park and recreation agency vendors hire workers, and both agencies and their vendors purchase products and services to serve their clients.

The result of park and recreation expenditures on the nation's economy is immense. The shared impact of operations and capital spending by U.S. local park and recreation agencies in 2021 resulted in more than \$201 billion in economic activity and nearly \$97 billion in added gross domestic product (GDP) and supported nearly 1.1 million jobs that paid salaries, wages and benefits totaling \$63 billion.



Local park and recreation agencies generated more than \$201 billion in economic activity and supported nearly 1.1 million jobs in 2021.

People attend the 32nd Annual Independence Day Parade in Farragut, Tennessee.
Photo by Carisa Ownby.

Impacts of Local Park and Recreation Agency Spending on the U.S. Economy – 2021

Total Impact of Local Park and Recreation Agencies' Spending	
Economic activity (transactions)	\$201.39 billion
Value added (gross domestic product)	\$96.82 billion
Labor income (salaries, wages, benefits)	\$63.03 billion
Employment (jobs)	1,065,832 jobs

Sources: IMPLAN, Center for Regional Analysis – George Mason University for the National Recreation and Park Association, U.S. Census Bureau

STATE-LEVEL ANALYSIS

This study also examined the economic impact of local park and recreation agencies' spending in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The methodology used in the state-level analysis mirrored that for the national study. The estimates of total economic impacts include the direct, indirect and induced effects of operations and capital spending by local park and recreation agencies in each state and the District of Columbia.

Impact of Local Park and Recreation Agency Spending on State Economies – 2021

State	Employment	Labor Income	Value Added	Output
Alabama	9,798	\$398,704,487	\$570,702,548	\$1,309,907,431
Alaska	1,537	\$82,455,209	\$126,856,456	\$264,175,941
Arizona	16,144	\$842,530,384	\$1,229,479,203	\$2,611,583,243
Arkansas	5,412	\$231,508,840	\$337,779,912	\$812,108,830
California	105,185	\$7,015,817,289	\$9,852,445,969	\$20,610,171,288
Colorado	39,666	\$2,289,009,753	\$3,373,686,516	\$7,412,567,838
Connecticut	4,647	\$207,123,013	\$301,891,489	\$542,528,518
Delaware	711	\$34,019,865	\$47,120,297	\$97,396,913
District of Columbia	3,166	\$265,576,281	\$347,723,530	\$846,038,307
Florida	82,175	\$4,235,872,315	\$6,627,002,141	\$15,204,744,352
Georgia	21,321	\$1,009,936,445	\$1,559,049,716	\$3,412,751,970
Hawaii	6,268	\$346,881,667	\$494,130,828	\$922,757,607
Idaho	3,898	\$142,695,442	\$218,568,328	\$587,289,523
Illinois	50,116	\$2,618,156,004	\$3,857,814,811	\$7,719,590,054
Indiana	9,422	\$318,649,774	\$543,058,517	\$1,269,172,310
Iowa	6,501	\$246,902,422	\$400,057,101	\$936,465,472
Kansas	8,341	\$340,007,723	\$482,982,394	\$1,054,388,638
Kentucky	5,057	\$192,529,258	\$267,231,646	\$772,561,017
Louisiana	8,748	\$352,020,886	\$551,029,980	\$1,260,213,280
Maine	1,887	\$71,301,968	\$106,220,231	\$213,746,212
Maryland	18,336	\$1,054,928,798	\$1,539,157,747	\$3,090,438,029
Massachusetts	8,462	\$564,270,832	\$757,906,719	\$1,422,694,593
Michigan	17,094	\$857,517,869	\$1,281,006,934	\$3,019,862,866
Minnesota	21,645	\$1,313,220,147	\$1,942,746,032	\$4,233,369,257
Mississippi	4,967	\$199,452,694	\$296,239,547	\$772,874,085
Missouri	15,970	\$691,649,606	\$1,042,371,522	\$2,187,473,188

Impact of Local Park and Recreation Agency Spending on State Economies – 2021 (cont.)

Montana	1,646	\$67,521,983	\$94,580,651	\$230,669,752
Nebraska	5,577	\$276,019,493	\$416,952,138	\$984,900,955
Nevada	14,122	\$768,177,531	\$1,308,670,952	\$2,684,109,240
New Hampshire	1,286	\$50,177,976	\$74,285,761	\$150,279,811
New Jersey	10,913	\$531,555,264	\$696,409,460	\$1,171,593,908
New Mexico	4,995	\$190,548,003	\$270,234,178	\$577,786,899
New York	49,565	\$3,568,361,982	\$5,212,213,153	\$10,127,185,662
North Carolina	25,384	\$1,248,318,025	\$1,861,717,329	\$4,140,349,212
North Dakota	5,083	\$178,576,529	\$259,217,469	\$667,742,465
Ohio	33,567	\$1,733,786,369	\$2,563,841,528	\$5,499,400,171
Oklahoma	9,197	\$447,366,134	\$681,849,607	\$1,753,213,809
Oregon	13,237	\$693,613,577	\$1,008,293,802	\$2,037,032,443
Pennsylvania	14,606	\$886,365,375	\$1,303,968,438	\$2,800,882,729
Rhode Island	1,063	\$57,651,215	\$78,385,103	\$148,300,764
South Carolina	12,705	\$546,478,992	\$803,372,743	\$1,799,386,345
South Dakota	2,447	\$88,430,728	\$122,585,910	\$306,467,307
Tennessee	11,256	\$529,233,512	\$759,322,617	\$1,506,053,763
Texas	74,722	\$4,298,709,928	\$6,246,759,900	\$13,756,542,099
Utah	15,960	\$583,774,292	\$882,830,752	\$1,961,890,359
Vermont	854	\$35,615,430	\$51,787,857	\$118,470,769
Virginia	23,057	\$1,082,581,591	\$1,646,102,520	\$3,356,202,188
Washington	23,475	\$1,703,928,040	\$2,637,557,108	\$5,092,555,395
West Virginia	1,745	\$60,317,087	\$103,781,471	\$245,121,969
Wisconsin	15,258	\$826,673,253	\$1,195,523,909	\$2,758,529,235
Wyoming	3,705	\$165,161,863	\$253,205,824	\$543,010,454

Sources: IMPLAN, Center for Regional Analysis – George Mason University for the National Recreation and Park Association, U.S. Census Bureau

NOTE: The sum of the state-level impacts presented in this table does not equal the national-level economic impact estimates presented in the previous section. The difference reflects how the full economic impact of local park and recreation agency spending is not confined within state borders. For example, if the playground equipment installed at a park in Kalispell, Montana, came from a manufacturer located in Florida, the value of that product production would not count as an impact on the Montana economy, nor does the study include such an impact in the estimates for Florida.



Children play in the water in front of a fire truck in the park. Photo courtesy of Ginger Clark, Centreville-Washington Park District.

These estimates of the economic impact generated from park and recreation agency spending come from an input-output model that estimates direct, indirect and induced effects of those expenditures.

- **Direct effects** reflect the spending by local park and recreation agencies — whether for operations or capital programs — and include wages and benefits for agency employees and spending on equipment, utilities, goods and services.
- **Indirect effects** capture the spending associated with local park and recreation agencies' vendors. An example is an agency contracting with a local landscaping company to mow ballfields. The landscaping company hires employees, purchases mowers and contracts with a bookkeeping service; in turn, the bookkeeping service leases office space, employs workers, purchases office supplies and so forth.
- **Induced effects** track the impact of consumer spending (from wages) by park and recreation agency employees and employees working for the agency's vendors.

The model estimates the total effects on output, employment, labor income and value added resulting from park and recreation agencies' operations and capital spending:

- **Output** measures the value of the resulting transactions
- **Employment** is the number of headcount jobs, both full and part time
- **Labor income** includes salaries, wages and fringe benefits
- **Value added** is the measure most equivalent to GDP and includes property income, dividends, corporate profits and other measures

Your Local Park and Recreation Agency Generates Additional Economic Benefits

While the figures presented in this report are significant, they represent only one aspect of the economic benefits of public parks. Indeed, the conclusions of this report are conservative estimates of parks and recreation's full economic benefits.

Beyond the impact of local park and recreation agency spending, other critical economic impacts from public parks include:

- **Health and wellness:** Parks and recreation promotes improved physical and mental health. This not only helps people feel better, but it also can help lower medical and insurance costs for those people taking advantage of those facilities and activities. [NRPA-commissioned research resources](#) demonstrate how parks and recreation supports healthy, productive lives and resilient, cohesive communities. Eighty-three percent of U.S. adults responding to a [June 2023 NRPA Park Pulse](#) agreed that it is important to have access to indoor and outdoor recreational areas, classes and activities in order to lead a healthy lifestyle. Ninety-three percent of U.S. adults responding to the [June 2021 NRPA Park Pulse](#) poll indicated that their mental health was improved by services offered by local park and recreation professionals and agencies.
- **Conservation and resiliency:** Park and recreation agencies' protection of land, water, trees, open spaces and wildlife improves air and water quality in communities. Through effective land management methods and green infrastructure investments, parks and recreation makes communities more resilient to natural disasters, reducing disaster recovery and insurance costs. Ninety-three percent of respondents to NRPA's [2019 Engagement With Parks](#) survey indicated it is essential that their local government acquire, construct and maintain local parks, trails and green spaces near bodies of water to protect natural resources in their community. Six in seven U.S. adults responding to an [April 2023 NRPA Park Pulse](#) poll expressed support for their local park and recreation agency's environmental initiatives.
- **Property values:** Economic research has demonstrated consistently that homes and properties located near parklands have higher values than those located farther away. Higher home values not only benefit the owners of these properties, but also add to the tax base of local governments. Six in seven respondents to the [2023 Engagement With Parks](#) survey indicated that they seek high-quality parks and recreation amenities when choosing a place to live.
- **Economic development:** Parks and recreation improves the quality of life in communities and benefits the local economic development of a region. Eighty-seven percent of corporate executives responding to a [2023 Area Development](#) survey rated quality-of-life features as an important factor when choosing a location for a headquarters, factory or other company facility. Further, 94 percent of adults responding to the [March 2020 NRPA Park Pulse](#) poll expressed support for their local government investing in infrastructure improvements that promote economic activity in their community.
- **Visitor spending:** Many local park and recreation agency amenities spur tourism to their respective locales, generating significant economic activity, including (but not limited to) increased sales at local restaurants/bars and hotels. An [August 2017 NRPA Park Pulse](#) poll found that people seek out park and recreation amenities — such as beaches, parks, trails and secluded and relaxing places — when choosing a vacation destination. An [August 2021 NRPA Park Pulse](#) poll noted that more than nine in 10 U.S. adults find park and recreation summer activities create fond memories.



Ashland Park along the Ohio River in Clarksville, Indiana, overlooking the Louisville, Kentucky Skyline. Photo courtesy of Ken Conklin.

Park and recreation professionals at the more than 10,000 agencies across the United States positively contribute to their communities in many different ways. Not only are parks leading the way in terms of health and wellness, equity, and conservation, but they also drive significant economic activity.

Local park and recreation agencies generated more than \$201 billion in U.S. economic activity and supported nearly 1.1 million jobs from their operations and capital spending alone in 2021. These results, combined with studies on the state and [national](#) park systems, are proof that public parks are robust engines of economic activity.

Parks and recreation is a part of a broader outdoor recreation economy. The [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) estimates that the outdoor recreation economy represents \$563.7 billion of gross domestic product (GDP) — or 2.2 percent of the U.S. economy.

Beyond the impact of their expenditures, park and recreation agencies generate even more economic value through their promotion of health and wellness, as well as conservation and resiliency that foster higher property values and increase tourism. Critically, park and recreation amenities are the cornerstones to improving a locality's or region's quality of life — a significant factor in attracting employers and workers to an area.

When combined with the ability to deliver healthier and happier communities, the powerful impact parks and recreation has on economic activity highlights the fact that park and recreation agency offerings are not merely a “nice-to-have” luxury government service. Instead, parks and recreation transforms our cities, towns and counties into vibrant and prosperous communities for all.

Policymakers and elected officials at all levels of government should take notice and support greater and more stable taxpayer funding of parks and recreation. Local park and recreation agencies not only help raise the standard of living in our neighborhoods, towns and cities, but they also spark economic activity that can have ripple effects well beyond any initial expenditure in creating jobs and prosperity throughout our nation.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau to estimate operational spending by local park systems. The [Survey of Public Employment & Payroll](#) offers estimates of agency employment and payrolls, while the [Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances](#) provides agency operations spending data. Researchers at the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University (GMU) derived its capital spending estimates from reports available from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and a review of budget records for dozens of park systems selected to reflect a diverse range of localities and park operating characteristics.

The GMU researchers used the IMPLAN economic input-output model to estimate the total economic impacts, often called “economic contributions,” generated by park system operating expenditures and capital spending. Consistent with previous studies prepared for NRPA, the researchers categorized park agency spending as if it were private-sector businesses operating parks, recreation and similar entertainment venues. In their judgment, this is more accurate than treating the expenditure as general local government spending (i.e., park and recreation agency spending patterns are much more like a privately-run entertainment venue than a local tax office).

The researchers adjusted the model inputs to reflect actual compensation paid to park system employees, which is often different than what private-sector firms pay their employees. The IMPLAN model is the most widely used tool for estimating economic impacts. This model is updated frequently to reflect shifts in the structure of the economy; therefore, the results reported here are not directly comparable to the findings of previous analyses.



More than 100 people (kids and adults) came together to create the largest community painted mural in Minnesota. The mural is 30'x30' and represents elements that the children found beautiful in the city. The majority of the mural was painted with one-inch brushes or smaller. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Fink, City of New Brighton, Minnesota.



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

22377 Belmont Ridge Road

Ashburn, VA 20148-4501

800.626.NRPA (6772)

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City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Community Recreation

HHS/600 East Fairview Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

communityrecreation@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-6090

(f) 907-235-8933

Memorandum

TO: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
FROM: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager
DATE: January 9, 2024
SUBJECT: Community Recreation Staff Report January 18th

Programming & Special Events: Please view the monthly calendar for see all of the many programs, activities and special events. I would like to highlight a few activities that are on the horizon and/or happened.

- Over the holiday break, Community Recreation offered 7 different opportunities for **Open Gym** at Homer High School. This was a completely free program and was for **youth in grades 3-12**. We had steady [participation each day and would estimate over 100 kids in total attended.
- **Pickleball** continues to be very popular! We offer some sort of pickleball activity every day at the HERC. We are working on the potential to offer a new **Family Pickleball** class so that different age groups and skill levels are able to play together. Stay tuned.
- The **Winter Break Tumbling Clinics** that took place in December was at full capacity and we offered 3 different programs based upon age and experience. We are continuing with regular Saturday classes starting on January 6.
- **Indoor Soccer:** We were fortunate to being able to play indoor soccer at West Homer on Sundays, Wednesday and Friday evenings at West Homer during the holiday break. Community Rec will continue to offer this until the SPARC is ready to re-open and resume their indoor soccer program.
- Community Recreation's **Inlet Winds Band** will be starting practices early February and there will be a free performance to the public at the Mariner Theater on April 13th.
- The **Adult Basketball League** season will be ending with two days of playoff and Championships games on the weekend of February 3 & 4. There are 6 teams and over 80 participants. A special shout out to the team sponsors: Alaska Bible Institute, Alaska PT+Wellness, Alaska Salt Co., Alaska Arches, Bay Welding and Ulmers Drug & Hardware.

Recreation Software: Staff is finalizing the CivicRec software system with the hopes of going live by the end of January. We intend to start with creating membership account, drop in cards or single entries for drop in programs first and then on to other classes and special events as we learn to use the system.

2023 Statistics: While we do not have software to quantify all of the information we would like to collect related to the Community Recreation program, staff was able to spend significant time reviewing the monthly and weekly calendars to help gather some relevant data.

2023	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
All programs	18	23	26	25	23	16	17	20	21	28	27	29	273
Youth programs Only	4	3	7	6	7	4	4	5	3	5	5	8	61
Special Events	1	3	0	3	2	0	2	1	4	3	4	2	25
Contact Hours at HERC	139	151	179	177	198	222	226	190	177	157	181	207	2204
Contact Hours at Schools	93	84	114	82	80	88	82	97	126	240	160	92	1338
Total Contact Hours	232	235	293	259	278	310	308	287	303	397	341	299	3542
Number of Volunteers	3	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	6	10	64
Volunteer Hours	79	105	136	125	164	170	172	207	219	206	200	189	1972
Contracted Instructor	145	123	159	136	107	139	138	81	79	169	114	136	1526
& Casual Hours													

Highlights: We offered **298** programs and special events. **1,972** donated volunteer hours has a value of **\$66,259**. Total contact hours for the year was **3,542 hours**. It should also be noted that for calendar year 2024 (January-December), Community Recreation generated **\$49,000** in participation fees. This is the most we have ever collected in over 21 years!

Parks and Recreation Policies and Procedures: As we continue the ongoing discussion related to improving and enhancing City of Homer parks and recreation services, I would like to propose staff and PARCAC begin the process to formalize policy and procedures for these services. This is one of my professional goals I submitted to the City Manager. Ideally we would review and compile existing and relevant city policies start identifying new policies that should be considered and formalized. The Community Recreation program has many division level operational polices such as: required background check and concussion certification, age limits for drop in programs, the requirements for indoors shoes, following school district expectations/requirements, etc. Parks operations also has many operational gray areas that should be formalized as well. Staff would compile existing and proposed into a formal document for PARCAC to review/participation and then on to City Council to eventually adopt into City Code.

