



Agenda

Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Thursday, October 17, 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)

- A. Budget Development FY26/FY27 with Elizabeth Fischer, Finance Director

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 or someone from the public, in which case the item will be moved to the regular agenda and considered in normal sequence.

- A. Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2024 - *Refer to Supplemental Packet*

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

- A. Parks & Trails Report - September
- B. Recreation Report - October
- C. Staff Report - October

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

- A. Beach Policy Review
- B. City of Homer PARC SWOT Analysis - Review and Discussion

NEW BUSINESS (15-20 minute time limit)

A. 2025 Advisory Bodies Meeting Schedule - Review and Approval

Memorandum from City Clerk as backup.

B. Budget Development

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. City Manager's Report for City Council Meeting October 14, 2024

B. City Newsletter - Fall 2024 Edition

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 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.



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: October 17, 2024
SUBJECT: PARKS REVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER

KAREN HORNADAY PARK PLAYGROUND

- Did some maintenance on the road to help with rain and drainage

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

- Cutting back brush on some trails
- Getting ready for winter maintenance
- West lot, Lucky Shot, and Story trail are all done

BAYVIEW PARK

- East Road Services has started work on the playground and path

JACK GIST PARK

- Water and Sewer hookups are in
- Brush hogging the disk golf course
- Working on some fall cleanup of the fields

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Mowing is finally slowed down
- Started transplanting some peonies around town
- Wrapping up flower beds and barrels
- Doing some work on Hickerson to get ready for winter
- Marking trails for winter plowing
- Helped PW operators with a couple things throughout the month







MEMORANDUM

Item Type: Informational Memorandum Community Recreation
Prepared For: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: October 1, 2024
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

Programming & Special Events: Please view the monthly calendar for reference of the programs, activities and special events provided.

The popular **Adult Basketball League** has started and we have 6 teams. This program runs from October through February and will have 48 games and over 70 players. Games are on Sundays 2 to 5:30pm Thanks to our team sponsors: Bay Welding, Gregoire Construction, South Peninsula Hospital, Alaska Salt Co., Alaska PT & Wellness and Alaska Bible Institute.

Community Rec is partnering with the Homer Elks to offer a **Soccer Shoot** on October 18th and **Hoop Shoot** National competition on November 30th.

We finished up a 4-Week **Youth Basketball program** that met afterschool and on Saturdays at the HERC. We had lots of fun with 15 kids participating.

Family Pickleball Time will take place on sturdy October 12th and November 9th 3-5pm at the HERC. This is a free event for youth and encourages family to play together and learn how to play pickleball.

During the month of October, Community Recreation offered three different **jewelry making classes:** Introduction to Silversmithing, Lost Wax Casting and Intermediate Silversmithing. Each of these classes are multi-days programs in the art room at Homer High.

**CITY OF HOMER
COMMUNITY REC PRESENTS:**



2024-25 ADULT BASKETBALL LEAGUE

GAME SCHEDULE:

Every Sunday , October 6 - February 16

Game 1: 2PM

Game 2: 3:15PM

Game 3: 4:30PM

NO Games: 12/8, 12/22, 12/29 & 2/9

Playoffs/Championship Games: February 22-23

**MORE
INFO**



LOCATION:

Homer High Gym

FOR MORE INFO CALL 907-235-6090

JOIN CITY OF HOMER COMMUNITY REC FOR

PICKLEBALL FAMILY TIME

SAT. OCT 12 & NOV 9TH 3-5PM

AT THE HERC!



KIDS
FREE
Adults
\$5


**BRING THE KIDDOS AND HAVE A
FAMILY FUN DAY! INSTRUCTORS
WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST.
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED.**

**3RD
GRADE
& UP**

**QUESTIONS? CALL 235-6090
CLEAN INDOOR SHOES REQUIRED
SIGN UP HERE**



City of Homer Community Rec October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DISCLAIMER: ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECTED TO CHANGE OR BEING CANCELLED WITH LIMITED NOTIFICATION	Color Key BLACK=Homer High BLUE=Homer Middle PURPLE=HERC GREEN= West Homer RED=Cancellation	1 3-4:30PM YOUTH BALLET at HERC 3:15-4:15PM YOUTH BB at HERC 5-7pm 4.0/4.5 Skill level PICKLEBALL Open Play at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 7-8:30pm Skills AND Strategies PICKLEBALL at HERC	2 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10:15am FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 5:30-7:30pm SPANISH Classes at HHS 6:30-8:30pm BASKETBALL at HMS 7:30-9:30pm Drop in SOCCER at HHS	3 3:15-4:15PM YOUTH BB at HERC 6:30-8:30pm 3.0-3.5 Skill Level PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HMS 7:30-9:30pm Drop in FRISBEE at HHS	4 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10:15am FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm PICKLEBALL at HERC 7:30-9:30pm Drop in SOCCER CANCELLED	5 10-11:30am YOUTH BB at HERC
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MEMORANDUM

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: October 1, 2024
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

The following City Council resolutions and ordinances activity relevant to the Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission since the last PARCAC meeting on September 19, 2024.

September 23, 2024 City Council Special Meeting

Resolution 24-101, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Supporting the Efforts of the Homer Cycling Club and Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park to Establish Hiking, Biking and Equestrian Trails in the Cottonwood-Eastland Management Unit of Kachemak Bay State Park. **Approved.**

Ordinance 24-31(S), An Ordinance of the Homer City Council Adopting the 2024 Homer Transportation Plan, Amending the Homer Comprehensive Plan to Include the Transportation Plan and Recommending Adoption by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. **Approved.**

Resolution 24-104, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Directing the City Manager to Address Speeding on West Fairview. **Approved.**

There will be a City Council **work session on October 28th** at 4pm to discuss the vessel haul out/camping/Pier One property.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational Only.

CITY OF HOMER

Comprehensive Plan Rewrite



Community Work Session

Tuesday, October 22, 6:00-8:00 PM

Alaska Islands & Ocean Visitor Center

95 Sterling Highway #1, Homer, AK 99603

Join us as we explore how population and job growth might change land use and development patterns in Homer over time.

Using a combination of community input and other information, the project team is developing **three potential growth scenarios** to explore how Homer could change over the next ten years.

The **three scenarios will be shared at the Community Work Session**, with both in-person and virtual options to share your thoughts.

This exercise will assist in developing goals, objectives, and recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan Rewrite and Title 21 Revision.