City of Homer Community Rec December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm FUTSAL at WHE	2 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 5:30-6:30pm ZUMBA CLASS at HERC
3 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL CANCELLED 6:30-8:30pm FUTSAL at WHE	4 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm YOUTH VOLLEYBALL at HMS	5 4:30-6:30pm COMPETITIVE 4.0+ PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	6 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm FUTSAL at WHE	7 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 11am -1pm LUNCHTIME PICKLEBALL 5:30-6:30pm CARDIO DANCE at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	8 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 7-8am MORNING SOCCER at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm FUTSAL at CANCELLED	9 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 5:30-6:30pm ZUMBA CLASS at HERC
10 9:30-11:30am PICKLEBALL at HERC 1:30-6:30pm ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE at HHS 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS 6:30-8:30pm FUTSAL at CANCELLED	11 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm YOUTH VOLLEYBALL at HMS	12 4:30-6:30pm COMPETITIVE 4.0+ PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	13 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm FUTSAL at WHE	14 11am -1pm LUNCHTIME PICKLEBALL 5:30-6:30pm CARDIO DANCE at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	15 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 3:15-4:15pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLASS at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm FUTSAL at WHE	16 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 5:30-6:30pm ZUMBA CLASS at HERC
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City of Homer Community Rec January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC	2 4:30-6:30pm COMPETITIVE 4.0+ PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 8-10pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	3 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INTERMED PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL at HMS 6:30-8:30pm FUTSAL at WHE	4 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL SKILLS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS	5 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-11AM MORNING PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-6:30pm PICKLEBALL at HERC	6 8:30am-12:30pm YOUTH TUMBLING at HHS 9:30am-12pm PICKLEBALL SKILL SHARING at HERC 5:30-6:30pm ZUMBA CLASS at HERC
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CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY RECREATION PRESENTS:



2023 HOLIDAY BREAK OPEN GYM

Homer High Gym



This is for youth 3rd to 12th grade.

Youth in 3rd-6th grade **MUST** have a parent-guardian present at all time. This is a non structured opportunity to shoot hoops, play dodgeball, run around, volleyball, etc. Some equipment provided.

Everyone must have a signed registration form and wear clean indoor shoes.

Forms available at the door.

When?



MON	12/18	1-3PM
THUR	12/21	1-3PM
SAT	12/23	1-3PM
TUE	12/26	1-3PM
WED	12/27	1-3PM
SAT	12/30	1-3PM
MON	1/1	1-3PM

CALL 907-235-6090 FOR MORE INFO

City of Homer Community Rec Presents:

JEWELRY MAKING CLASSES WINTER 2024

Taught by Art Koeninger

CHECK IT OUT

INTRO TO SILVERSMITHING February 17-18

LOST WAX CASTING February 23-25

INTERMED SILVERSMITHING March 2-3

COST: \$150 or \$90 for repeat students in addition to cost of materials (average project \$5-15). Classes at Homer High.

Contact Art to Register: 907-235-1014

or akoeninger@me.com

Scan for more info



KPBSD posts flyers as a community service. Such posting does not constitute an endorsement for or against the materials and viewpoints expressed in them.



ONGOING!

HOMER COMMUNITY REC DROP-IN VOLLEYBALL WINTER 2024

Info: Call 235-6090

TUES: HIGH SCHOOL AGE & UP
THURS: 7TH GRADE & UP
SUN: 7TH GRADE & UP

TUES & THURS 6:30-8:30PM @HOMER MIDDLE
SUN 6:30-8:30PM @HOMER HIGH

\$5/ADULTS -FREE FOR YOUTH (7-12 GRADES)

KPBSD posts flyers as a community service. Such posting does not constitute an endorsement for or against the materials and viewpoints expressed in them.



MEMORANDUM

Staff Report for Karen Hornaday Park Plan

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission
Date: January 10th, 2024
From: Matt Steffy, Parks and Trails Planner

We have received the most recent draft from Corvus Design for the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan revision. Commissioners should review the full plan and deliver any comments or questions to staff to relay to the contractor. There are a few specific components that the commission should review and discuss at this meeting. Staff will attend the meeting to facilitate the conversation. Feel free to reach out before the meeting with any questions!

Requested Reviews

1. Future of Upper Hornaday. There are three options presented for the future use of the campground area. Please review these options on page six of the attached draft entitled: "Campground Development Options."

- **Option 1: Retain Campground**
 - Existing campground is refurbished, and minor new elements are introduced.
- **Option 2: Retain Partial Campground / Reprogram Areas**
 - Reduce the size of the campground and repurpose part of the area for other recreation.
- **Option 3: Remove Campground / Reprogram Space**
 - Repurpose the entire area for other recreation.

2. Restroom locations .There are several options for restroom locations on page nine of the plan set. "Site Infrastructure Improvements," are potential restroom locations, which are designated by pink rectangles. Please review and discuss these options with staff and provide comment. Where do you think the restrooms should be placed to best serve the most park users or make the park most functional as a multipurpose park?

NEXT STEPS: Staff will work with the consultant to incorporate your comments. Conversation on the full draft plan will continue at the February meeting. When ready in the next 2-3 months, a revised draft can be hosted on the City website and staff will conduct public and user group outreach, in preparation of moving towards a PARCAC recommendation to Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Provide comment and input on components of the plan at this draft stage.

Attachments:

Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan Revision DRAFT 01.08.2024

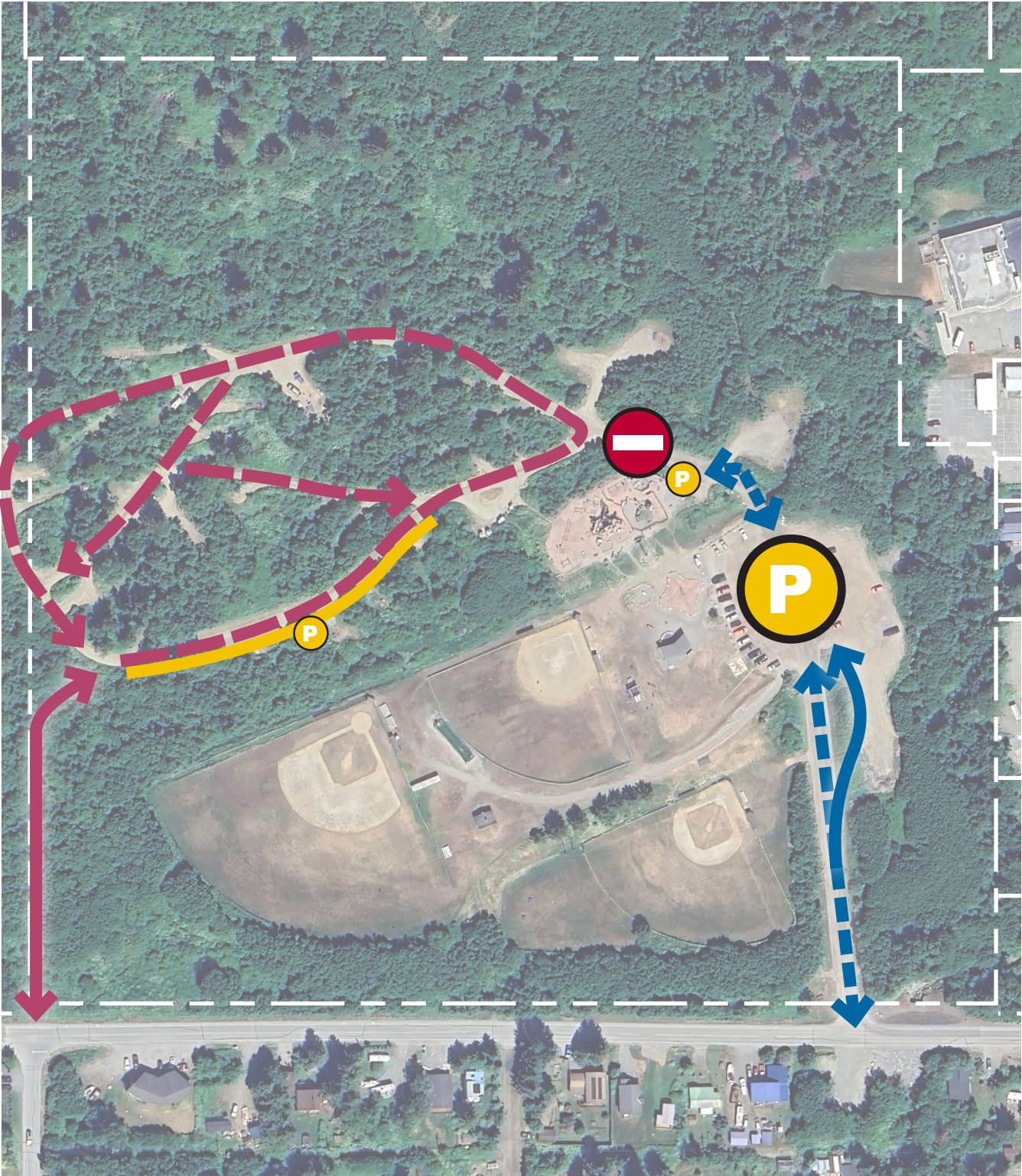
Karen Hornaday Park Program Development



Site Analysis

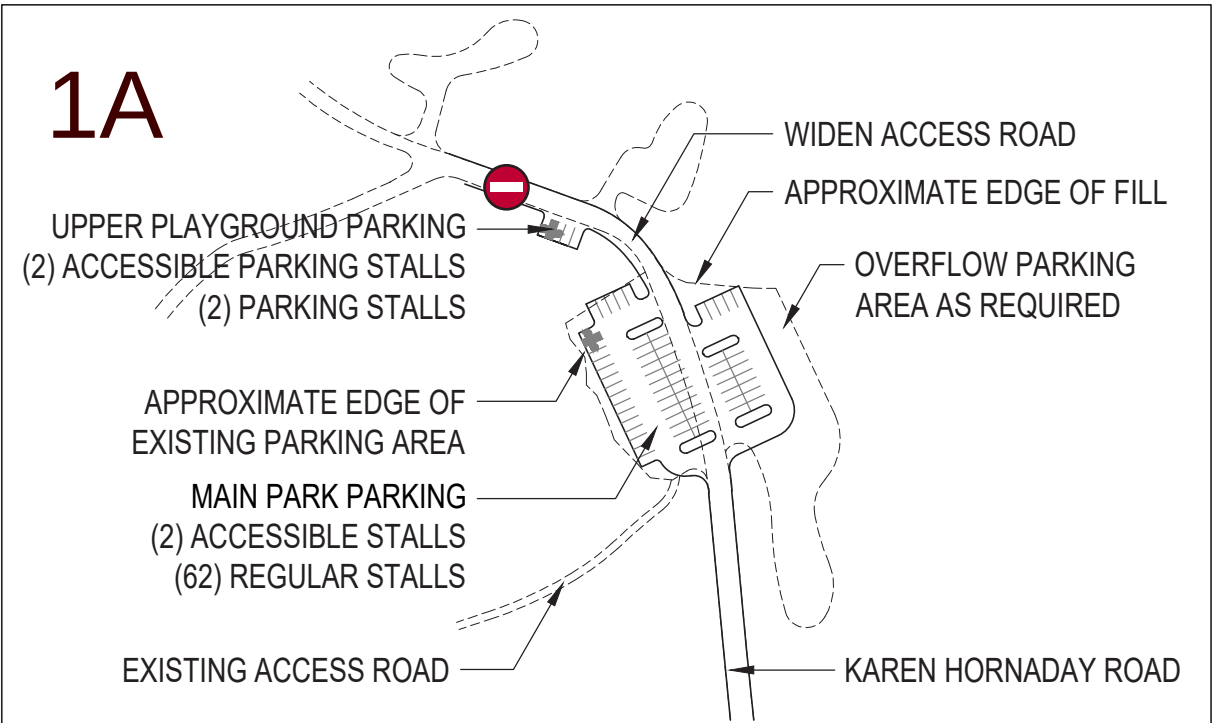
- 1 » Review parking lot layout and access to supply +/-110 parking spaces. ADA parking for shelter and playground.
- 2 » Review slope on baseball fields and regrade as needed to provide positive drainage.
- 3 » T-Ball Field (a reminder this is here for this purpose)
- 4 » Review drainage issues north side of baseball fields.
- 5 » Review drainage issues north and south of pavilion.
- 6 » Review playground accessibility to improve accessibility to existing play structures and recommend new ADA accessible play features.
- 7 » Establish location for restroom building(s) with ADA accessible, family, and regular stalls. Quantity to be provided by City.
- 8 » Potential areas for parking.
- 9 » Renovate campground to accommodate desired uses, including leveling/expanding sites (tenting, single vehicle, camper, trailer), selective vegetation clearing, and trail connections. Mandatory operations and management plan prior to finalizing programming. Plan with beneficial off-season uses in mind.
- 10 » Existing trail connection with bridge.
- 11 » Expand trails, including potential loop(s) around campground and connect with existing trails.
- 12 » Review benefit of concession infrastructure. Whether supporting food trucks, or more permanent.
- 13 » Review existing utility connections and establish future needs for power, water, and sewer for restroom(s), campground, ballfields, and concession support. Correct issue for water valve in ballfield.
- 14 » Improve pedestrian access to the park with trail along access road and sidewalk connection on Fairview Avenue from Bartlett Street and Mullikin Street.
- 15 » Park management and user group storage facility.
- 16 » Potential overflow parking on one side of the road.
- 17 » Opportunity to collaborate with hospital for patient access to park, and potential park improvements related to their uses and needs (occupational and physical therapy, and access to greenspace and recreation)
- 18 » Disc golf use (can be seasonal)
- 19 » Review entry road configuration (to separate parking from access)
- 20 » Review feasibility for an alternative access route to existing campground area.

Karen Hornaday Park Site Access Option 1 (New Access Road)

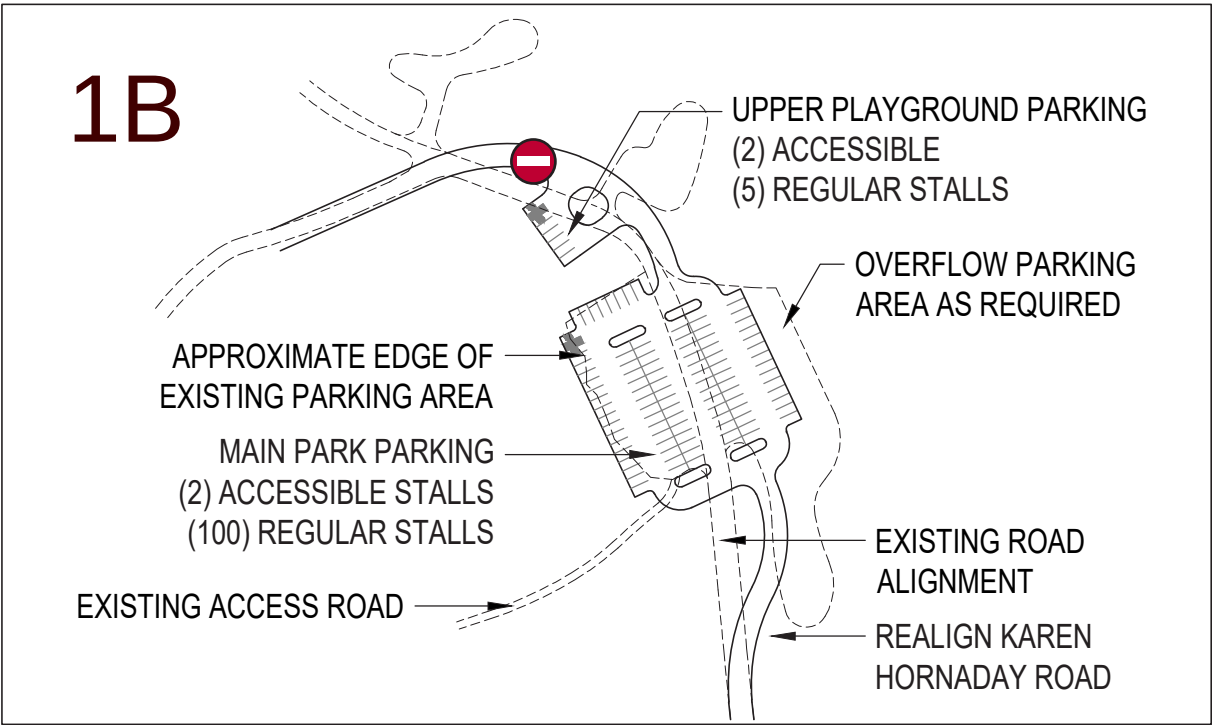


Site Access Diagram – Option 1

- New Route
- Existing Route
- Campground Traffic
- Park Traffic
- Comingled Traffic



Parking Option A - Calmed (Constrained by Existing Conditions)



Parking Option B - Calmed (Expanded with New Road Realignment)

This option is based on staying within existing conditions, except for provision of a new western access road.

Benefits

- Separates park and campground traffic
- Uses existing road alignment
- Fits within existing parking and fill area
- Offsets parking access to slow traffic
- Provides overflow parking

Negatives

- Limited parking expansion
- Dead end when gate closed

This option expands beyond existing conditions, and provides a new western access road

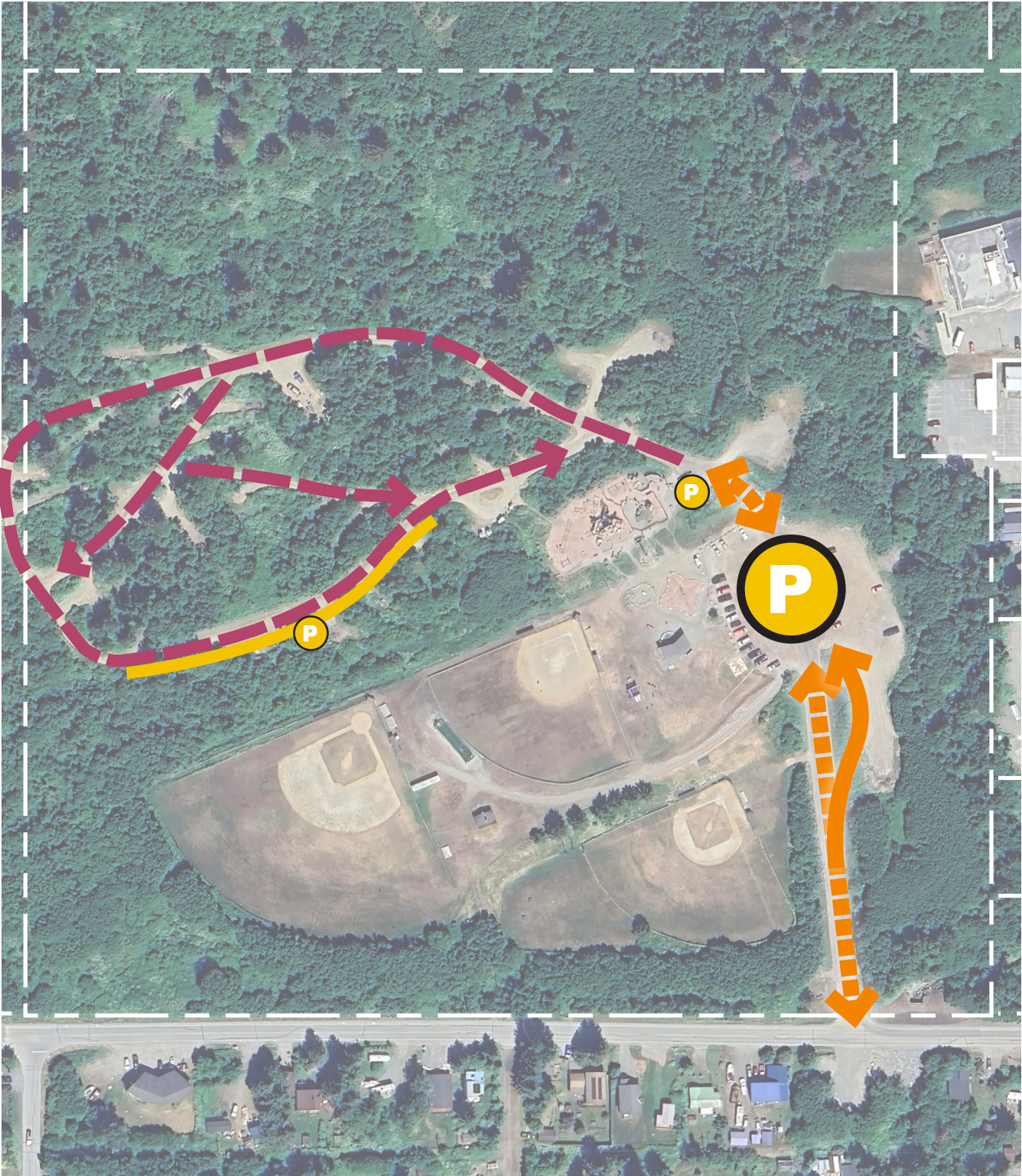
Benefits

- Separates park and campground traffic
- Provides approx. 109 parking
- Offsets parking access to slow traffic
- Direct playground parking is separated from main access road
- Playground parking provides turnaround when road is closed

Negatives

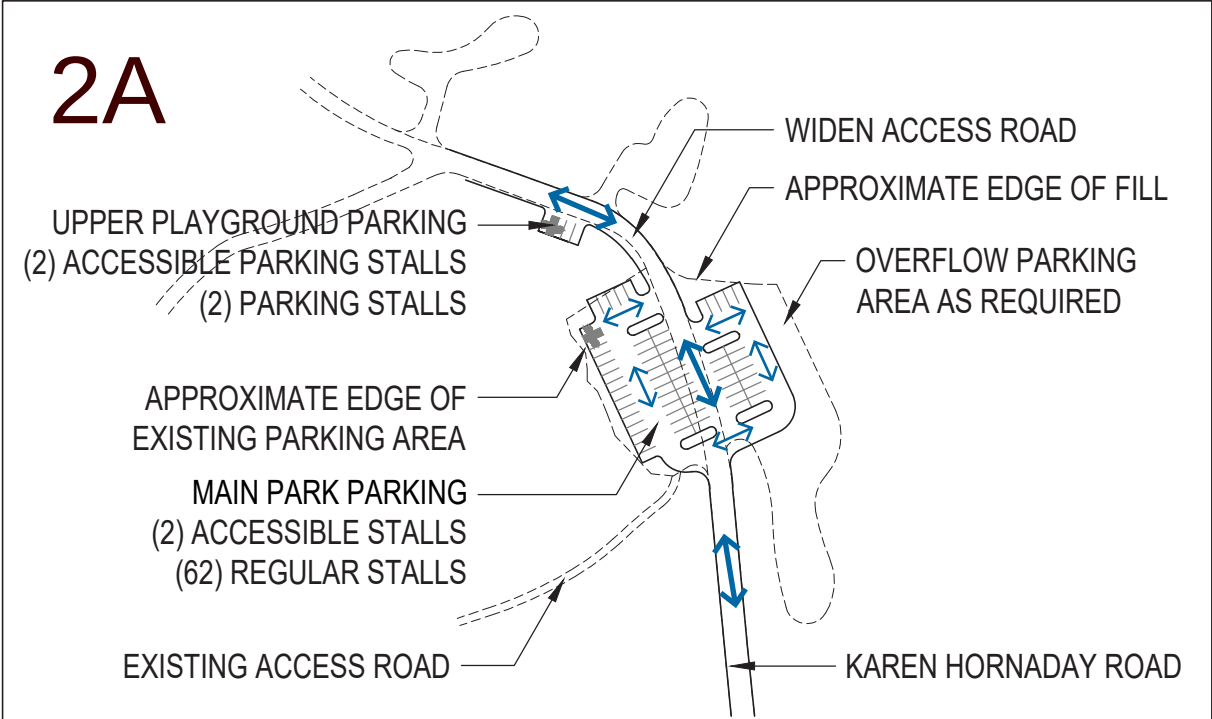
- Overflow parking is less convenient
- Requires relocation of the existing net climber and memorial garden.
- Encroaches on creek in northeast

Karen Hornaday Park Site Access Option 2 (Traffic Calm)



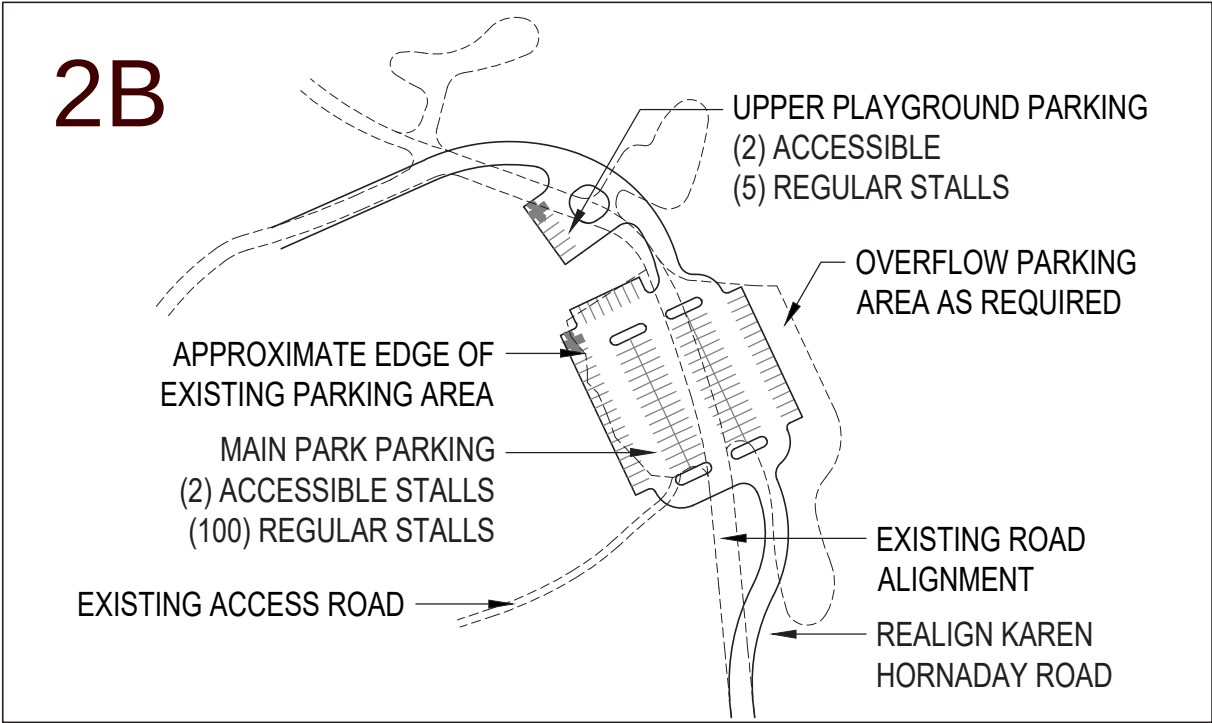
Site Access Diagram – Option 2

- New Route
- Existing Route
- Campground Traffic
- Park Traffic
- Comingled Traffic



Parking Option A - Calmed (Constrained by Existing Conditions)

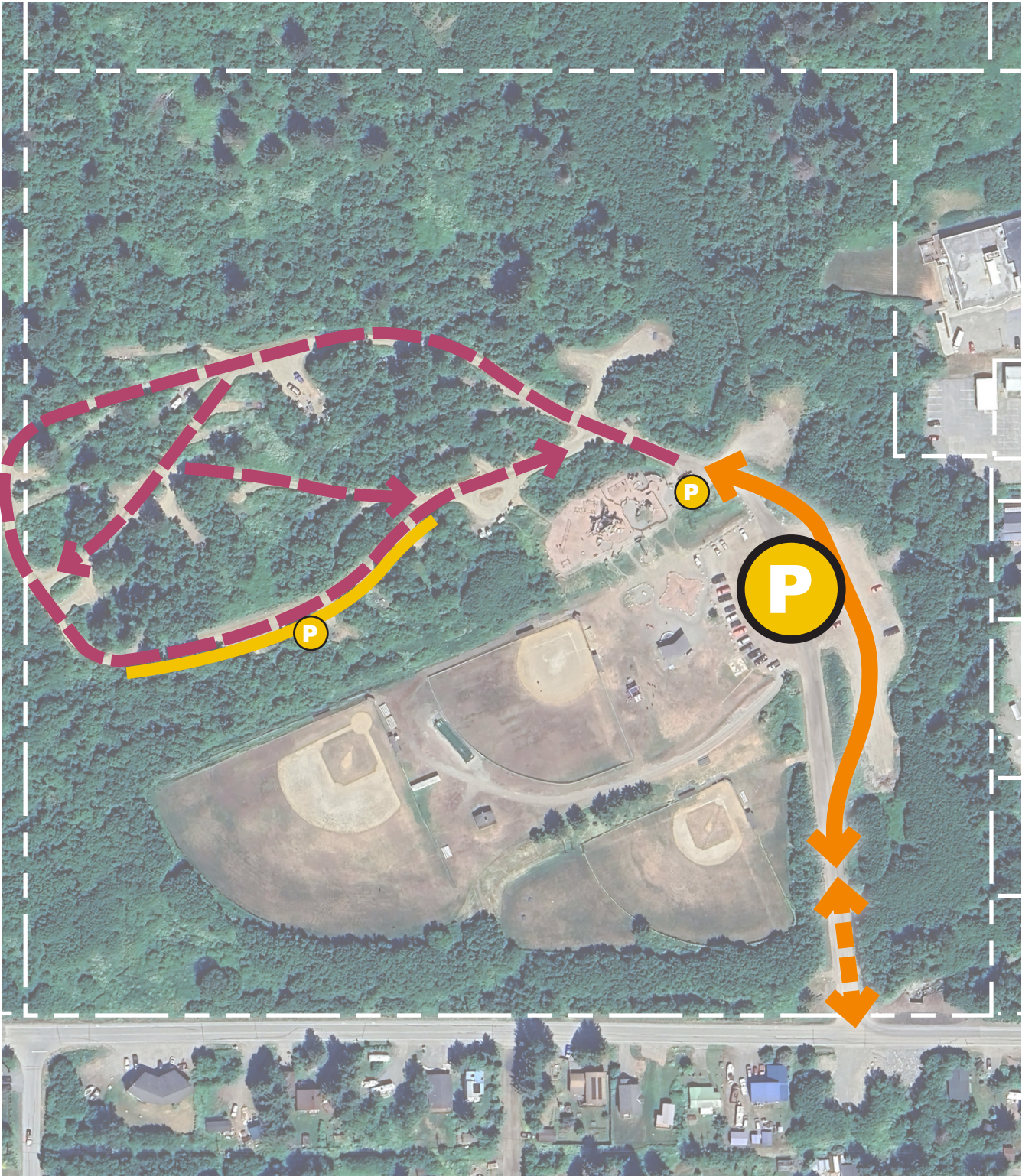
- This option stays within the constraints of the existing conditions.
- Benefits**
- Uses existing road alignment
 - Fits within existing parking and fill area
 - Offsets parking access to slow traffic
 - Provides overflow parking
- Negatives**
- Limited parking expansion
 - Pedestrians required to cross main expected campground vehicle route
 - Direct playground parking backs into road



Parking Option B - Calmed (Expanded with New Road Realignment)

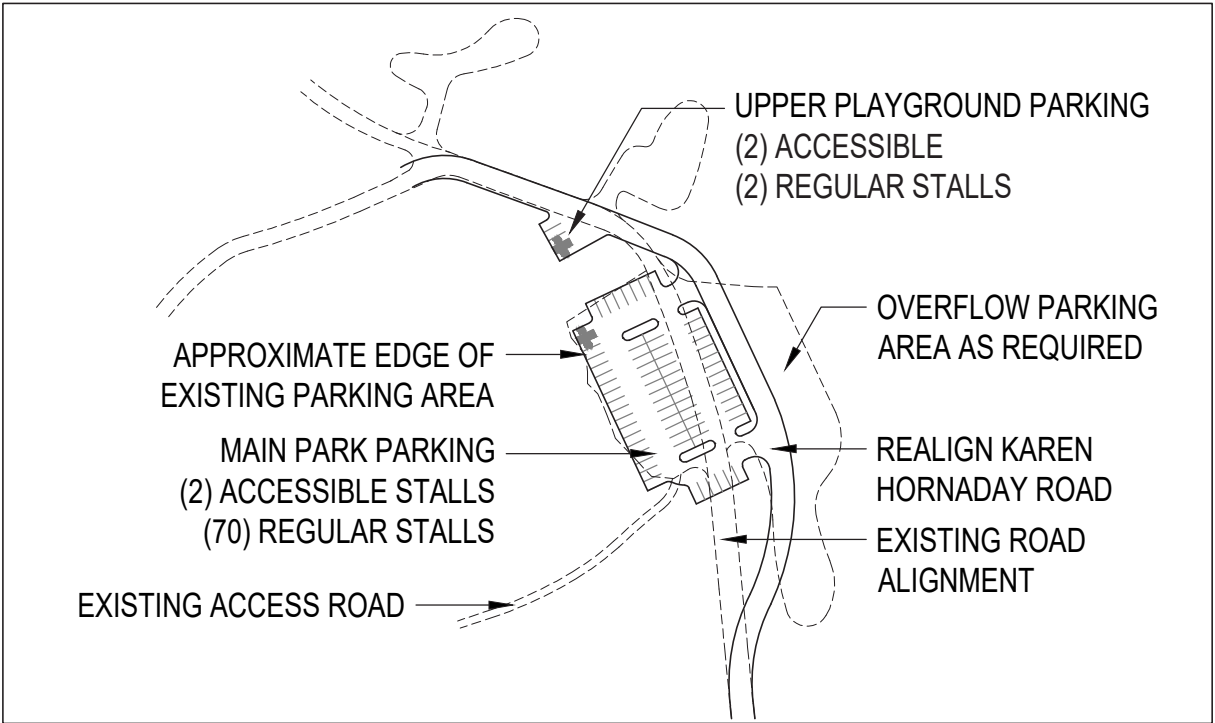
- This option maximizes parking and decreases speed entering the parking lot.
- Benefits**
- Separates park and campground traffic
 - Provides approx. 109 parking
 - Offsets parking access to slow traffic
 - Direct playground parking is separated from main access road
 - Main expected campground vehicle route is pushed east
- Negatives**
- Overflow parking is less convenient
 - Requires relocation of the existing net climber and memorial garden.
 - Encroaches on creek in northeast

Karen Hornaday Park Site Access Option 3 (Road Separation)



Site Access Diagram – Option 3

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|--------------------|
| | New Route | | Campground Traffic |
| | Existing Route | | Park Traffic |
| | | | Comingled Traffic |



Parking Option C - Separated from Road

This option separates the access road from the parking area while still expanding parking quantities.