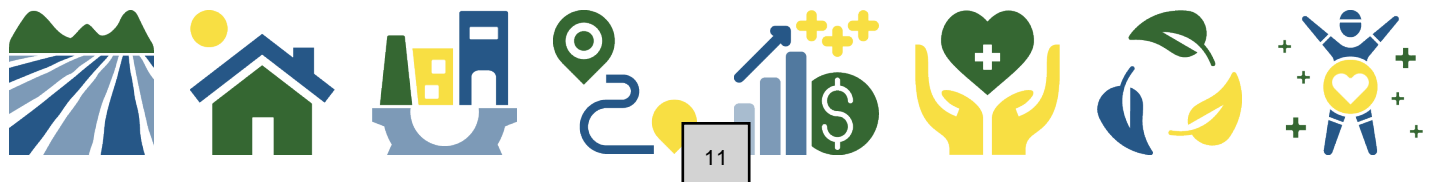


Contact Information

- **City of Homer Planner:** Ryan Foster, rfoster@ci.homer.ak.us, 907-299-8529
- **Project Consultant:** Shelly Wade, shelly@agnewbeck.com, 907-242-5326

Resources

- **Project website:** www.homercompplanupdate.com
- **City of Homer on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/cityofhomerak>





MEMORANDUM

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: October 1, 2024
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

The Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission will be reviewing the City of Homer Beach Policy and Management Plan at the request of Commissioner Keiser to consider the concept of establishing a “special permit” process to allow qualified citizens the ability to collect coal year round from approved beach areas. The purpose of the City of Homer Beach Policy and Management Plan is to support the enforcement of existing regulations, proposed new regulations, or actions that may be needed, for the seven areas of beaches in City limits. The intent of the policy is to provide guidance to keep Homer’s beaches safe and enjoyable for all users while preserving the natural environment.

Staff recommends that we do not establish and issue a “Special Permit” policy due to the limited ability to monitor/enforce, limited information of the possible environmental impacts of expanding vehicle access to restricted beach areas year round, consideration to the timeframe of migratory shorebird in these areas, the administrative challenges in determining which community members would qualify for a special permit and/or how many should be issued.

In lieu of a “Special Permit” process, Homer Police Chief Robl suggested the concept of changing the access dates from “October 1st through March 31st” to “September 10th through April 30th”. Alternate dates that could be considered: September 15th through April 15th to have simpler start and end dates in addition to the information from US Fish & Wildlife Service that shorebird migration activity in the Homer area typically begins late April early May.

POLICIES & PLANS FOR SPECIFIC AREAS (on page 10)

AREA 4 South-end of Mariner Park to East-end of Ocean Drive Lop Seawall

- A. *Vehicles are allowed between the south-end of Mariner Park Beach and the east-end of the Ocean Drive Loop seawall from ~~October 1st through March 31st~~ to “September 15th through April 15th” for the sole purpose of gathering sand and coal. The beach is closed to vehicles at all times for any other purpose*

Staff recommends to change language to strike “done every three years” and replace with “as needed”.

GENERAL POLICY & PLAN FOR ALL HOMER BEACHES (on page 5)

Under A 1. “b”

An audit/review for updates of the beach access points and documentation shall be done ~~every three years~~ to “as needed”.

Any recommendations from PARCAC to City Council relating to the Beach Policy and Management Plan if approved will require changes to City Code 7.16.20 “Operating, stopping or parking motor vehicles in beach area prohibited – Exceptions”.

<https://www.codepublishing.com/AK/Homer/#!/Homer07/Homer0716.html#7.16>

RECOMMENDATION: Review the City of Homer Beach Policy and Management Plan and make recommendations by motion to City Council to consider.

Attachments

Title 7.16 Vehicles in Beach Areas

Beach Policy

Chapter 7.16

VEHICLES IN BEACH AREAS

Sections:

7.16.010 Definitions.

7.16.020 Operating, stopping or parking of motor vehicles in beach areas prohibited – Exceptions.

7.16.030 Operating, stopping or parking of motor vehicles on storm berms prohibited.

7.16.040 Impoundment authorized.

7.16.010 Definitions.

In this chapter:

“Beach area” means all of the following, whether publicly or privately owned: submerged land, tideland, and the zone of sand, gravel and other unconsolidated materials that extends landward from the elevation of mean high water to the place where there is a marked change in material or physiographic form.

“Berm” means a natural, linear mound or series of mounds in a beach area composed of sand, gravel, or both, generally paralleling the water at or landward of the elevation of mean high water.

“Motor vehicle” means a device in, upon, or by which a person or property may be transported or drawn upon or immediately over land, that is self-propelled except by human or animal power.

“Storm berm” means a berm formed by the upper reach of storm wave surges or the highest tides. Storm berms generally include an accumulation of seaweed, driftwood, and other waterborne materials. A beach area may have more than one storm berm.

“Submerged land” means land covered by tidal water from the elevation of mean low water seaward to the corporate boundary of the city.

“Tideland” means land that is periodically covered by tidal water between the elevation of mean high water and mean low water. [Ord. [16-05\(S-2\)\(A-2\)](#) § 2, 2016].

7.16.020 Operating, stopping or parking of motor vehicles in beach areas prohibited – Exceptions.

- a. Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d) of this section, no person may operate, stop or park a motor vehicle within or upon any beach area.
- b. A person may operate, stop or park a motor vehicle within and upon the beach area east of a line extending south from the southern end of a line extending south from the southern end of the vacated easement formally known as Shirlene Circle, and within and upon the beach area west of Bishops Beach Park Access.
- c. A person may operate, stop or park a motor vehicle within and upon the beach area between the south end of Mariner Park beach to the east end of the seawall from October 1st through March 31st solely for the purpose of gathering sand and coal.
- d. An owner of property immediately adjacent to a beach area may operate, stop and park a motor vehicle within or upon a beach area as is reasonably necessary to maintain the owner's property, in accordance with the terms of a permit issued for that purpose by the Chief of Police.
- e. Nothing in this section permits a person to operate, stop or park a motor vehicle within or upon privately owned property in a beach area without the permission of the property owner. [Ord. [16-13](#) § 1, 2016; Ord. [16-05\(S-2\)\(A-2\)](#) § 2, 2016].

7.16.030 Operating, stopping or parking of motor vehicles on storm berms prohibited.

No person may operate, stop or park a motor vehicle upon a storm berm. [Ord. [16-05\(S-2\)\(A-2\)](#) § 2, 2016].