Benefits

- Separates park and campground traffic
- Additional overflow parking accessible for events
- Provides overflow parking

Negatives

- Encroaches on creek in northeast
- Direct playground parking backs into road

Karen Hornaday Park

Campground Development Overview

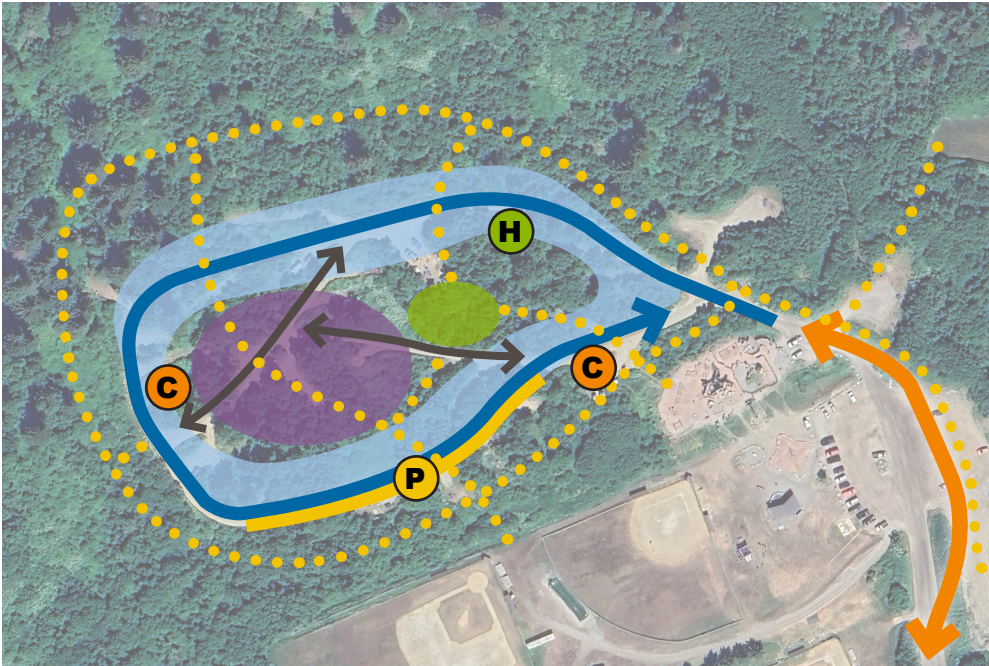


Campground Use Diagram

- 1 Explore the feasibility of installing a loop trail around the campground and connecting with existing trails
- 2 Disc golf use (seasonal)
- 3 Review feasibility for an alternative access route to existing campground area.
- 4 Opportunity to collaborate with hospital for patient access to park, and potential park improvements related to their uses and needs (occupational and physical therapy, and access to greenspace and recreation)
- 5 Renovate campground to accommodate desired uses. Mandatory operations and management plan prior to finalizing programming. Plan with beneficial off-season uses in mind.

Karen Hornaday Park Campground Development Options

REV: 2024-01-09



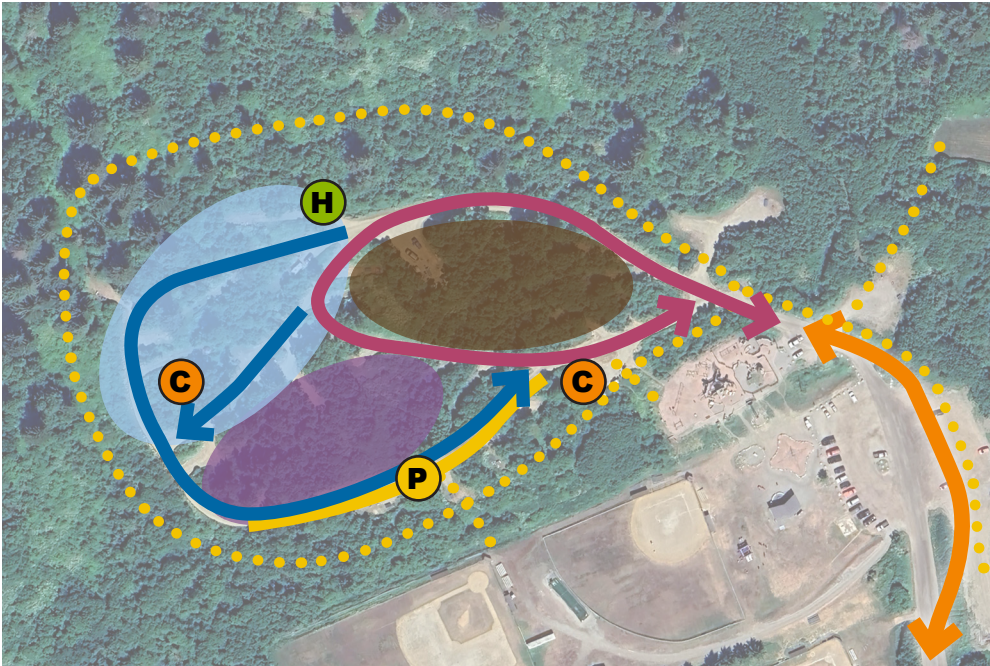
Option 1: Retain Campground

Same campground configuration with additional parking on the south, upgraded sites and access, implemented management and maintenance plan, improved trails and access, and a day-use area for the campground.

Proposed Improvements

- One-way road access with back in vehicle-accessible campsites
- Designated tent only campsites
- Day-use area with a proposed pavilion, picnic tables, and open play/campground event area
- Designated park host campsite
- Implemented management and maintenance plan
- Seasonal bathroom facilities (comfort station)
- Additional parking for campground or Karen Hornaday Park use
- Improved trail connectivity with a perimeter loop trail

-  Campground Access - One Way Traffic
-  Lower Park Access - Two Way Traffic
-  Maintenance Access - No Vehicles
-  Perimeter Walking Trail
-  Vehicle-Accessible Campsite
-  Tent Only, Walk-In Campsite
-  Day-Use Facilities
-  Host Site
-  Parking
-  Comfort Station



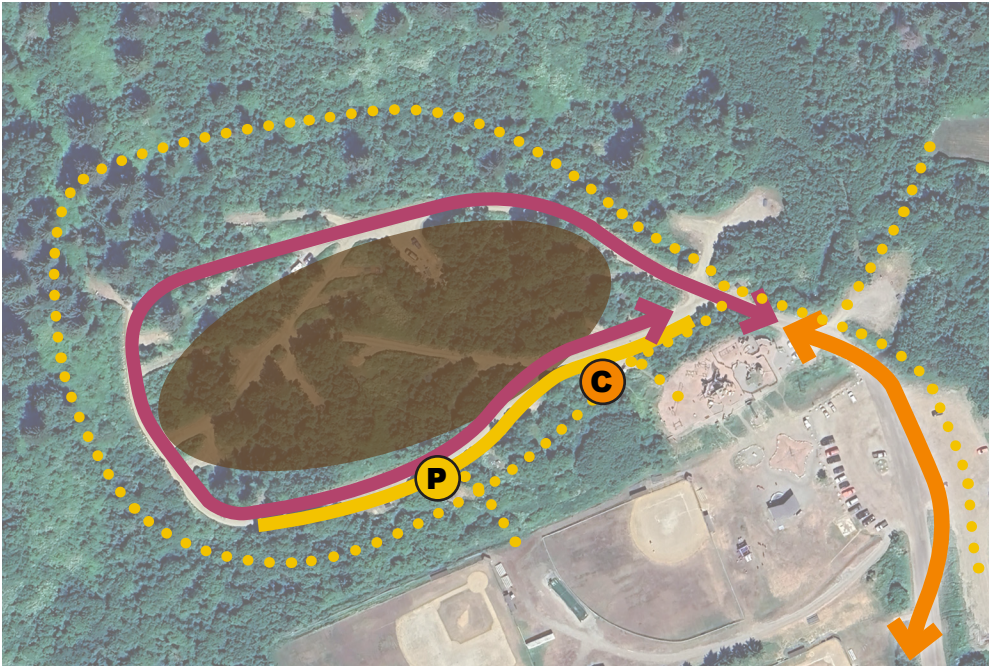
Option 2: Retain Partial Campground / Reprogram Areas

Maintain vehicle accessible sites on the northwest of the campground and tent only sites on the southwest with an implemented management and maintenance plan. Reprogram the eastern portion of the site based on community need and feedback.

Proposed Improvements

- Two-way road access with access to the reprogrammed park space
- One-way road access with back in vehicle-accessible and designated tent only campsites
- Area available for reprogramming
- Designated park host campsite
- Implemented management and maintenance plan for the campground
- Seasonal bathroom facilities (comfort station)
- Additional parking for campground or Karen Hornaday Park use

-  Campground Access - One Way Traffic
-  Upper Park Access - Two Way Traffic
-  Lower Park Access - Two Way Traffic
-  Perimeter Walking Trail
-  Vehicle-Accessible Campsite
-  Tent Only, Walk-In Campsite
-  Reprogrammed Park Use
-  Host Site
-  Parking
-  Comfort Station



Option 3: Remove Campground / Reprogram Space

Fully remove campground facilities and reprogram site based on community need and feedback.

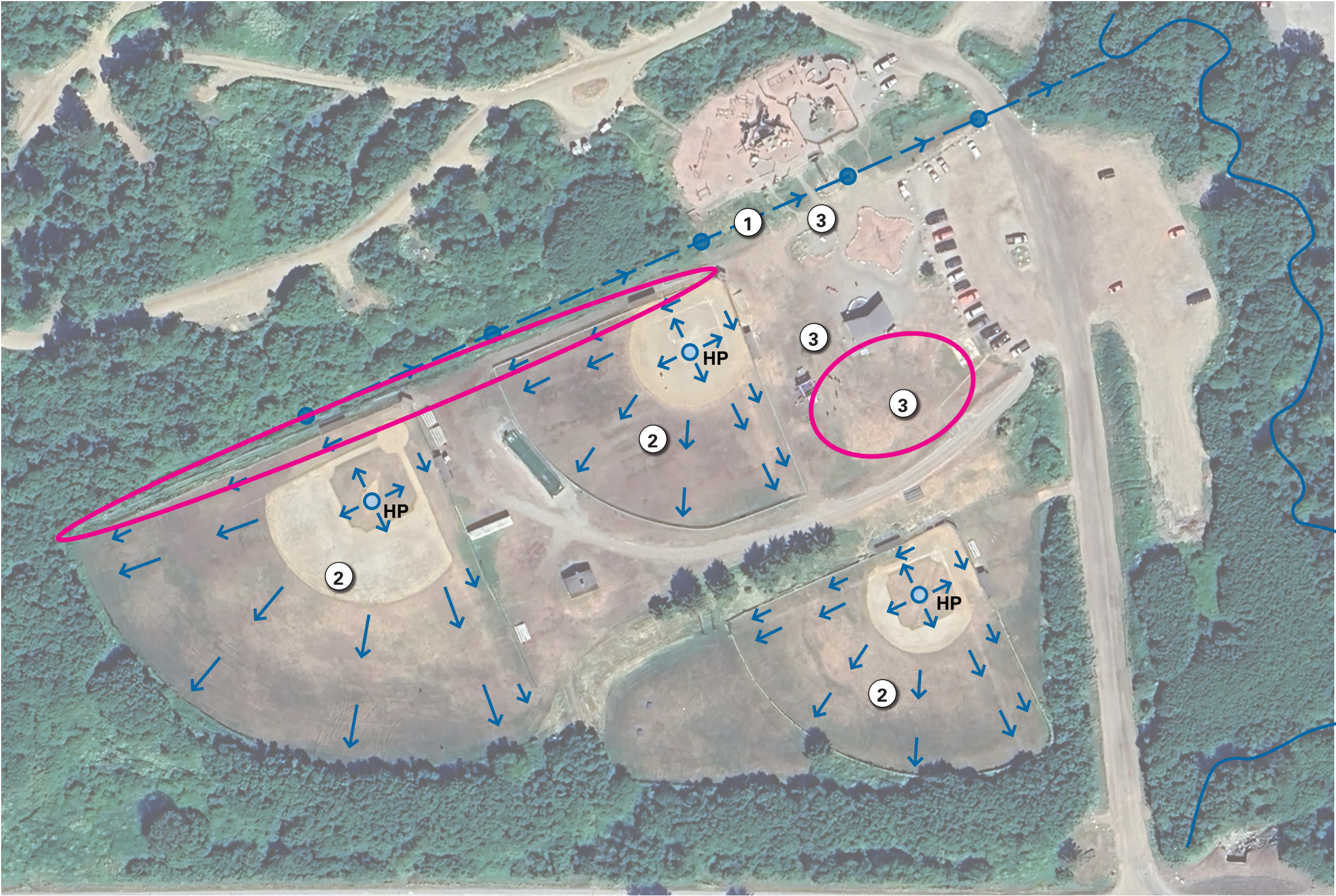
Proposed Improvements

- Two-way perimeter road access
- Additional roads to be decommissioned or improved as reprogramming requires
- Additional parking for campground or Karen Hornaday Park use
- Perimeter trail connecting to Karen Hornaday Park and the hospital

-  Upper Park Access - Two Way Traffic
-  Lower Park Access - Two Way Traffic
-  Perimeter Walking Trail
-  Reprogrammed Park Use
-  Parking
-  Comfort Station



Karen Hornaday Park Drainage Improvements



Drainage Improvements Diagram

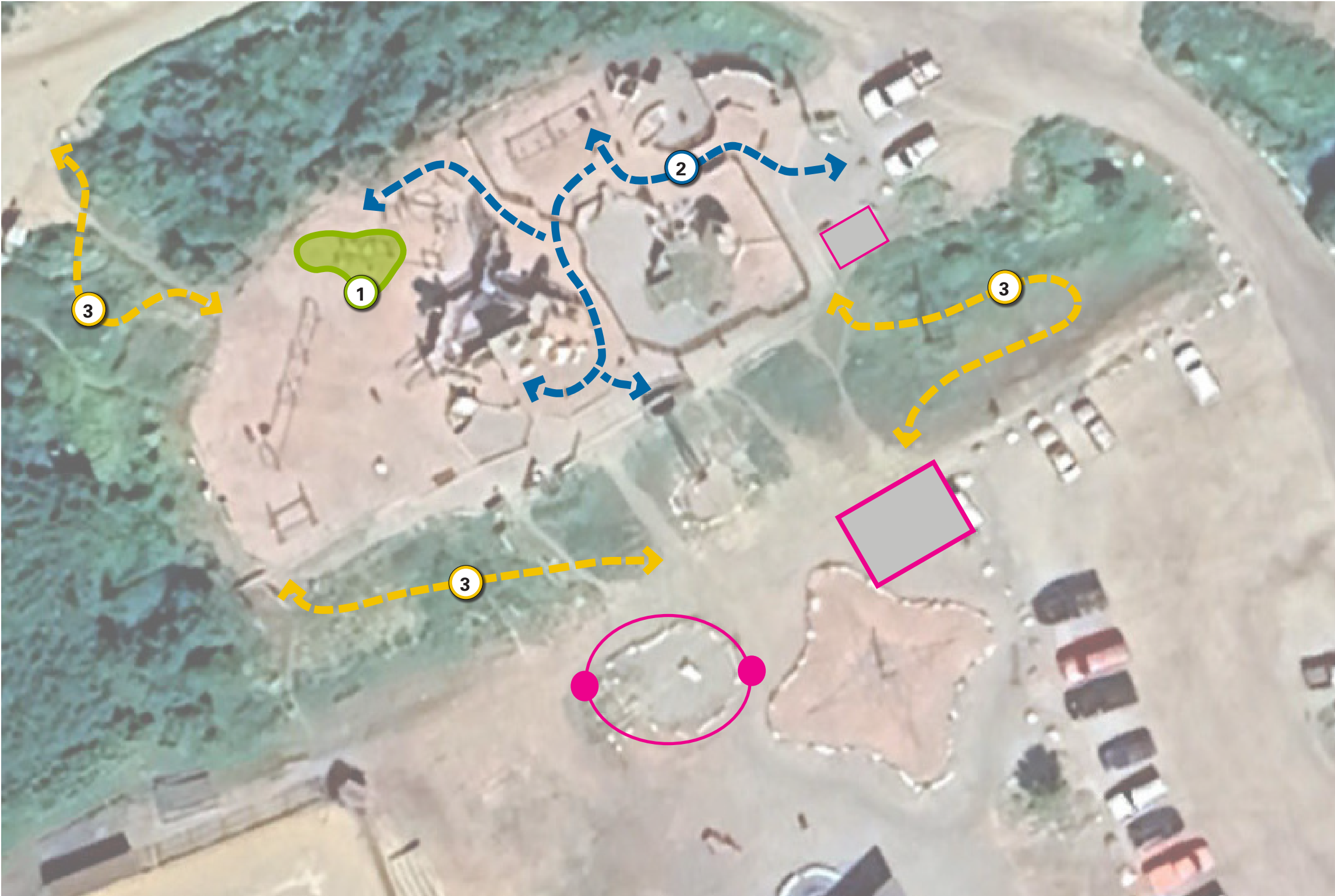
- 1 Existing storm drain w/ (5) inlets. Was a french drain installed as per the previous recommended solution?
- 2 Regrade existing baseball diamonds to ensure positive drainage and mitigate standing water. Slope recreation fields 1% to 2% maximum.
- 3 Regrade areas around playground and shelter to ensure positive drainage and mitigate standing water. Soft surface areas to be graded at 2%.

This sheet is in-progress. The general intent is to ensure that level areas have good drainage, and any drainage swales are effective in collecting and removing water.

Areas within purple circles are noted as being damp/wet during desired periods of use.

****Matt: are these areas correct, or missing any?****

Karen Hornaday Park Playground Accessibility Upgrades



Accessibility Upgrades Diagram

This sheet is in-progress. The general intent is to provide accessibility to and within the playground, and to increase the quantity of fully accessible play features. Accessible routes to north and south should be provided. Restroom type and location is also a factor that is important for the playground.



1 Replace play components with accessible play feature(s)



2 Create accessible pathway to connect accessible playground features

3 Provide ADA accessible routes to playground, campground, and washroom



Karen Hornaday Park Site Infrastructure Improvements



Establish location for restroom building(s) with ADA accessible, family, and regular stalls. Quantity to be provided by City.

Expand trails, including potential loop(s) around campground and connect with existing trails.

Review benefit of concession infrastructure. Whether supporting food trucks, or more permanent.

Review existing utility connections and establish future needs for power, water, and sewer for restroom(s), campground, ballfields, and concession support. Correct issue for water valve in ballfield.

Park management and user group storage facility.

Opportunity to collaborate with hospital for patient access to park, and potential park improvements related to their uses and needs (occupational and physical therapy, and access to greenspace and recreation)

This sheet is in-progress. The general intent is to include utility infrastructure (electric, water, sewer) to support site needs. Small square rectangles show where restroom facilities are wanted/needed, and the three larger rectangles show range of potential locations for a larger restroom facility.

Note: Restroom discussions are ongoing, and may include seasonal trailer-based facilities.