7.16.040 Impoundment authorized.

A vehicle that is stopped or parked in violation of this chapter may be impounded as provided in Chapter [7.10](#) HCC. [Ord. [16-05\(S-2\)\(A-2\)](#) § 2, 2016].

The Homer City Code is current through Ordinance 24-30(A), passed July 22, 2024.

Disclaimer: The City Clerk's office has the official version of the Homer City Code. Users should contact the City Clerk's office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

City Website: <https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/>

City Telephone: (907) 235-8121

Codification services provided by [General Code](#)



CITY OF HOMER

BEACH POLICY &
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Adopted August 9, 2021





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DEFINITIONS

- A. "Berm" means a natural, linear mound or series of mounds in a beach area composed of sand, gravel, or both, generally paralleling the water at or landward of the elevation of mean high water.
- B. "Storm berm" means a berm formed by the upper reach of storm wave surges or the highest tides. Storm berms generally include an accumulation of seaweed, driftwood, and other water-borne materials. A beach area may have more than one storm berm.
- C. "Submerged land" means land covered by tidal water from the elevation of mean low water seaward to the corporate boundary of the city.
- D. "Tideland" means land that is periodically covered by tidal water between the elevation of mean high water and mean low water.
- E. "Beach area" means all of the following, whether publicly or privately owned: submerged land, tideland, and the zone of sand, gravel and other unconsolidated materials that extends landward from the elevation of mean high water to the place where there is a marked change in material or physiographic form.
- F. "Motor vehicle" means a device in, upon, or by which a person or property may be transported or drawn upon or immediately over land, that is self-propelled except by human or animal power.
- G. "Personal watercraft" means a vessel which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of motive power. The vessels are designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling.



Grassy area of Beluga Slough where highest tides and storm deposit logs and driftwood. Tall grasses and other plants grow there most of the time, and only at the highest tides and largest storms are logs thrown up on this area of the beach.



INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, & GOALS

Purpose and Intent

The purpose of the City of Homer Beach Policy and Management Plan is to support the enforcement of existing regulations, proposed new regulations, or actions that may be needed, for the seven areas of beaches in City limits. The intent of the policy is to provide guidance to keep Homer's beaches safe and enjoyable for all users while preserving the natural environment. This document will be reviewed and updated on a bi-annual basis by the Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Commission or as deemed necessary by City Council.

History

The original Beach Policy Task Force was established in 2000 as the result of strong public concern on the current and future use of Homer beaches. They completed the beach policy in 2001 which was adopted by City Council on June 25, 2001. In 2003, per Ordinance 03-27, the City was awarded a \$75,000 Coastal Impact Assessment grant to fund beach access restriction improvements, regulatory signage, a GIS coastal erosion and beach habitat information mapping project and funds for the 2004 United States Geological Survey sediment transport study camera operation.

The Task Force made further recommendations in 2005 through Memorandum 05-78, and concluded their work. In 2007, City Council adopted Ordinance 07-01(A) which added advising on public beaches to the duties of Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission. The Commission formed a Beach Committee to update the Beach Policy, which resulted in this document.

In fall of 2014 the Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission was directed by Council to review and recommend revisions to the Beach Policy. The Commission worked on the policy the first six months of 2015 and made recommendations via Memorandum 15-102. Council adopted Ordinance 16-05 (S-2)(A-2) on February 23, 2016. Ordinance 16-13 then made minor amendments. The Beach Policy was amended to reflect these revisions through Resolution 16-029(S-2). Resolution 17-021 amended the policy for clarity providing corrections for grammar and content.



*Storm Berm in front of Bishop's
Beach Parking Lot
Photo provided by PARCAC
Member circa 2000*

Goals of this Policy

❖ Education

Educate beach users by providing signage and beach information at convenient locations.

❖ Safety and Prevention

Limit conflicts between motorized users and pedestrians by encouraging courtesy and common sense.

Protect sensitive beach habitat and wildlife from inappropriate use of beaches - e.g., keep motorized vehicles out of lagoon areas and personal watercraft off beaches.

❖ Enforcement

Ensure adequate staffing on holiday weekends, that regulatory signage is installed where needed so laws can be enforced, and gates are operational to prevent or limit access to sensitive or prohibited areas.



Bishop's Beach has a 2-tier parking area that is delineated by driftwood, rocks, and grassy areas. Vehicle access to the west end (Area 7) is located at the northwest corner of the lower lot and a gate at the southeast end restricts access to the East-end of Ocean Drive Loop Seawall to Bishop's Beach Park (Area 6).



GENERAL POLICY & PLAN FOR ALL HOMER BEACHES

A. Identify and improve beach access points. Heavy impacts are created by a large number of people accessing the beach at a small number of places. By finding, improving, and publishing all public beach access points, this will diffuse the impacts and provide a more enjoyable experience to all.

1. Improve and maintain beach access points.
 - a. Document the known public beach access points and tracks their current status, development, and other notes of interest.
 - b. An audit/review for updates of the beach access points and documentation shall be done every three years.
2. Provide signage at selected public access points.

B. Install and maintain signage as needed. Signage shall be positive and informative to encourage courtesy to pedestrians, appropriate pet control and clean up, and indicate where vehicles are permitted. All signage must be installed in a manner that meets the needs of law enforcement.

1. Installed signage shall address the following:
 - a. The berm building process, shore zone wildlife habitat, etc.
 - b. The risks of driving on the beach and the responsibility the owner/driver accepts, specifying that the City shall not be held liable.
 - c. The prohibition of removal and burning of driftwood along the berm, and where campers can locate campfire wood.
 - d. City code prohibitions and applicable fines, so that any violators of the law on City beaches may be ticketed.
2. City shall coordinate with U.S Fish and Wildlife (USFW) on a uniform interpretative signage plan for all City beach parks. Adjust signage language over time to meet changing needs. Include the project in the annual budget.
3. Ensure there are line items in the City's budget for sign repair, updating, and replacement.

*Northwest end of Mariner Park
Signage clearly states City Code and vehicle restrictions, rocks adequately delineate the parking area, and the Alaska flag adds a positive touch.*



C. Be aware of seaward property boundaries when making municipal decisions. Although many believe property lines stop at a water boundary, it has become apparent this is not always the case in Kachemak Bay. Normal property lines next to the ocean are established at mean high tide, and slow erosion does change boundaries. The 1964 earthquake caused the sinking of the Spit and Homer area and the sea flowed over the lowered land. This sudden change is called avulsion and legally does not change land boundaries. However, avulsion does have to be proven which can be difficult without adequate historical records. Common in Alaska, the area below mean high tide is owned by the State of Alaska, and this is true in a few spots in Homer. But generally speaking, the City owns the tidelands below mean high tide.

D. Encourage better enforcement of applicable existing state and local laws. Examples of applicable laws include: HCC 19.08 Campgrounds, HCC 7.16 Vehicles in Beach Areas; HCC18.28.200 Waste or injury to land, and Alaska State Traffic Regulations regarding: DWI, Reckless Driving, Negligent Driving, Basic Speed, and Littering.

1. Evening quiet hours shall be posted and enforced in applicable areas.
2. City driving laws in City beach parking areas and on west Bishop's Beach where driving is permitted shall be enforced.
3. Any observed violations of policies or laws shall be reported to the Homer Police Department.

E. Develop a coordinated public relations campaign. It is important to enlist the public in the campaign to keep our beaches enjoyable for all, to limit the human damage to fragile areas, and to minimize friction between user groups. The City requires everyone's help.

1. Prior to major holiday weekends, beach rules and etiquette in the local newspapers, on social media, and local radio stations shall be advertised.
2. Beach maps and brochures on beach etiquette shall be provided at all City campground facilities, Homer Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, and the Port and Harbor's Office.
3. Beach educational materials shall be distributed to local school district officials to ensure information is included in existing curriculum pertaining to beach activities and field trips.
4. Ensure there are line items in the City's budget for advertising expenses.

F. Perform an annual assessment of beach health and developing impacts.

1. Provide City Council with annual updates from local organizations and entities that support clean-up efforts on city beaches. Host on City Website.
2. On a biannual basis, take photographs of sensitive areas or places and keep a photo record of changes. Host on City website.

G. Driftwood from berm areas should not be removed. Testimony by scientists emphasizes the importance of the natural berm building process to protect the Spit, Mariner Lagoon, and Beluga Slough and provide wildlife habitat. The driftwood plays an important role in building and stabilizing berms and is an esthetic enhancement to the beach. Therefore, it is hoped that providing an alternate source of campfire wood for campers serves the important function of protecting the berms.

1. Prohibit the burning of driftwood from berm areas.
2. Provide alternative wood sources for campfires, or install signage that informs campers where campfire wood can be found.

H. Find ways of supporting beach clean-up.

1. Encourage the elimination of unsightly waste on properties near the beach by working with landowners, particularly in the Louie's Lagoon, Homer Spit, and Mariner Park areas.
2. Support volunteer efforts by providing trash bags for annual clean-up events and dumpsters or trash removal at locations such as Bishop's Beach.
3. Support local organizations and entities that provide clean-up efforts on city beaches. Support may be in the form of providing trash bags, dumpster service at beach parks, and City funding for newspaper advertising educational and beach clean-up activities.

I. Keep cars from encroaching onto beach berms and beaches in city campgrounds, parks, and along the Homer Spit Road.

1. Define parking lots so they do not spread onto the beach.




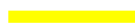

Gates and use of natural vegetation are used to delineate parking lots at parks and beaches at the south end of Mariner Park (top), Southeast end of Bishop's Beach (middle), and Louie's Lagoon parking lot (bottom)



POLICIES & PLANS FOR SPECIFIC AREAS

The following are management plans for specific beach areas, identified as Areas 1 through 7, and follow the beach line from East to West.

Color Key for Area Maps

	No Vehicles Allowed
	Boundary Lines Identified in HCC 7.16
	Vehicles Allowed per HCC 7.16.020 Exceptions

AREA 1

Miller's Landing to East of Airport Beach Access Road

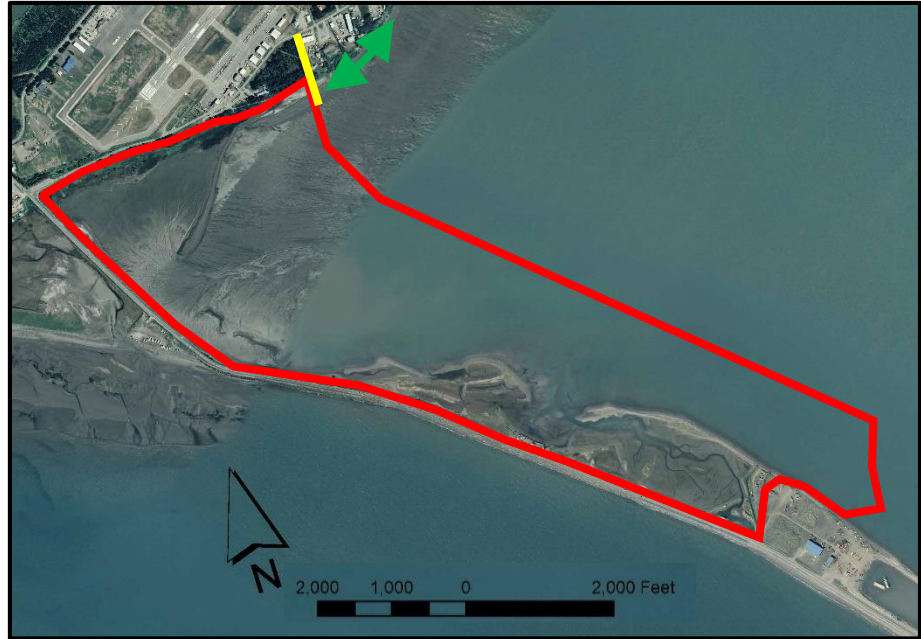
- A. Miller's Landing – Maintain a public viewing spot in the Airport Beach Access Road Right-of-Way off of Kachemak Drive through the use of signage stating the location of the public access. A small parking area may be designated with the use of boulders to discourage trespassing on adjacent properties.
- B. Airport Beach Access Road – Support state efforts to place signage or interpretive displays.
- C. Vehicle use at the bottom of Airport Beach Access Road on the beach is not allowed – Vehicles are allowed east of that area, but there is no public vehicle access point to get to that part of the beach. Land owners, or those with land owner permission, may access the beach from private vehicle access points. Once on the beach, nothing in City laws or policy condones trespassing on adjacent private lands.
- D. Vehicles are allowed on the beach east of the vacated easement (formerly known as Shirlene Circle).