MEMORANDUM

Staff Report for Bayview Park Plan

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission
Date: January 10th, 2024
From: Matt Steffy, Parks and Trails Planner

The Bayview Park Plan that is being revised by Corvus Design is at 90% completion. In reviewing the plan, we have identified two priority scopes for implementation.

Priority 1: ADA parking, ADA pathway, playground installation, and overall landscaping with drainage.

Priority 2: Upper park elements and upper pathway.

There are a few specific elements that should be discussed at this stage.

- **Parking**
 - The ADA parking space is presented as paved and connected with the ADA pathway within the park. The existing parking remains essentially the same, with some releveling. Does this feel adequate for park usage?
- **The pathway**
 - The pathway is shown as paved along the eastern and southern edge of the park. This route will be ADA accessible. Does this meet the expectations of accessibility in the park?
 - The remainder of the path is shown as a wood mulch path. This should be discussed. There may be enough money in the budget to install a more sustainable path that is accessible. This should be included in Priority 2.
- **The playground**
 - The playground presently consists of a climber cave, and an accessible digger tool in an adjacent sandbox. These are the pieces donated by Rotary that are in storage awaiting installation. There are remaining funds and remaining space for an additional piece of playground equipment. What type of playground equipment would we like to see?
- **The play-space**
 - The upper half of the park is presented as a combination of no-mow grass, drainage improvements, and wooden play elements. Staff has concerns about the timber

platform structure's safety and maintenance costs. There is also hesitation on the "no mow grass" area due to sanitation, beautification, and accessibility. What other options would do well here if considered for unused budget or later funding under Priority 2?

Please review these elements and provide comments to staff.

Next Steps: Staff will work with the consultant to incorporate your comments. Then staff will publish to the City website and conduct outreach. Interested citizens can comment on the plan via the website and at the next PARCAC meeting. PARCAC can then make a recommendation on the plan to Council. This aligns well with construction this year!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Provide comments on the plan.
2. Be prepared at the next meeting to make a motion of support for the adoption of the park plan.

Attachments:

Bayview Park Master Plan DRAFT 01.09.2024

Bayview Playground Elements 01.11.2024

01.09.2024



www.corvus-design.com

2506-B Fairbanks St. 99503

119 Seward St. 99801

AEC #1195

Playground Elements for Bayview Park

Climbing Cave



ADA Scoop Digger





MEMORANDUM

Staff Report for Diamond Creek Recreation Area Trails Connector Route

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission
Date: January 10th, 2024
From: Matt Steffy, Parks and Trails Planner

At the January 8th, 2024 City Council meeting, Councilmember Davis introduced an ordinance that would allocate \$25,000 from HART Trails funding to conduct a feasibility study on a trail corridor that would connect the City of Homer Diamond Creek Recreation Area with the State of Alaska Diamond Creek State Recreation Site utilizing the DOT Right-of-Way along the Sterling Highway between milepost 167.1 and 167.9. *(Please review packet material for more information.)*

The Council has asked PARCAC to discuss this proposal and make a recommendation regarding the use of HART funds for this project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider passing a motion in support of this ordinance.

Attachments:

Memo CC-24-021 from Councilmember Davis
Ordinance 24-06 from Councilmember Davis



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Ordinance 24-06, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Amending the FY24 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$25,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund to Contract Engineering Services for Preliminary Design of Non-motorized Trails and Trailhead Connecting City of Homer Diamond Creek Property to the Proposed Highway Underpass. Davis.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: 08 January 2024
From: Council Member Davis

Summary Statement:

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT-PF) is preparing to begin construction this spring (2024) on a major rehabilitation of the Sterling Highway from Anchor Point to Baycrest (MP 157-169).

The highway rehabilitation will include “new roadway pavement, additional shoulder width and the addition of passing/climbing lanes, **replacement of bridges and culverts and stabilization of stream banks.**”

In a series of meetings with the Homer Trails Alliance (HTA) and Homer city staff, DOT-PF personnel have expressed willingness to consider including as part of the project a pedestrian underpass at the Diamond Creek culvert that would provide a connection between existing trail systems: the city’s Diamond Creek Recreation Area and Rogers Loop Trailhead on the east side of the Sterling Highway, and the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site trail system (“Diamond Gulch”) on the west side of the highway.

However, DOT-PF regulations preclude the department from expending funds on a trail underpass absent a commitment by municipal or other authorities to extend existing trails up to the proposed underpass.

In meetings with DOT-PF, city staff have indicated general support by the city for eventually connecting existing trails to a future pedestrian underpass, but they have been unable to point to any specific plans or funding for such work.

The Homer Trails Alliance has up to 60 volunteers, many highly experienced, who are willing to do much of the trail-building work that would be required – but before beginning any work (in coordination with city staff, of course) a detailed, professional design is required.

This ordinance aims to address DOT-PF concerns about the city's lack of a formal commitment to providing the connecting infrastructure for an underpass. By appropriating this relatively modest amount now for engineering services for a Preliminary Design, the city will be demonstrating in a tangible way its commitment to proceed with the work.

If this tangible commitment does secure agreement from DOT-PF to proceed with the underpass, the funds can then be expended on the design -- and once the design is completed and approved, HTA volunteers, in close coordination with City Staff, will be able to begin work on connecting trails.

Because DOT-PF will begin work on this project in a matter of months, time is of the essence.

Recommendation:

Introduce the ordinance today, so that a public hearing can be held in two weeks. Request that PARCAC review expeditiously, ideally at its next meeting in January, prior to expenditure of funds, to confirm whether HART Funds are available for the full amount, given other needs in the areas of trail construction and maintenance.

Attachments:

1. West Homer HTA Map
2. Area Map with Trail Distances

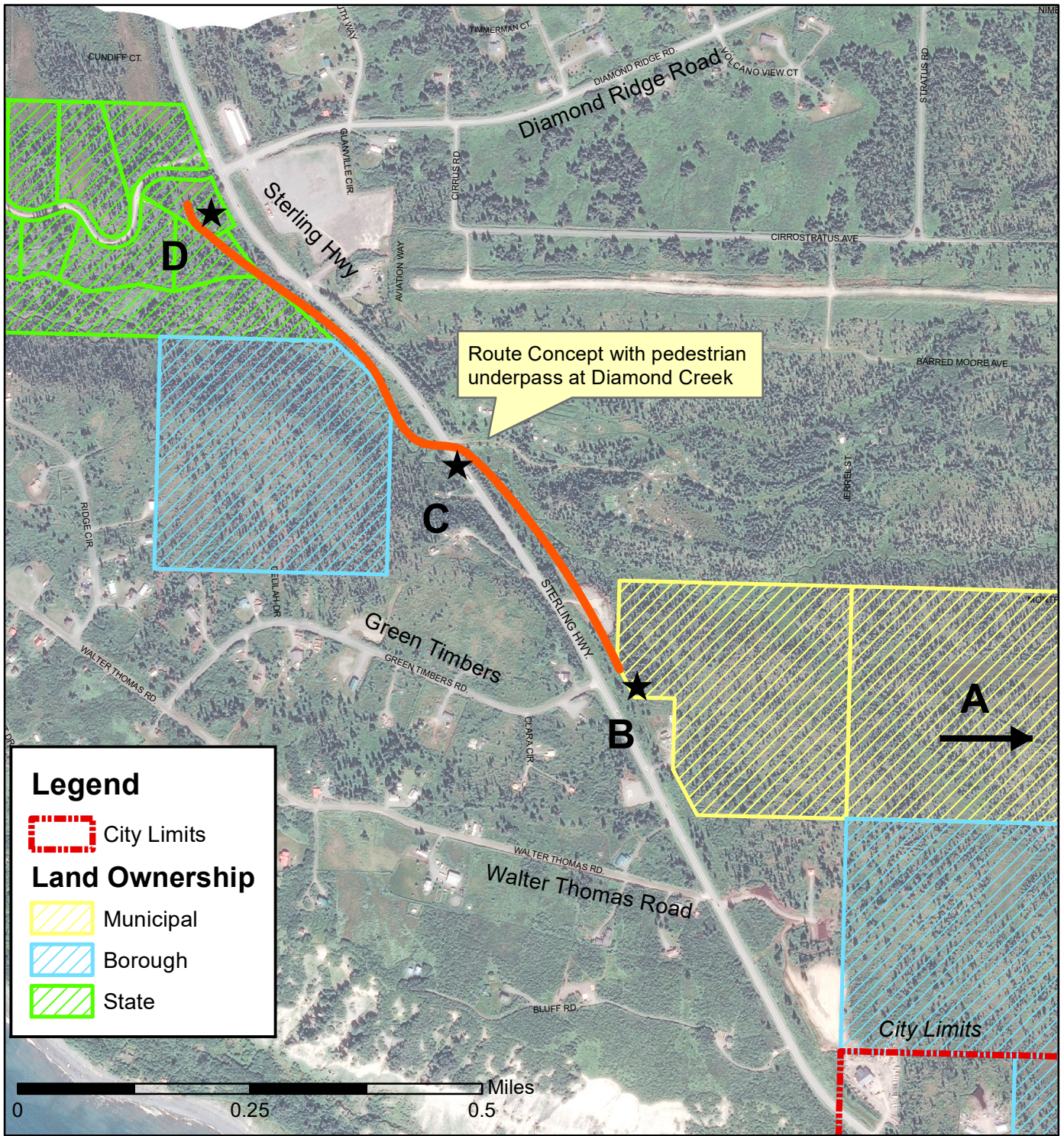
CITY OF HOMER FINANCIAL SUPPLEMENT

PROJECT NAME	Trails Engineering Design Study - DCRA	DATE	01/03/2024
DEPARTMENT	Council	SPONSOR	Davis
REQUESTED AMOUNT	\$ 25,000		

DESCRIPTION	The City Council approved the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA) Management Plan in May 2013. Development of DCRA is included in the City of Homer's 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan. This appropriation is to provide \$20,000 as well as a small contingency for a total of \$25,000 to pay for the development of a Trails Engineering Design Study in the DCRA. The HART Policy Manual identifies a process for nomination and selecting trails for funding by the HART Trails Fund. A Trails Engineering Design Study will provide design and engineering specifics regarding trails and facilities in the DCRA and assist the City of Homer in evaluating the best use of a large land parcel in west Homer. The City of Homer has the capacity with existing staff and community volunteers to develop public recreation multi use trails in the DCRA. State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT/PF) is preparing to launch a large Sterling Highway rehabilitation project in the west Homer area and has expressed willingness to construct a pedestrian underpass crossing the Sterling Highway if the City of Homer demonstrates commitment to developing trails and facilities in the DCRA connecting to this underpass area.
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FUNDING SOURCE(S)	OPERATING	GF CARMA	GF FLEET CARMA	PORT RESERVES	WATER CARMA
	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	HAWSP	HART-ROADS	HART-TRAILS	PORT FLEET RESERVES	SEWER CARMA
	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%

FUNDING SOURCE 1: HART Trails (165)	FUNDING SOURCE 2:	FUNDING SOURCE 3:
Current Balance \$ 1,090,060	Current Balance _____	Current Balance _____
Encumbered \$ 386,671	Encumbered _____	Encumbered _____
Requested Amount \$ 25,000	Requested Amount _____	Requested Amount _____
Other Items on Current Agenda \$ 0	Other Items on Current Agenda _____	Other Items on Current Agenda _____
Remaining Balance \$ 678,389	Remaining Balance _____	Remaining Balance _____
FUNDING SOURCE 4:	FUNDING SOURCE 5:	FUNDING SOURCE 6:
Current Balance _____	Current Balance _____	Current Balance _____
Encumbered _____	Encumbered _____	Encumbered _____
Requested Amount _____	Requested Amount _____	Requested Amount _____
Remaining Balance _____	Remaining Balance _____	Remaining Balance _____



City of Homer
Planning and Zoning Department
 January 3, 2024

Area Map

Estimated New Trail Distances	
A-B: 3,100	City Owned Land
B-C: 1,600	Private Lands + DOT ROW
C-D: 2,500	Private, Borough, State Lands and DOT ROW

Disclaimer:
 It is expressly understood the City of Homer, its council, board, departments, employees and agents are not responsible for any errors or omissions contained herein, or deductions, interpretations or conclusions drawn therefrom.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Davis

ORDINANCE 24-06

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
AMENDING THE FY24 CAPITAL BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING
\$25,000 FROM THE HOMER ACCELERATED ROADS AND TRAILS
(HART) TRAILS FUND TO CONTRACT ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR
PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS AND
TRAILHEAD CONNECTING CITY OF HOMER DIAMOND CREEK
PROPERTY TO THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY UNDERPASS.

WHEREAS, The City Council approved the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA)
Management Plan in May 2013; and

WHEREAS, Development of DCRA is included in the City of Homer's 2024-2029 Capital
Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, This appropriation is to provide \$20,000 as well as a small contingency for a
total of \$25,000 to pay for the development of a Trails Engineering Design Study in the DCRA;
and

WHEREAS, A Trails Engineering Design Study will provide design and engineering
specifics for the feasibility and route of a trail from City owned property at the Diamond Creek
Recreation Area to the proposed highway underpass and to a point to be determined beyond;
and

WHEREAS, State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
(AKDOT/PF) is preparing to launch a large Sterling Highway rehabilitation project in the west
Homer area and has expressed willingness to construct a pedestrian underpass crossing the
Sterling Highway if the City of Homer demonstrates commitment to developing trails and
facilities in the DCRA connecting to this underpass area; and

WHEREAS, The AKDOT/PF is interest in fostering a relationship with the City of Homer
and the Kenai Peninsula Borough so that rights of way and trail easement issues can be
resolved in the Sterling Highway underpass area; and

WHEREAS, HART Trails Fund has sufficient capital to fund this contract; and

WHEREAS, The data produced by such a study will be useful in future development of
the DCRA.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF HOMER ORDAINS:

Section 1. The Homer City Council hereby amends the FY24 Capital Budget by appropriating \$25,000 to develop a DCRA Trails Engineering Design Study as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
165-XXXX	HART Trails	\$25,000

Section 2. A DCRA Trails Engineering Design adopted by Resolution. The DCRA Trails Engineering Design Study shall include an analysis of right of way and other aspects of trail connectivity in the project area.

Section 3. This is a budget amendment ordinance, is temporary in nature and shall not be codified.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA this ____ day of _____, 2024.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

YES:

NO:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

First Reading:

Public Hearing:

Second Reading:

Effective Date:



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Community Recreation

HHS/600 East Fairview Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

communityrecreation@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-6090

(f) 907-235-8933

Memorandum

TO: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission

FROM: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager

DATE: January 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Resolution 23-118 Potential Locations and Related Costs for a Future City of Homer Multi Use Community Recreation Center

Background:

At the October 23rd City Council meeting, Council passed Resolution 23-118 Councilmembers Aderhold and Erickson were appointed as Recreation Champions to work with staff to draft a resolution detailing a formal direction to pursue a Multi-Use Community Recreation Center project. Please view the memo and resolution in the packet.

The resolution provides direction to establish site selection criteria such as lot size, location (with safe and easy youth accessibility as a high priority), opportunity for future facility expansion, existing infrastructure (water, sewer, sidewalks), and cost; provide opportunities for public input; and discuss the final three options with Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission prior to presentation to the City Council. A working group has been created including the two council champions, City Manager Dumouchel, two COH staff and two volunteer professional community members. We have identified seven different possible location, created a scoring matrix and narrowed down the top three possible sites based for PARCAC to review/consider before this information is passed on to the City Council to determine the formal next steps.

City Council may consider the option of creating a future task force to work through the details of the new facility, after potential locations are narrowed down. Administration will present to City Council three proposed options during the 2024 first quarter.

Action:

Review the selected top three proposed options and provide advisory direction to Administration and City Council for possible next steps related to selecting possible locations for a new City of Homer Community Recreation Center.



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 23-118, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Directing the City Administration to Investigate Potential Locations and Related Costs for a Future City of Homer Multi Use Community Recreation Center for Council Review. Aderhold/Erickson.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: October 17, 2023
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager & Julie Engebretsen Economic Development Manager
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

At the October 9th Work Session meeting, Council heard a presentation from staff about the idea of pursuing a different location than the Homer Education and Recreation Complex site as the future home of a new multipurpose facility. Councilmembers Aderhold and Erickson were appointed as champions to work with staff to draft a resolution detailing a formal direction to pursue a Multi-Use Community Recreation Center project.

This resolution directs Administration to investigate the options of pursuing centrally located existing city owned land (ex. Town Center lot), privately owned land (ex. Homer Electric Association lot) or existing facilities such as the Bay Club to accommodate a 17,000 to 21,000 sq. ft. facility. This facility would house two regulation sized basketball courts used interchangeably for multiple volleyball courts and six pickle ball courts; flexible space for instructional programs such as karate, dance, yoga, etc.; locker rooms; storage space; and staff offices. A preliminary \$10-\$12 million budget with a maximum budget of \$10 or 12 million (to be determine by City Council) is set as a guideline at this point in the project, based on previous council discussion regarding the amount of revenue that could be generated from a bond (the projected debt service of a \$10 million would be \$800,000/year and a 0.3% sales tax generates about \$820,000/year). There is also the potential option of future expansion through community fundraising, grants and phasing. Administration is to analyze location options and present Council with three alternatives.

The resolution provides direction to establish site selection criteria such as lot size, location (with safe and easy youth accessibility as a high priority), opportunity for future facility expansion, existing infrastructure (water, sewer, sidewalks), and cost; provide opportunities for public input; and discuss the final three options with Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission prior to presentation to the City Council. To the extent practicable, staff will engage volunteer professional

community members to determine if the sites are reasonable to pursue. If paid professional services are needed to address technical site analysis such as wetlands and engineering concerns, staff shall provide Council with a rough cost estimate for those services.

City Council may consider the option of creating a future task force to work through the details of the new facility, after potential locations are narrowed down. Administration should present to City Council three proposed options during the 2024 first quarter.