AREA 2

Airport Beach Access Road to North-End of Berm outside of Louie's Lagoon, and Louie's Lagoon

- A. Vehicles are prohibited in this entire area, excluding designated access driveways and parking. Vehicle restriction is necessary to protect the fragile habitats of Mud Bay and Louie's Lagoon.
- B. Maintain signage identifying public pedestrian access points and vehicle parking areas.
- C. Ensure area and easements are zoned for conservation.
- D. Preserve subsistence fishing access through the northern portion of the English Bay property, which traditionally has included pedestrian and vehicle access.



AREA 3

Louie's Lagoon-South to End of Homer Spit, then North to the South-end of Mariner Park

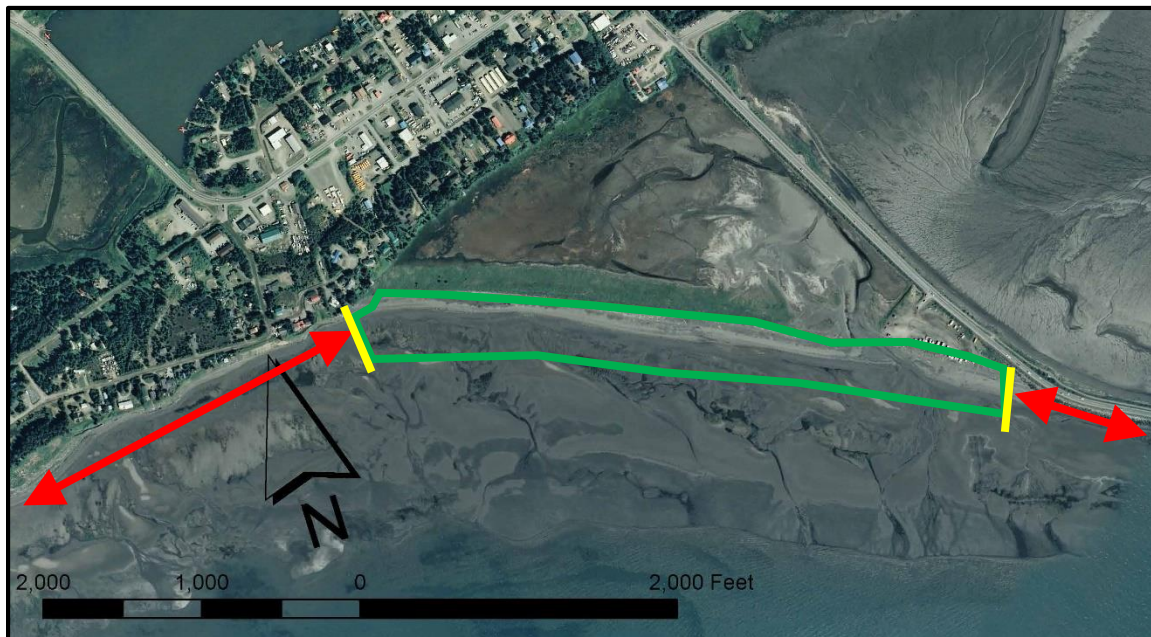
- A. Vehicles are prohibited in this entire area, excluding designated access driveways and parking.



AREA 4

South-end of Mariner Park to East-end of Ocean Drive Loop Seawall

- A. Vehicles are allowed between the south-end of Mariner Park Beach and the east-end of the Ocean Drive Loop seawall from **October 1st through March 31st** for the sole purpose of gathering sand and coal. The beach is closed to vehicles at all times for any other purpose.
- B. The area in front of the seawall west to the Beluga Slough outfall is closed to vehicles.
- C. Mariner Park Campground and day-use area has defined campsites and controlled vehicle access to the beach through the use of logs, rocks, and a gate. Maintain the campground and these measures as they provide protection to the berm, encouraging natural vegetation growth.



AREA 5

Mariner Park Lagoon and Storm Berm

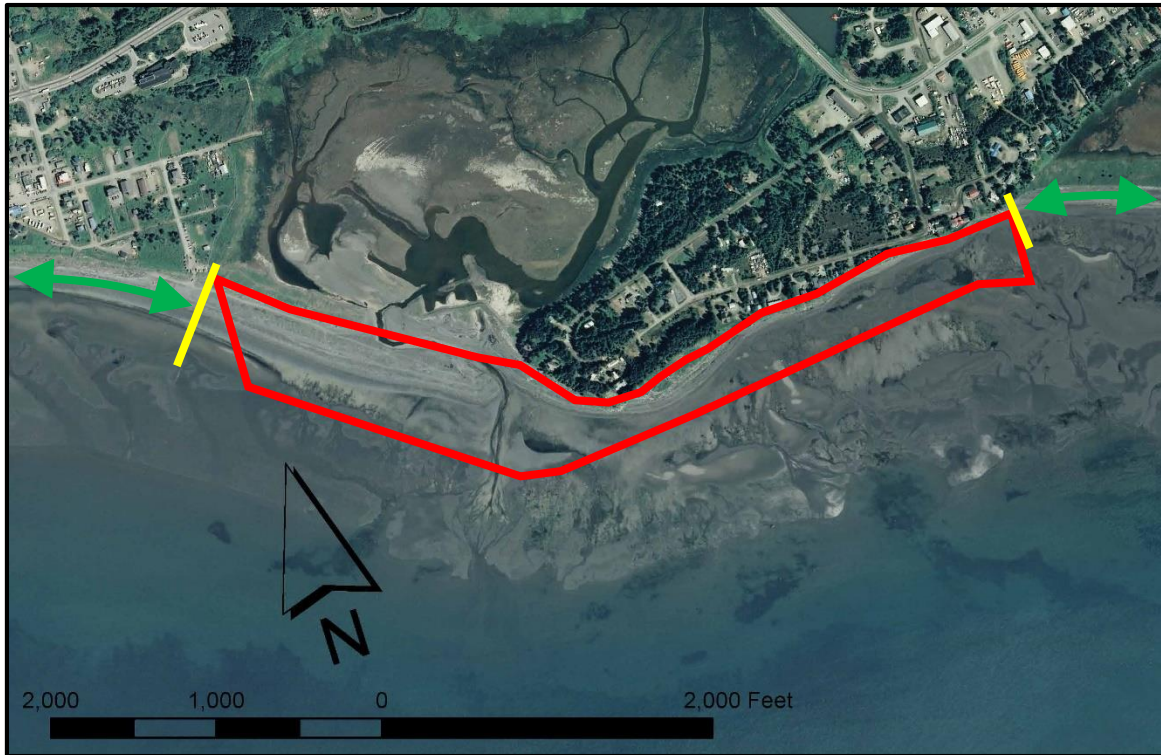
- A. Vehicles are prohibited in this entire area.
- B. Ensure there are line items in the City's budget to dredge Mariner Slough on a biennial year period.



AREA 6

East-end of Ocean Drive Loop Seawall to Bishop's Beach Park

- A. Vehicles are prohibited in this area.
- B. Maintain the gate and rocks at Bishop's Beach Park to physically block access to vehicles.
- C. Support U.S. Fish and Wildlife efforts to protect berm and promote rye grass/driftwood build-up.
- D. Support U.S. Fish and Wildlife's efforts to develop a plan to maintain the ecological integrity of their educational reserve, including possible conservation zoning.



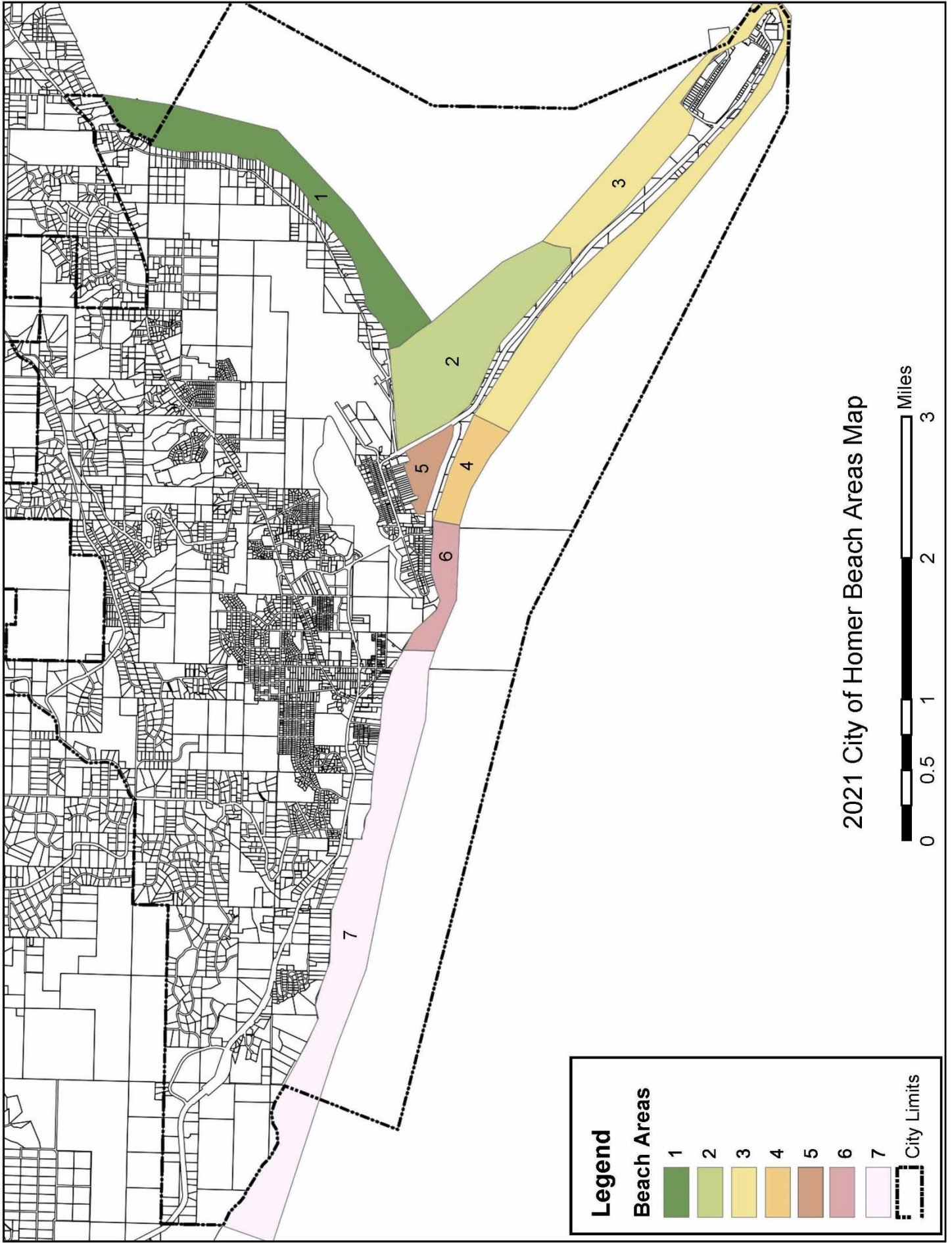
AREA 7

Bishop's Beach Park Access-West to Homer City Limits

- A. This is a heavily used area and has the greatest potential for conflicts between user groups.
- B. Ensure there is adequate parking and signage at Bishop's Beach Park and in the area. Wayfinding signage may direct people to nearby public parking (e.g., Homer Chamber of Commerce, Islands and Ocean Visitor Center).
- C. Vehicles are allowed west from Bishop's Beach Park access and prohibited to the east. Posted signage shall warn drivers to proceed at their own risk.
- D. Improve erosion control and maintain beach access points.

- E. Work with property owners and interested volunteers to remove derelict vehicles from City beaches. Owner will be responsible for the costs and removal of vehicle(s).





City of Homer Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Committee (PARCAC) SWOT Analysis

8/15/2024 (4:30 PM - 5:30 PM)



Overview

The City of Homer Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture Advisory Committee (PARCAC) represents a wide range of interests within the community. In preparation for the City of Homer's Strategic Planning process, PARCAC wanted to develop a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. With a completed SWOT analysis, the committee seeks to create short, medium, and long-term goals to recommend to the City Council and community as part of the Strategic Planning efforts.

The SWOT analysis focused on answering the question: **"What key information from our past, present, and anticipated future will help inform our planning"**? By framing the process in this way, a group can better understand and anticipate changes over time and create a shared context for moving forward.

SWOT Event

Nine individuals participated in the SWOT event held on August 15th, 2024 from 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM at Homer City Hall.

During the meeting, participants were asked to individually brainstorm their ideas for each of six themes across three "eras": past (accomplishments and setbacks), present (strengths and weaknesses), and future (opportunities and threats). They then formed groups of three to focus on one era and generate as many ideas as they could for each. Afterward, groups had the opportunity to do a gallery walk to view other eras. They could then add on or highlight ideas that were particularly meaningful or important to keep in mind. Once the gallery walk was completed, groups reported out on their highlights. The meeting closed with reflections on what participants felt most proud of and brainstormed next steps for integrating the SWOT with the current Strategic Planning effort.