Recommendation: Approve resolution to direct Administration to establish site criteria, pursue locations, seek community input, and report back with three proposed options.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold/Erickson

RESOLUTION 23-118

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INVESTIGATE
POTENTIAL LOCATIONS AND RELATED COSTS FOR A FUTURE CITY
OF HOMER MULTI USE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER FOR
CITY COUNCIL REVIEW.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer Community Recreation division offers year round,
affordable indoor and outdoor programs at the Homer Education and Recreation Complex
(HERC); and

WHEREAS, The Multi-Use Community Recreation Center project is the number two
project on the City's 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan and continues to be a high priority
for the community residents, city council and mayor; and

WHEREAS, The HERC campus is a highly desirable location for indoor and outdoor
recreation; and

WHEREAS, The recent hazardous materials (hazmat) study has determined the option
to tear down or upgrade the existing HERC facilities at the HERC campus is currently
impractical; and

WHEREAS, The City's ability to address the hazmat issues are subject to the availability
of federal grants that will likely take years to secure and are not guaranteed; and

WHEREAS, In light of the hazmat issues, the City of Homer needs to pursue alternate
location options to move the Multi-Use Community Recreation Center project ahead in a timely
manner; and

WHEREAS, The proposed facility size and design should have at least two basketball
regulation sized gymnasiums that will accommodate multiple volleyball and six pickleball
courts in addition to activity rooms to host instructional classes such as dance, karate, and
yoga; and

WHEREAS, The City has limited funds for a new Multipurpose Recreation Center and a
conceptual budget of not more than \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 for building, parking lot and
site amenities is set as a project guideline for the purpose of site selection (based on the
amount of revenue that could be generated from a bond).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby directs Administration to:

1. Investigate possible land locations and existing facilities options including privately owned and city owned land;

2. Establish and define criteria for Administration to select at least three potential options that would include (at a minimum): acreage, location, opportunity for future facility expansion, proximity to existing infrastructure (water, sewer, sidewalks), and cost;

3. Develop a matrix that assesses the possible sites against the criteria and determine the top three potential sites based on the outcome of the assessment;

4. Initiate conversations with property owners of the top three sites;

5. Pursue site analysis for the top three sites with possible efforts from volunteer professionals;

6. Identify a funding strategy for new site purchase if a non-city site is one of the top three options;

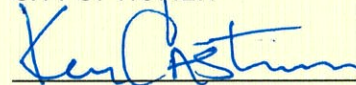
7. Include the Parks, Art, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission in evaluation of the top three sites and possible purchasing strategies of any non-city properties; and

8. Provide for public comment on the three selected sites and possible purchasing strategies.

9. Report findings back to City Council during the first quarter of 2024.

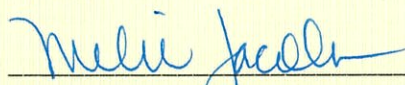
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 23rd day of October, 2023.

CITY OF HOMER

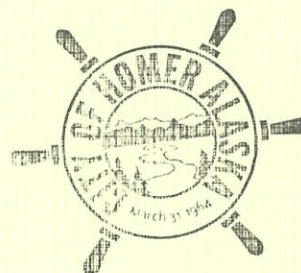


KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK



Fiscal note: Staff time and wages.

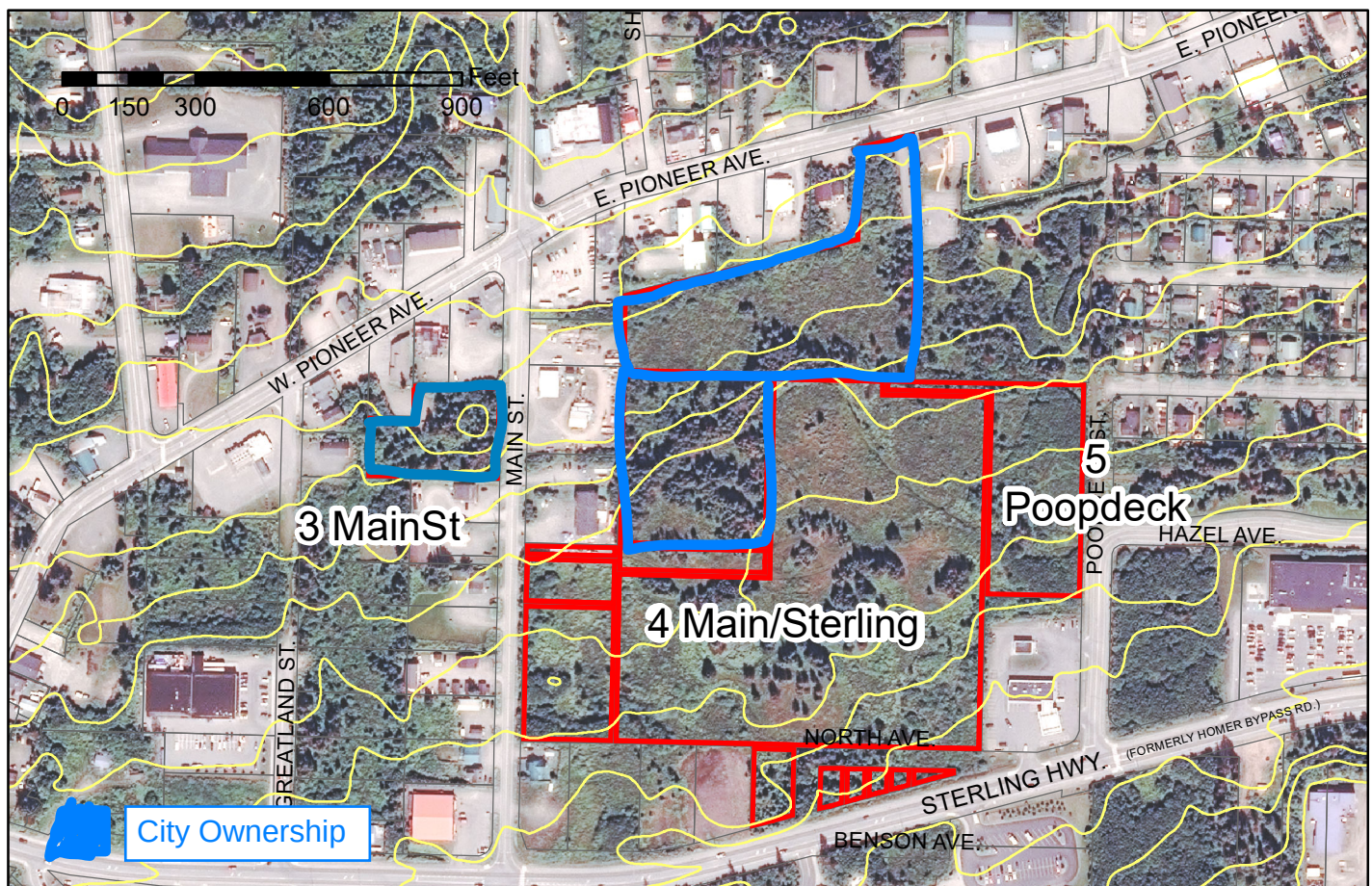
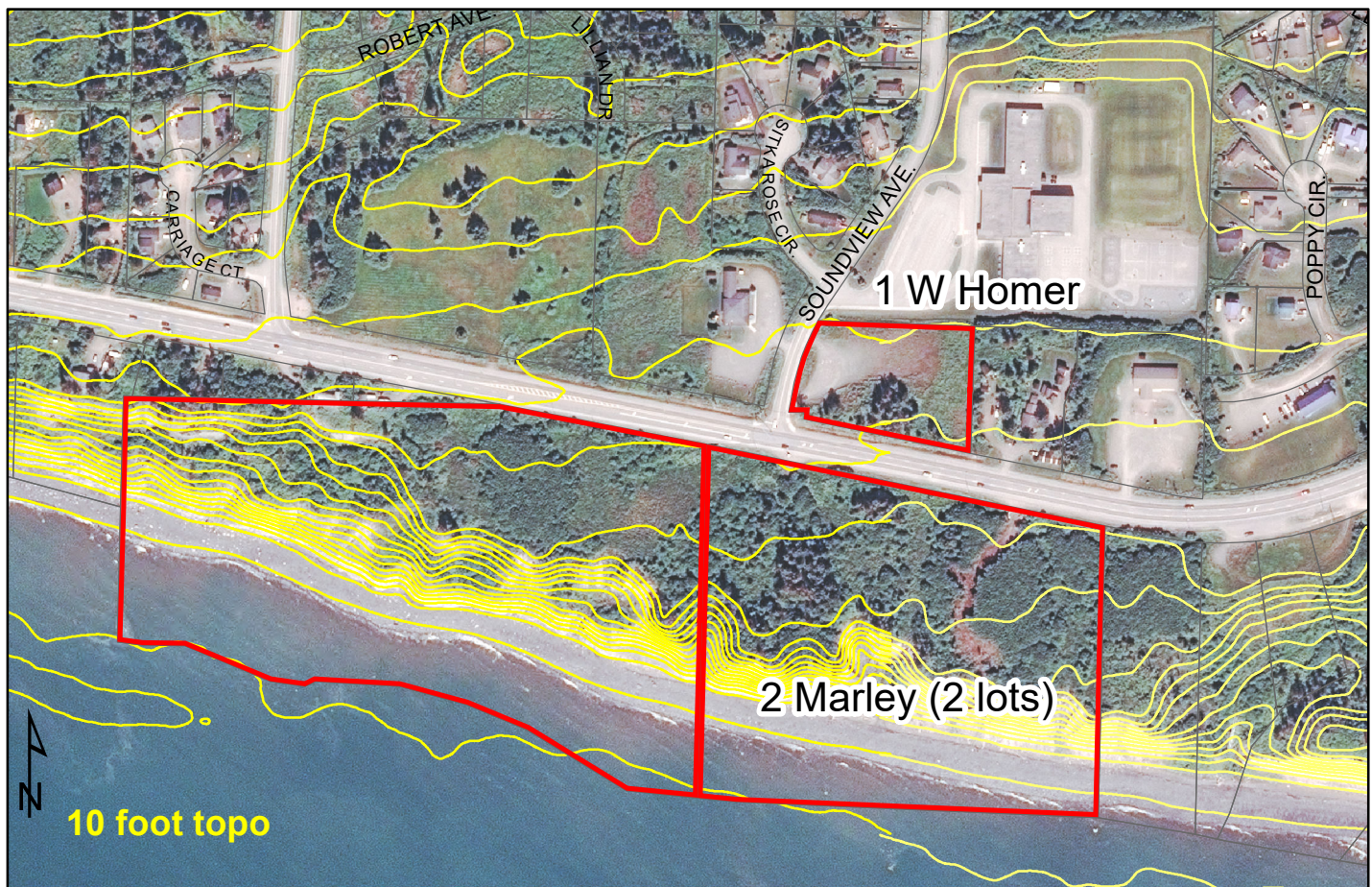
Recreation Center Land Matrix

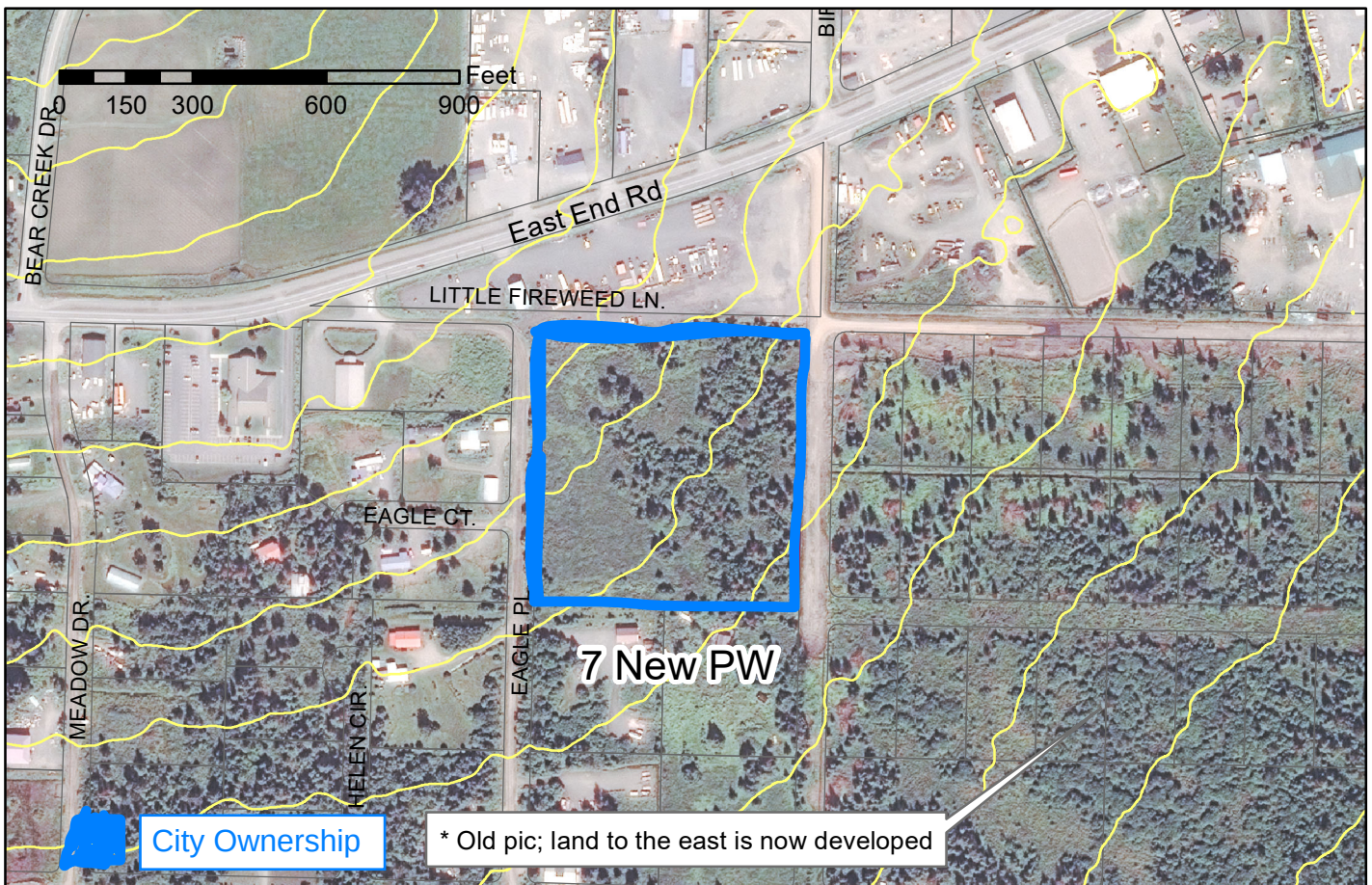
Factors	SCORING KEY: 1=Meets General Criteria						
	West Homer #1	Marely Prop. #2	Main St. #3	Main/Sterling #4	Poopteck/Hazel #5	HEA Site #6	New PW Site #7
1. Location & Traffic							
Central Location (2 mile radius from Main St.)							
No negative traffic impacts							
Located near schools							
Location & Traffic Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Site Characteristics							
Existing road access							
Shape of site adequate							
Soil suitable for building							
Adequate Parking space easy to accommodate							
Allows for future expansion							
Meets minimum of 1.5 acres							
Site Characteristics Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Community Sentiment/Considerations							
Meets the needs for recreation uses/activities							
Fits well with existing neighborhood/area							
Location walkable/bikable							
Community Sentiment Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Existing Utilities/Infrastructure							
Existing city water and sewer main							
Electric Service							
Access to natural gas service line							
Existing Sidewalks							
Existing Utilities/Infrastructure Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Environmental Impacts							
No substantial wetland concerns							
No known risk of flooding							
Not in tsumani zone							
Environmental Impact Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Permitting/ Other Regulatory							
Not a Brownfield property							

Permitting/Other Regulatory Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Land/Facility Ownership							
Owned by City of Homer							
Owned by other municipal entitiy or non-profit							
Must be purchased							
Land/Facility Ownership Totals		0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Cost of Site Development & Construction							
Building Cost are likely lower (ex. flat vs. slope)							
Site Cost are likely lower (ex. drainage)							
Cost of Development Totals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	West Homer	Marley	Main	Main/Sterling	Poopdeck/Hazel	HEA	PW
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Lots	Location	Lot Size	Close to Downtown?	Notes	Parcel ID
1	West Homer Lot	1011 Soundview Ave	2.28	Moderate	Adjacent to W Homer El.	17510251
2	Marely Lots	955 Sterling Highway #1	17.8	Moderate	Bluff side of Sterling HWY	17508233
		955 Sterling Highway #2	13.5	Moderate	Bluff side of Sterling HWY	17510023
3	Main St. Lot	3713 Main Street	1.3	Yes	City owned	17514416
4	Main/Sterling Lots	3680 Main Street	12+ (replat)	Yes	Combined City & private lots, needs infrastructure, needs replatting adjacent lots to consider	17708014 17708015 17719234
5	Poopdeck/Hazel Lot	3681 Poopdeck Street	2.6	Yes	corner of Poopdeck & Hazel	17708019
6	HEA Lot	3977 Lake Street	3.7	Yes	corner of Grubstake & Lake	17712033
7	New Public Works Lot	Ternview Place	8.63	No	City owned for future PW site	17928006





PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

2024 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	COMMISSIONER SCHEDULED TO REPORT	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY	Wednesday 1/10 5:00 p.m.	Thursday Special 1/18 5:30 p.m.		Monday 1/22 6:00 p.m.	Community rec Center Locations User Fees Bayview Park Master Plan KHP Master Plan
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/07 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 2/15 5:30 p.m.		Monday 2/23 6:00 p.m.	• Letter to the Editor Topics • Art Policy Review & Amendments - Non Motorized Trail Discussion
MARCH	Wednesday 3/13 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 3/21 5:30 p.m.		Tuesday 3/28 6:00 p.m.	• Budget Review and Discussion
APRIL	Wednesday 4/10 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 4/18 5:30 p.m.		Monday 4/24 6:00 p.m.	• Schedule Beach/Park Walk Through for May • Budget Review & Discussion/Recommendations
MAY	Wednesday 5/08 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 5/16 5:30 p.m.		Monday 5/22 6:00 p.m.	• Recreation & Parks Fee Schedule Review • Letter to the Editor Topics
JUNE	Wednesday 6/12 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 6/20 5:30 p.m.		Monday 6/27 6:00 p.m.	
JULY	No Regular Meeting				
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/14 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 8/15 5:30 p.m.		Monday 8/28 6:00 p.m.	• CIP Project Recommendations • PARC Budget Review
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/11 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 9/19 5:30 p.m.		Monday 9/25 6:00 p.m.	• Fall Park/Beach Walk-Thru • Schedule Park Clean Up Day • Reappointment Notices & Applications
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/09 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 10/17 5:30 p.m.		Monday 10/23 6:00 p.m.	• Terms Expire October 31st • Approve 2025 Meeting Schedule
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/13 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 11/21 5:30 p.m.		Monday 11/27 6:00 p.m.	• Election of Chair & Vice Chair • Worksession Commission Training w/City Clerk
DECEMBER	No Regular Meeting				

*The Commission's opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council's regular meeting following the Commission's regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports. Reports are the Commission's opportunity to give Council a brief update on their work. Attend via Zoom or in Person. Masks are optional**



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov
(p) 907-235-8121 x2222
(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
FROM: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager
DATE: January 4, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for January 8, 2024 Council Meeting

AMMA/AML Conference

In December I attended the Alaska Municipal Management Association (AMMA) and Alaska Municipal League (AML) conferences in Anchorage.

As president of the AMMA, I was responsible for a large part of the conference's coordination and I also delivered two presentations to the group. I gave an interdisciplinary presentation on public engagement and conflict concepts/frameworks from fields such as political science, energy development, and fisheries management. I also co-hosted a session on generative artificial intelligence for local government with the Deputy City Manager of Juneau. I was re-elected president of the association and will continue my leadership role with the organization in 2024.

When the AML conference got underway, I was joined by the Mayor and Councilmembers Aderhold, Davis, Erickson, and Hansen. During the AML conference I attended sessions on topics such as asset management, social determinants of health, TIFIA funding, and cybersecurity. I also attended a meeting of the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Commission, the Alaska Municipal League Investment Pool (AMLIP) annual meeting, the AML annual business meeting, and I participated in an Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association (AMLJIA) board meeting as a board trustee. I also made time for a meeting with the owner of a mariculture business that operates seasonally in Homer to discuss their operation and the mariculture scene in Alaska at large.

Audit Update

Finance staff had a discussion with our auditors at BDO laying out the tentative plan for wrapping up the audit. Final review is scheduled for the week of the 8th and the week after we should be able to publish and bring the audit to completion at the second meeting in January.

Meetings with State Legislators

Councilmembers Hansen and Lord, along with me, Port Director Bryan Hawkins, and Special Projects Coordinator Jenny Carroll met with Representative Sarah Vance and Senator Gary Stevens to provide updates on the Homer Harbor Expansion general investigation. Both indicated continued support for the general investigation and are looking forward to meeting with the City in Juneau in February.

Comprehensive Plan Kick Off

In late December, City staff from planning, economic development, and engineering met with Agnew::Beck's comprehensive plan project team for a kick off meeting. We had a discussion about the project timeline, Council goals and interests, ideas for public engagement and outreach, etc. We will be meeting with them weekly for operational discussions to keep the project moving towards timely completion. The intent is to plan for a significant number of interactions with elected and appointed officials while also using staff from all over the organization to assist with outreach and data collection efforts.

Fireworks Support

City staff have collaborated closely with organizers of the New Year's Eve fireworks at Mariner Park. As the event has become more popular, coordinating efforts between Police, Fire/EMS, Public Works and the Port & Harbor has become increasingly important to a safe and enjoyable event. This year's fireworks went well from the City perspective and we look forward to continuing to work with the organizers for the continued improvement of future events.

Homer High Government Class Visits City Hall

The Homer High School Government Class visited City Hall on Tuesday, December 12th for a guided tour, followed by a Q&A session in the Council Chambers with Mayor Castner and Council Members Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, and Erickson. The students had an hour to explore the inner workings of local government, gaining insights into the daily operations of City Hall. The Q&A session aimed to provide a firsthand understanding of the roles and responsibilities of local leaders, allowing students to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions. The goal of this experience was designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical civic engagement. Mayor Ken Castner emphasized, "Homer High grads are disbursed throughout the City. You need to participate, and that begins with talking and communication." The teens were encouraged to care about the community and be aware of what is being discussed, as they are the future of Homer.





MEMORANDUM

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: December 26, 2023
From: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator
Through: Rob Dumouchel, City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Purpose: This memorandum provides the Homer Harbor Expansion Study monthly written update to Homer City Council per Resolution 23-037.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Development Team (PDT)

Continuing study activities:

- The Vertical Team Alignment Memo is working its way from the Pacific Ocean Division in Hawaii up the chain to the Chief.
- Two-day Ecological Modeling Workshop for environmental specialists is being organized.
- Homer Small Boat Harbor Vessel Economic Survey being routed through the USACE for approval.
- Preparing permit applications to be ready to proceed with geotechnical investigations; discussed advantages of completing the geotechnical survey portion of the investigations in February 2024 so data can be used to inform the geotechnical core sampling plan and be ready to move forward when study activities resume in full.
- Developing plan for the ship simulation component of the study.

HDR – Owner Representative:

- Nearing completion of the Coastal Numerical Modeling (waves, tides/storm surge, sediment transport) of existing (baseline) conditions Report for USACE PDT review; completing the modeling will allow progress on the designs once the study fully starts up again and geotechnical data is gathered.
- Preparing HHE Quarterly Report to present to City Council at a January 22, 2024 in which HDR will provide an overview of the Coastal Numerical Modeling report they are completing.
- Assisting City staff to implement Communications Plan and to maintain and update [HHE website](#).

City of Homer staff:

- Attended monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and weekly meeting with HDR.
- Distributed Homer City Council Resolution 23-130 to Governor Dunleavy's office, Jill Schaefer (Governor Dunleavy's Kenai Peninsula liaison), Representative Vance and Senator Stevens.
- Reported to Council that additional HHE match funding was not included in Governor Dunleavy's proposed FY25 budget.

- While being hosted in Juneau by the Marine Exchange of Alaska for their Board Meeting, Port Director Hawkins took the opportunity to meet with:
 - Shareen Crosby, Crosby, the Infrastructure Investment Coordinator for the Office of the Governor to brief her on the HHE study and share Resolution 23-130.
 - Coast Guard Commander Torba to discuss the USCG's interests and input in the Homer Harbor Expansion study and the proposal for a USCG Small Boat Station in Homer. More information about this meeting will be included in the January 8, 2024 City Manager's Report.
- Prepared informational materials for Council Champions in support of developing an Ordinance appropriating additional City match funds (for introduction at the January 8 City Council meeting) and for Resolution of Support requests to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the State of Alaska.
- At the request of Council Champions arranged meetings with Representative Vance (12/18) and Senator Stevens (12/20) to discuss status of the HHE study and City's request for additional State match funding in the FY25 State budget.
- Met with Council Champions to review HHE Communications Plan and to develop materials to communicate financial progress of the study.
- Met with J&H Consultants to begin planning for advocacy in Juneau during AML's 2024 Winter Legislative Conference, February 20-22, 2024.
- Ongoing Communications/outreach: Information and updates about the study are being disseminated through the Harbor Expansion website, the City's monthly newsletter and the City of Homer Facebook and Instagram pages.

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational Only.

General Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through December 2023
50% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24		FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED		ACTUAL	
	BUDGET		\$	%
Revenues				
Property Taxes	\$	4,115,085	\$	4,373,562 106%
Sales and Use Taxes		8,939,282		5,374,976 60%
Permits and Licenses		43,797		24,600 56%
Fines and Forfeitures		10,303		1,274 12%
Use of Money		0		76,227
Intergovernmental		746,338		257,567 35%
Charges for Services		396,890		230,537 58%
Other Revenues		-		53,733
Airport		198,448		114,241 58%
Operating Transfers		1,728,989		- 0%
Total Revenues	\$	16,179,131	\$	10,506,717 65%
Expenditures & Transfers				
Administration	\$	2,288,320	\$	894,040 39%
Clerks/Council		927,024		362,908 39%
Planning		387,478		125,498 32%
Library		1,079,132		501,143 46%
Finance		898,578		352,525 39%
Fire		1,881,175		798,044 42%
Police		4,282,603		2,140,498 50%
Public Works		3,512,438		1,521,719 43%
Airport		229,618		82,297 36%
City Hall, HERC		179,040		81,633 46%
Non-Departmental		179,000		154,000 86%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$	15,844,405	\$	7,014,306 44%
Transfer to Other Funds				
Leave Cash Out	\$	221,360	\$	- 0%
Other		103,366		- 0%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$	324,725	\$	- 0%
Transfer to CARMA				
General Fund Fleet CARMA	\$	-	\$	- 0%
General Fund CARMA		-		- 0%
Seawall CARMA		10,000		- 0%
Total Transfer to CARMA Funds	\$	10,000	\$	- 0%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$	16,179,131	\$	7,014,306 43%
Net Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$	0	\$	3,492,411

These numbers are preliminary and are subject change

Water and Sewer Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through November 2023
50% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24	FY24 YTD	
	ADOPTED BUDGET	ACTUAL	
		\$	%
<u>Revenues</u>			
Water Fund	\$ 2,369,005	\$ 1,071,875	45%
Sewer Fund	1,948,388	930,321	48%
Total Revenues	\$ 4,317,393	\$ 2,002,196	46%
<u>Expenditures & Transfers</u>			
<u>Water</u>			
Administration	\$ 309,507	\$ 157,687	51%
Treatment Plant	684,568	308,630	45%
System Testing	33,000	18,682	57%
Pump Stations	115,707	43,957	38%
Distribution System	372,744	187,632	50%
Reservoir	19,025	7,857	41%
Meters	285,597	27,770	10%
Hydrants	214,533	100,525	47%
<u>Sewer</u>			
Administration	\$ 303,612	\$ 152,926	50%
Plant Operations	836,304	353,129	42%
System Testing	18,000	5,953	33%
Lift Stations	216,060	93,372	43%
Collection System	306,884	120,353	39%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 3,715,541	\$ 1,578,472	42%
Transfer to Other Funds			
Leave Cash Out	\$ 15,769	\$ -	0%
GF Admin Fees	-	-	0%
Other	22,945	-	0%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 38,714	\$ -	0%
Transfers to CARMA			
Water	\$ 309,001	\$ -	0%
Sewer	254,138	-	0%
Total Transfer to CARMA Funds	\$ 563,138	\$ -	0%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 4,317,393	\$ 1,578,472	37%
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 423,724	

Port and Harbor Fund
Expenditure Report
Actuals through November 2023
50% Fiscal Year Elapsed

Current Fiscal Analysis

	FY24 ADOPTED BUDGET	FY24 YTD ACTUAL	
		\$	%
<u>Revenues</u>			
Administration	\$ 614,164	\$ 394,100	64%
Harbor	3,961,361	3,084,322	78%
Pioneer Dock	307,804	161,961	53%
Fish Dock	578,477	381,886	66%
Deep Water Dock	182,426	54,578	30%
Outfall Line	4,800	-	0%
Fish Grinder	7,390	10,393	141%
Load and Launch Ramp	130,000	62,829	48%
Total Revenues	\$ 5,786,422	\$ 4,150,069	72%
<u>Expenditures & Transfers</u>			
Administration	\$ 1,143,305	\$ 617,432	54%
Harbor	1,609,487	704,925	44%
Pioneer Dock	86,345	41,381	48%
Fish Dock	747,966	316,442	42%
Deep Water Dock	104,705	49,159	47%
Outfall Line	13,500	4,015	30%
Fish Grinder	27,682	23,831	86%
Harbor Maintenance	533,783	239,622	45%
Main Dock Maintenance	51,393	22,306	43%
Deep Water Dock Maintenance	61,893	24,696	40%
Load and Launch Ramp	138,815	58,161	42%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 4,518,876	\$ 2,101,972	47%
Transfer to Other Funds			
Leave Cash Out	\$ 73,867	\$ -	0%
GF Admin Fees	-	-	0%
Debt Service	0	-	0%
Other	375,092	-	0%
Total Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 448,959	\$ -	0%
Transfers to Reserves			
Harbor	\$ 818,588	\$ -	0%
Load and Launch Ramp	-	-	0%
Total Transfer to Reserves	\$ 818,588	\$ -	0%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	\$ 5,786,422	\$ 2,101,972	36%
Net Revenues Over(Under) Expenditures	\$ 0	\$ 2,048,097	

WORK SESSION

AGENDA CALENDAR 2024

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
Monday, January 8	
Monday, January 15 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, January 22	<i>Homer Harbor Expansion Baseline Conditions Report Overview – Ronny McPherson & KC Kent HDR</i>
Monday, February 12	
Monday, February 26	
Monday, March 11	
Monday, March 18 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</i>
Tuesday, March 26	
Monday, April 8	
Monday, April 12 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Session with Port & Harbor Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, April 22	
Monday, May 13	
Monday, May 20 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Planning Commission</i>
Tuesday, May 28	
Monday, June 10	
Monday, June 17 Off-cycle	<i>Joint session with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, June 24	
Monday, July 22	

Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
<i>Monday, August 12</i>	
<i>Monday, August 26</i>	
<i>Monday, September 9</i>	
<i>Monday, September 16</i> <i>Off-cycle</i>	<i>Joint Session with Library Advisory Board</i>
<i>Monday, September 23</i>	
<i>Monday, October 14</i>	
<i>Monday, October 28</i>	
<i>Monday, November 12</i>	
<i>Monday, November 25</i>	

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER



VOL. III - ISSUE V | JANUARY 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Happy New Year
From Homer City Hall

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

This year, the City of Homer celebrated the Holiday Season at the Elk's Lodge. We enjoyed the time together, relaxing and catching up over a delicious dinner catered by The Tickled Pear. Adding excitement to the evening, we had a prize drawing, with lucky winners leaving with smiles and surprises. Rob and Ralph showcased their stylish sneakers, adding an extra touch of flair to the holiday festivities. We are thankful for our team and look forward to what's to come in the New Year!



City Manager Rob Dumouchel
and Ralph Skorski



Officer Tyler
Jeffres and
Erica Jeffres



Cheryl and Mike Illg



Ashley Baldus and
Sarah Cunningham

- Holiday Celebration
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Homer Public Library
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Hazard Mitigation – Risk Assessment
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](https://www.instagram.com/cityofhomerak)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](https://www.instagram.com/homerparksandrec)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](https://www.instagram.com/homerpubliclibrary)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolic](https://www.instagram.com/homerpolic)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](https://www.instagram.com/HomerVolFireDept)

**Subscribe to the Monthly
Newsletter**

[Click Here to Subscribe](#)

LIBRARY EVENTS

VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.

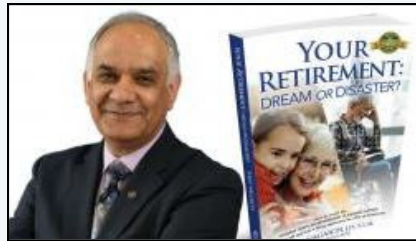
January 10 at 4 pm

Embrace Love in the New Year: A Heartfelt Conversation with **Rebecca Serle**



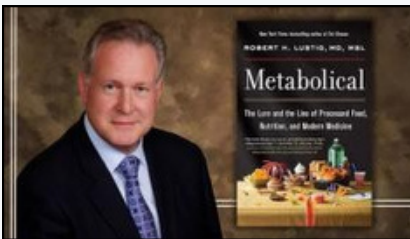
January 23 at 10 am

Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster? How to Avoid the Hidden Traps in Retirement Planning Advice
Rajiv Nagaich



January 30 at 10 am

The Lure and the Lies of Processed Food, Nutrition, and Modern Medicine: An Author Talk with **Dr. Robert Lustig**



SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



Councilmember Conversations

Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

January 9: Shelly Erickson

CHECK OUT MORE LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180
circ@ci.homer.ak.us
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

Community Resource Connect

A one-day event with help for those facing financial instability, homelessness, or at risk of being houseless.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 • 11AM-3PM

Community Resource Connect - Located at SPARC

Anyone in need of resources is invited to this **FREE** one-day event! All are welcome. FREE emergency gear, backpacks, comfort packs, food-to-go, sleeping bags, menstrual kits, winter gear, and more.

Get connected with over 20 local vendors offering resources related to food, employment info, health care and mental health, health screenings, and more.

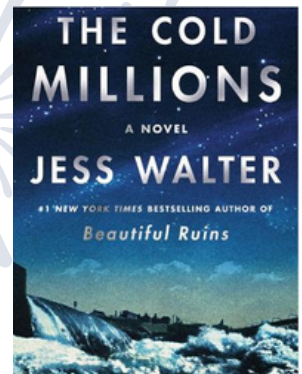
[Click Here for More Information](#)

The Big Read

Kick-Off Event for the NEA Big Read 2024!

Where: Alice's Champagne Palace
When: January 19th, 6pm

[Click here for more details!](#)



Community Recreation

Do you want to stay active and connect with others in the community during the winter months!? There are a lot of options available through our Community Recreation programs. Short on gear? The Homer Public Library has a sports gear lending program. Find more info [here!](#)

- Soccer
- Youth Tumbling Classes
- Pickleball
- Cuong Nhu and Karate Program
- Basketball
- Community Inlet Winds Band
- Volleyball
- Volunteer Opportunities

[Click here to explore all that Community Recreation has to offer!](#)

LIBRARY

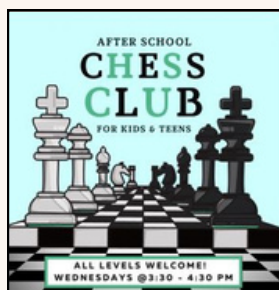
AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

Stop Motion Animation with Legos!