Below are the ideas generated for each era. Check marks (✓) indicate that an individual outside of the original group found this to be an important idea. The number of check marks equates to the number of individuals who found importance in the idea. Additionally, those ideas that are **BOLDED IN RED TEXT** are the ideas that each group identified as a highlight for reporting.

"What key information from our past, present, and anticipated future will help inform our planning"?

PAST	
Accomplishments	Setbacks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playground at Karen Hornaday Park ✓✓• Beach policy• Sidewalk on Main Street ✓• Trails/parks -Jack Gist• Playground equipment• Community Recreation• Trail development ✓• HERC building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of Parks and Maintenance staffing/funding ✓• Lack of space for community recreation ✓• Small tax base servicing large area• Loss of state funding• Small budget ✓✓• Merging arts and parks without guidance• Staff turnover, reorganizing of department ✓✓• Not prioritized, funding-wise ✓

PRESENT

Strengths

- **Strong advocacy and support from community** ✓✓✓
- Some successful funding for some projects
- **Knowledgeable and motivated staff** ✓✓
- Staff cooperation
- **Numerous community partnerships (schools, Chamber, etc.)** ✓
- Expanding attention for accessibility
- Seed money for Rec Center
- Ben Walters sidewalk
- New KHP Master Plan
- **Small but important improvements to parks**
- Have Strategic Plan drafted
- Have Trails financial plan
- Have HART funding for trails and sidewalks
- Everyone loves parks
- Increased use of outdoor spaces
- Rec program highly regarded/used
- Need/desire for activities

Weaknesses

- **Need more designated funding and staff** ✓✓
- **Resources don't support expectations** ✓✓✓
- Parks still need more work
- **Lack of effective, cohesive organizational structure (e.g. Parks and Rec Department)** ✓✓
- **Skepticism about follow through with Strategic Plan**
- Need advocacy and outreach at parks
- No trail connectivity ✓
- Deferred maintenance
- Need to merge arts and support better
- Lack of engagement at PARCAC from public
- Misunderstanding between Parks and Recreation and Economic Development
- Comprehensive Plan doesn't take into account practicality of implementation
- Need/desire for activities

FUTURE

Opportunities

- Allocation of funding for new facility
- Increased demand for community recreation ✓
- Growing, active population ✓
- Community recreation is more accessible
- New City staff with interest in Parks and Recreation ✓
- **Collaborative efforts between City clubs and organizations (fundraising and planning)** ✓✓
- **Working with City to prioritize land for future parks** ✓
- **Working closer with the Planning Commission** ✓✓✓
- Working towards a more walkable city ✓
- We have abundant natural assets and resources we could leverage and invest in

Threats

- Lack of green space access ✓
- Increased development without planning for open spaces ✓✓
- **Lack of funding** ✓✓✓✓
- Deferred maintenance ✓✓
- Lack of indoor recreation space ✓
- Borough and City funding
- Staffing ✓✓
- Accessibility issues ✓
- **Organizational structure (or lack thereof)** ✓✓✓✓
- Advocacy for the arts and parks
- Disconnect between ideal (recreation, beauty) and implementation, prioritization
- Ideas about economic values sometimes at odds with ideas about space, movement, and beauty
- Loss of space, competition for space (e.g. housing, vessel haul out)

SWOT Integration

Following report outs, the group was asked to look across the documented landscape and **reflect on what makes them feel proud**. Answers included:

- Community recreation
- Sidewalks
- Amazing strides with the resources we do have
- Increased walkability
- Plowing of sidewalks in winter
- Positive, healthy relationships
 - Special events
 - Bringing people together, returning people
 - Value of community relationships
- Community organizations like Little League and adult softball-these are opportunities that would not be available if there were no public parks that were free, accessible, and maintained.

Next, participants were asked, **“having heard the report outs, what insights can inform planning”**? Participants shared:

- More staffing
- Funding is crucial-staffing, resources
 - Funding base
- Leveraging and messaging the importance of parks in our lives
- Intangibles-not everything is just about economic value, there is value beyond economics
- Scarcity mindsets?
- Structures: prioritizing recreation as a culture of Homer, elevating that culture to get more support
- Importance of parks for mental health, physical health, and they also have economic impacts.

Analysis

PARCAC identified many areas for celebration as well as areas for concern, now and into the future. Participants shared that they are proud of playgrounds, trails, sidewalks, and increased walkability and accessibility of public spaces. They cite strong partnerships, community support, high-quality staff, and efficient and effective utilization of available resources. However, loss of staffing and resources, insufficient funding, and the lack of an organizational structure for Parks and Recreation pose threats to present and future progress. Participants, too, reflected deeply on values misalignment and the gap that is created between expectations and reality. This can fuel skepticism about follow-through on elements of the Strategic Plan.

Areas for Exploration

PARCAC is a high-functioning group with great potential for impact. Through discussion, key themes emerged around the lack of public knowledge about-and engagement with- PARCAC; mental models around concepts like intangibles (e.g. mental health, wellness) and scarcity mindsets (there isn't enough to go around); and how those things feed into (or not) a culture in Homer around recreation and also the prioritization of recreation when it comes to allocation of resources.

Digging into the underlying contradictions present would be a fruitful avenue for the City of Homer. Underlying contradictions are blocks or barriers that prevent an organization from realizing its vision and can be found in attitudes, beliefs, and structures/ways of operating. Contradictions are existing realities that can be internal or external factors (or both) that can block the way forward. Integrating a session that addresses Underlying Contradictions and Strategic Directions (ways of navigating Underlying Contradictions) would be a beneficial part of the ongoing Strategic Planning process.

It is abundantly clear that relationships hold immense power for PARCAC. Building on the strength of existing and potential relationships should continue to propel the work of PARCAC. PARCAC, too, should celebrate its achievements. Find ways to publicly celebrate the many successes of PARCAC and use that as a way to build transparency and make strides towards a community culture built around arts and recreation.