Searching for a creative after-school activity for your child? Join us weekly at the Homer Public Library for engaging and educational activities designed for elementary-aged kids every Thursday from 3:30 to 4:00 pm.

Next Event: Thursday, January 11, 3:30pm to 4:30pm

January/February: Intro to Stop Motion Animation! In this series, you'll create a scene, then animate it using Legos. Learn to use Stop Motion Studio on the library's iPads. Please email Cinda if you have any questions: cnofziger@ci.homer.ak.us



After School Chess Club for Kids & Teens

Meet your friends at the library to play chess! Improve your strategy, learn from mentors, and have fun. All skill levels welcome!

Ages 5 and up
Homer Public Library
Every Wednesday, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Next Event: Wednesday, January 3, 3:30 - 4:30pm

COMMUNITY RECREATION

COMMUNITY INLET WINDS BAND 2024



The Inlet Winds Community Band is restarting this spring. Don't forget to **sign up by February 6th!**

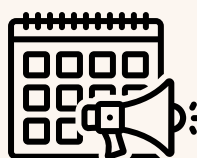
Who can be involved: Inlet Winds is geared for two groups of people.

- Adults with previous experience playing in band (to at least a high school level) who know how to read music. It's ok if you are a little rusty- We'll get into shape together!
- Advanced high school students by invitation or with director approval.

FOR MORE INFO

Sign up through the link below
by **February 6, 2023!**

[Community Inlet Winds Band 2024](#)



LOOKING AHEAD

Spring Concert
Saturday April 13 7:00 PM
Homer High School Mariner Theatre

CITY HALL

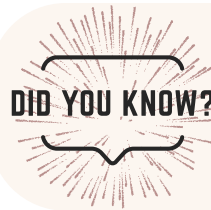
HOMER, THE BABY OPOSSUM, ARRIVES AT OREGON ZOO

Last month, a baby opossum named Homer arrived at the Portland Zoo in Oregon, safe and sound. Homer has been on quite the adventure in his short life!

Earlier this year, Homer's mom, an opossum known as Grubby, stowed away in a cargo container bound for Homer, AK. When the container was being unloaded, Grubby made a run for it and escaped the crew who tried to trap her. She was able to evade wildlife officials for a couple of months. During that time, she gave birth to at least 5 babies (joeys), whom residents affectionately referred to as 'grublets.'

Finally, in May, Grubby and her joeys were captured and re-homed to the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage. Homer and his siblings will be sent to different zoos, and Grubby will remain at the Alaska Zoo.

Homer is adjusting to his new home and the caring staff. As he acclimates, he will soon have the opportunity to meet visitors. This interaction aims to educate and connect children with an animal they may not encounter in their daily lives, creating a deeper appreciation for wildlife.



Opossums are considered invasive in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest as they are a threat to native species.



Lori Pond delivering donations to Homer High



Zach Pettit delivering donations to Homer High



Renee Krause and Lori Pond wrap gifts



City Hall Christmas Tree

SHARE THE SPIRIT

City Hall spread some holiday cheer this year through the Share the Spirit Adopt-A-Family program! We were honored to make a family's wishes come true by providing them with food, warm clothing, toys, and essentials.

You can also bring joy to our community through similar programs and by supporting local charities, helping build a more compassionate and connected community not just during the festive season but throughout the upcoming year!



HOMER HIGH GOVERNMENT CLASS VISITS CITY HALL

The Homer High School Government Class visited City Hall on Tuesday, December 12th for a guided tour, followed by a Q&A session in the Council Chambers with Mayor Castner and Council Members Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, and Erickson. The students had an hour to explore the inner workings of local government, gaining insights into the daily operations of City Hall.

The Q&A session aimed to provide a firsthand understanding of the roles and responsibilities of local leaders, allowing students to ask questions and engage in meaningful discussions. The goal of this experience was designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical civic engagement. Mayor Ken Castner emphasized, “Homer High grads are disbursed throughout the City. You need to participate, and that begins with talking and communication.” The teens were encouraged to care about the community and be aware of what is being discussed, as they are the future of Homer.



Ryan Foster, City Planner, speaks to students about the city planning process.



Homer High students attend a Q&A session with Mayor Castner and Council Members Aderhold, Lord, Venuti, and Erickson.

2024 ELECTIONS

As we step into the new year, it's never too early to start preparing for the upcoming elections! Stay informed about key dates, such as voter registration deadlines and election days.



Register to vote or update your voter registration!

- Visit the Homer City Clerk’s Office at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue to fill out a registration form, or
- Conveniently register online at <https://voterregistration.alaska.gov>.

For additional details, contact the Clerk’s Office at (907) 235-3130.

In 2024, we gear up for THREE upcoming elections!

 Save the dates:

- Alaska State General Election : **November 5**
- 2024 Kenai Peninsula Borough Regular Election: **October 1**
- 2024 City of Homer Regular Election: **October 1**

Polls open at 7 am, close at 8 pm

Important Deadlines

-  Voter registration/update: September 1, 2024
-  Absentee In-Person Voting: Starts September 16, 2024
-  Absentee By-Mail App Deadline (City): September 27, 2024
-  Absentee App Deadline (Borough): September 24, 2024
-  Absentee by Electronic App Transmission Deadline: September 30, 2024

PORT & HARBOR

PACIFIC MARINE EXPO IN SEATTLE

Port Director Bryan Hawkins recently attended the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle, sharing a booth with Homer Marine Trades. The expo spotlighted Alaskan coastal communities. The Homer booth stands out because it represents our thriving marine commercial support industry.

During his visit, Bryan joined the Cordova Harbormaster for a day trip to Anacortes, touring the Transpac float manufacturing operation. Witnessing the floats during their various stages of construction, physically interacting with the materials, and acquiring knowledge about the intricate engineering involved in these harbor float systems was truly remarkable and helps us in our planning for future float replacement projects.



Bryan Hawkins and Jen Hakala of the Homer Marine Trades Association working Homer's Pacific Marine Expo booth.

Events like the Pacific Marine Expo highlight local industry strengths, foster community collaboration, and address crucial topics such as vessel maintenance and sustainability. Attending these expos is an important investment in the growth and success of the marine trade sector.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING FOR THE MARINE EXCHANGE OF ALASKA



Bryan Hawkins, Port Director, attended the Marine Exchange of Alaska annual board meeting.

Port Director, Bryan Hawkins, serves as the President of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators (AAHPA) and represented AAHPA on the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) board this past month. Both organizations collaborate closely to support maritime transportation in Alaska.

The Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) tracks commercial vessels in Alaskan waters. One of their primary functions is the exchange of vessel information, which serves as a critical resource for vessel owners, fleet managers, families, and state and federal authorities. The Exchange acts as a 24-hour vessel safety and security watch keeper, ensuring the timely availability of accurate and relevant information including vessel tracking, communication services, and weather and ice information.

Attending their annual board meeting offered valuable insights. The collaboration opportunities allowed for the exchange of information and the advancement of Homer's critical projects and priorities.



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION



STUDY UPDATE



**Join us Monday, January 22 at
City Council's 4 pm Worksession!**

Ronny McPherson and KC Kent of HDR will provide an overview of the Baseline Conditions Report they are completing. The report uses new and existing field data along with existing studies, to model the waves, tides, storm surge and analyze sediment transport in the study area.

Understanding the existing marine and coastal physical processes is one of the important first steps to get done before moving into alternatives development. This information, together with data from the geophysical investigation and environmental review, is instrumental in informing the design process; it allows the project development team to tailor designs to the specific conditions of the proposed site to best meet project objectives. The information also serves as a reference point to compare the relative effectiveness of the alternatives harbor design.

Homer City Council will also discuss the progress of the study and introduce an Ordinance to commit additional match funds at their Regular meeting on January 8, 2024, which begins at 6 pm.

Mark your calendar

6 pm Monday, January 8, 2024



4 pm Monday, January 22, 2024



Cowles Chamber, Homer City Hall
491 E. Pioneer Avenue in Homer



or via [Zoom!](#)



For more information go to: www.homerharborexansion.com



**QUICK
TIP**

PORT & HARBOR BILLING ABBREVIATIONS

What does that stand for? Are you looking at your harbor bill or receipt and can't figure out what the description means? Here's a breakdown of those cryptic abbreviations that will make you a pro in no time. [Click this link to see a list of abbreviations and what they mean.](#) [Port & Harbor Billing/Charges Info](#)



FIRST RESPONDERS CLASS



Sammantha Cunningham leading the ETT training class.

During the final week of November, Port & Harbor staff from operations, maintenance, and the fish dock participated in a 40-hour Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) training and certification. The training was led by Homer EMS coordinator Samantha Cunningham and organized by Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden.



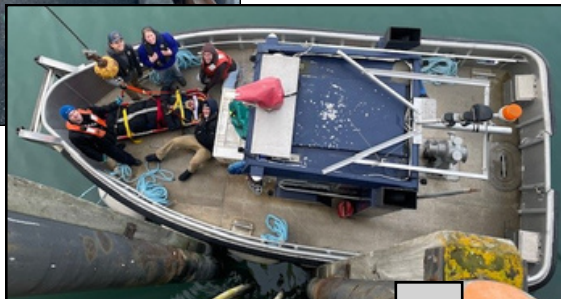
Isaiah Nevak, Kurt Read (as the 'patient'), and Rose Riordan

The ETT course is primarily for professionals requiring advanced medical skills beyond basic first aid and is specifically designed for those without immediate access to professional emergency services. This training equips individuals with essential skills for a rapid response in critical situations.

Successful completion of this training course is mandatory every two years. The training provides our Port & Harbor staff with essential skills to respond effectively to emergencies when necessary.



Del Masterhan and Thomas Gilbert participate in rescue training, which involves loading a stretcher onto a pulley and lowering it down into a boat.



HOMER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

RISK ASSESMENT

The City of Homer has thoroughly evaluated natural disaster risks and devised strategies to safeguard lives and property. A hazard impact risk assessment predicts how hazards may affect the community, aiding in prioritizing risk reduction actions.

The 2022 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) specifically assessed risks in Homer, focusing on land, the population center, and critical facilities like emergency services.

With a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved plan in place, the community is eligible for nonemergency disaster assistance, including funding for risk reduction projects outlined in the plan.

As a resident of Homer, we want you to be aware of the potential risks and inform you of the plan in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Risks Assesed

Climate Change

Earthquake

Erosion

Flood

Landslide

Severe Weather

Tsunami

Volcano

Wildfire



Find the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on the City's website:

[City of Homer Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)

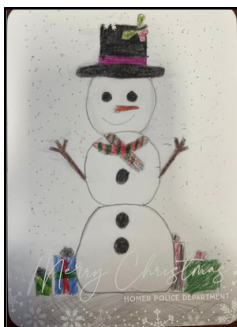
POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST 2023



Homer Police Department with Christmas Card Contest participants, Aubrey and Kyra.

The Homer Police Department (HPD) was thrilled to host a Christmas Card Contest again this year. Young Homer artists had the opportunity to submit vibrant Christmas card designs. The 2023 winner was Kyra (11), who drew a beautiful snowman! The runner up was Aubrey with a festive 'Crismis' scene showing a police officer with K-9 dog next to a Christmas tree. Great job girls!!



Snowman, by Kyra

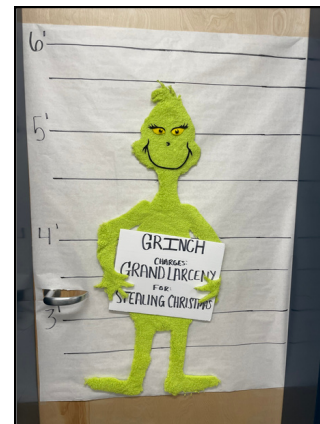


Crismis, by Aubrey

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

We saw a whole new side to our police officers and staff at HPD this year! They brought out their creative side with a door decorating contest. Winner gets bragging rights!

Our newest hire, Kaitlyn Dawson, won with the Grinch Door that leads into the jail.



The Grinch Door, by Kaitlyn Dawson

FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEW FIRE HOSES AT HVFD

The Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) recently acquired upgraded fire hoses. A total of 147 boxes, weighing 5,638 pounds, were unboxed by our awesome crew: Jaclyn Arndt, Paige Jones, Galina Orlova, and Barrett Moe!

This new supply replaced outdated hoses that no longer met National Fire Protection Association safety guidelines. The old hoses were made of extruded nitrile rubber, which would easily ice up in cold weather, making them slippery to handle and heavier. The new style of hoses performs better in cold weather and is easier for firefighters to maneuver. They have a rubber-lined polyester double jacket that does not freeze up and is two pounds lighter than the old hoses, enhancing grip, maneuverability, and reducing the risk of injury and fatigue for our firefighting crews. This significant improvement ensures that HVFD maintains a safer and more efficient fire response.



Barrett Moe and Paige Jones

Galina Orlova



In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY

The cold weather has arrived, and we all want to stay warm! Remember to take a few simple steps to keep yourself and your family safe while heating up your home. Using heating systems safely is crucial in preventing accidents, fires, and health hazards.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE!

Heating Systems



Keep the area around fireplaces, wood stoves, and space heaters clear, at least 3 feet around.



Schedule regular inspections and cleaning of heating unit and replace air filters regularly.



Ensure proper ventilation to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide.



Never leave a heating unit unattended while in use.

LEARN MORE



[StaySafe.org](https://www.staysafe.org)

[Red Cross Home Heating Safety Tips](#)



Be Prepared

Educate family members, especially children, about fire safety.

Have an escape plan and practice the route.

Keep a working fire extinguisher in an accessible location, and make sure everyone knows how to use it.

Install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home and test them monthly.



December Anniversaries

Thanks to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment and service to the City and to the taxpayers of Homer!

Mark Robl	Police	39 Years
Bryan Hawkins	Port	24 Years
Todd Cook	Public Works	14 Years
Sean Perry	Police	9 Years
Mike Zelinski	Public Works	9 Years
Josh Mershon	Port	4 Years
Regina Johanos	Library	3 Years
Jenna Luchaco	Public Works	2 Years
Del Masterhan	Port	2 Years
Matt Dominguez	IT	1 Year

WELCOME



Greg Trail

Welcome aboard, Greg Trail! Greg is a Maintenance Tech I at Public Works who began his journey with us in July. Hailing from Homer and the surrounding area, he brings valuable experience from his previous work in the fishing industry.



Welcome to Wesley Breshears, our Heavy Mechanic at Public Works, who joined us in November. Having relocated to Homer about a year ago to be closer to family, we are thrilled to have him as part of our team.



Wesley Breshears

EMPLOYEE HIGH FIVES!

WAY TO GO ANDREW!

Andrew Williamson just got his CDL license! He joined the Public Works crew as a seasonal employee for the operators from May to October 2022. He was rehired in 2023 as a full-time employee, starting out as an apprentice. With his newly acquired CDL license and on-the-job training, he has now become an Equipment Operator. Andrew is a valuable addition to the team, and we are glad to have him on board.



Andrew Williamson

KUDOS TO SNOW PLOW CREWS



Snow Removal- Lead Mike Gilbert and operator- Jenna Luchaco

Kudos to the City crews who have been working hard to keep Homer roads clear and safe this winter season! These dedicated teams work tirelessly to clear the snow and ice, ensuring our safe travels.

Be sure to give them your support and be patient while they work through the snow clearing process, especially during heavy snowfall. They are an essential part of our community, and we are very thankful for them!

CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

Mayor - Ken Castner (2024)

City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

City Staff Leadership

Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Jan Keiser, Public Works Director/City Engineer

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)



“Horses in a Winter Storm”
Watercolor by Diana Tillion
City Hall

STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January

3	5:30 pm	CANCELLED - Planning Commission Worksession
3	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Special Meeting
9	6:00 pm	Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting
16	5:30 pm	Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting
17	5:30 pm	Planning Commission Worksession
17	6:30 pm	Planning Commission Regular Meeting
18	5:30 pm	Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Special Meeting
24	5:30 pm	Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting



JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at:
cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us.

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-8121

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov



City of Homer

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Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK II
DATE: JANUARY 18, 2024
SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL

NEW BUSINESS

B. Memorandum from Recreation Manager re: Proposed Community Recreation Center

Scoring Matrix for Recreation Center Location

From: [Mike Illg](#)
To: [Renee Krause](#)
Subject: supplemental information Rec Center location scoring matrix for PARCAC packet 1-18-24
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024 12:16:53 PM
Attachments: [Rec Center matrix Total scores.xlsx](#)

Hi Renee,

Here are tallied scores from the working group who has been reviewing potential location for a possible future City of Homer Recreation Center. This is informational only as there are still additional tasks for the working group to consider including identifying possible costs to purchase if land is not already owned by COH and what possible funding strategies should be considered for purchase.

Thanks,

Mike Illg, MS, CPRP

City of Homer Recreation Manager
Liaison for Park, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
600 E Fairview Ave
Homer, AK 99603
907.235.6090

Factors	
West Homer #1	
Marely Prop. #2	
Main St. #3	
Main/Sterling #4	
Popdeck/Hazel #5	
HEA Site #6	
New PW Site #7	

Score 1		22	15	16	17	16	22	17
Score 2		21	12	16	19	20	23	19
Score 3		18	13	18	20	20	22	12
Score 4		18	13	16	9	13	18	15
Score 5		21	11	17	19	18	23	17
Score 6		14	11	12	8.5	12	15	10
Score 7								
		West Homer	Marley	Main	Main/Sterling	Poopdeck/Hazel	HEA	PW
Total Matrix Scores:		114	75	95	92.5	99	123	90