Next Steps

- Draft of the Strategic Plan needs to take a second look at (this) and consider re-prioritization of PARCAC; this SWOT analysis can help that process;
- Can potentially use this SWOT analysis effectively for PARCAC's space in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Addendum: Potential Strategic Planning Next Steps: **DISCUSSED WITH PARCAC 9/19/2024**

- **Examine underlying contradictions during the broader City of Homer Strategic Planning process**
 - Unless the underlying contradictions present within the organizational structure of the City of Homer (inclusive of Council and Commissions) are addressed, the same patterns will repeat into the future
 - Acknowledge the disconnect between the prioritization of parks and recreation in the Comprehensive Plan and the allocation of resources for parks and recreation in Homer
- **Explore the development of a Parks and Recreation Department to provide needed organizational structure**
 - Dedicate staffing to develop and maintain services
- **Examine adequate funding for a Parks and Recreation Department**
 - Examine the current and aspirational allocation of resources in the budget for parks and recreation and consider how that aligns with public feedback on parks and recreation
 - Ensure sustainability of funding for Parks and Recreation
- **Continue building relationships with other local organizations to drive a culture that supports parks and recreation in Homer**
 - Marketing/awareness-raising (e.g. Chamber of Commerce)
 - Celebrations of collaborations and projects can elevate public awareness
 - Implementation of programs (e.g. Homer Council on the Arts, Little League, Rotary)
- **Explore community engagement as an activity for parks and recreation and strategies for engaging with the community**



MEMORANDUM

Resolution 24-xxx, A Resolution of City Council of Homer, Alaska Establishing the 2025 Regular Meeting Schedule for City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks Art Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission, Planning Commission, Port & Harbor Advisory Commission and ADA Advisory Board. City Clerk.

Item Type: Action Item
Prepared For: Advisory Bodies
Date: October 11, 2024
From: Renee Krause, MMC, City Clerk

Please review the draft resolution that establishes your meetings for 2025 and make any changes by way of motion.

Requests for meeting schedule changes will then go to City Council, who will be setting the 2025 meeting schedule for Council and Advisory Bodies via resolution no later than their November 25, 2024 meeting.

Recommendation

Review the attached draft resolution; make a motion to approve the resolution either as-is or with amendments and recommend adoption by City Council.

**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Clerk

RESOLUTION 24-1xx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
ESTABLISHING THE 2025 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CITY
COUNCIL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION,
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, PARKS ART RECREATION AND
CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION, PLANNING COMMISSION,
PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION, AND AMERICANS
WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ADVISORY BOARD.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Homer City Code (HCC) Section 1.14.020, the City Council annually sets the schedule for regular and some special meetings, noting the dates, times and places of the City Council, Planning Commission, Advisory Commissions and Boards; and

WHEREAS, The public is informed of such meetings through notices located at the City Clerk's Office, Clerk's Calendar on KBBI, the City Clerk's Website, and postings at the Public Library; and

WHEREAS, HCC 1.14.020 - 040 states that meetings may be advertised in a local paper of general circulation at least three days before the date of the meeting and that special meetings should be advertised in the same manner or may be broadcast by local radio at least twice a day for three consecutive days or two consecutive days before the day of the meeting plus the day of the meeting; and

WHEREAS, HCC 1.14.010 notes that the notice of meetings applies to the City Council and all commissions, boards, committees, subcommittees, task forces and any sub-unit of the foregoing public bodies of the City, whether meeting in a formal or informal meeting; that the failure to give the notice provided for under this chapter does not invalidate or otherwise affect any action or decision of a public body of the City; however, this sentence does not change the consequences of failing to give the minimum notice required under State Statute; that notice will ordinarily be given by the City Clerk; and that the presiding officer or the person or persons calling a meeting are responsible for notifying the City Clerk of meetings in sufficient time for the Clerk to publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the City; and

WHEREAS, This Resolution does not preclude additional meetings such as emergency meetings, special meetings, worksessions, and the like; and

WHEREAS, Council adopted Resolution 06-144 on October 9, 2006 establishing the Regular Meeting site for all bodies to be the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Homer City Council, that the 2025 meeting schedule is established for the City Council, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Library Advisory Board, Parks Art Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission, Planning Commission, Port and Harbor Advisory Commission, and the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board of the City of Homer, Alaska, as follows:

HOLIDAYS – City Offices closed:

January 1, New Year's Day, Wednesday	February 17, Presidents' Day, third Monday	March 31, Seward's Day, last Monday	May 26, Memorial Day, last Monday	July 4, Independence Day, Friday	September 1, Labor Day, first Monday
October 17*, Alaska Day Friday	November 11, Veterans Day, Tuesday	November 27 Thanksgiving Day, Fourth Thursday	November 28, Friday, the day after Thanksgiving	December 25, Christmas, Thursday	

*If a holiday is on a Sunday, the following Monday is observed as the legal holiday; if on a Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed as the legal holiday pursuant to the City of Homer Personnel Rules and Regulations.

CITY COUNCIL (CC)

January 13, 27	February 10, 24	March 10, 24	April 14, 28	May 12, 27*	June 9, 23
July 28**	August 11, 25	September 8, 22	October 7 Election	October 13, 27 Oath of Office October 13	Canvass Board October 10
November 4 Runoff Election	November 10, 24	December ***If needed			

*Second meeting in May will be held on a Tuesday due to Memorial Day

**There will be no First Regular Meeting in July.

*** The City Council will not schedule a regular meeting in December to allow for attendance at AML Annual Conference and may hold Special Meetings as needed.

City Council's Regular Committee of the Whole Meetings at 5:00 p.m. to no later than 5:50 p.m. prior to every Regular Meeting which are held the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Council will not conduct a First Regular Meeting in July or a meeting in December.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (EDC)

January 14	February 11	March 11	April 8	May 13	June 10
July 8	August 12	September 9	October 14	November 12*	December 10

*Wednesday meeting day due to Veteran's Day Holiday

Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)

January 21	February 18	March 18	April 15	May 20	
	August 19	September 16	October 21	November 18	December 17

Library Advisory Board Regular Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of January through May and August through December at 5:30 p.m.

PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION (PARC)

	February 20	March 20	April 17	May 15	June 19
	August 21	September 18	October 16	November 20	

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the third Thursday February through June and August through November at 5:30 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC)

January 2**, 15	February 5, 19	March 5, 19	April 2, 16	May 7, 21	June 4, 18
July 16*	August 6, 20	September 3, 17	October 1, 15	November 5*	December 3*

*There will be no First Regular Meeting in July or Second Regular Meetings in November and December.

**Meeting is on Thursday, due to the holiday.

Planning Commission Regular Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION (PHC)

January 22	February 26	March 26	April 23	May 28	June 25
July 23	August 27	September 24	October 22	November 12*	December 10*

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of month January through October and the second Wednesday of November and December at 5:30 p.m.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ADVISORY BOARD (ADAAB)

	February 13		April 10	May 8	June 12
July 10	August 14		October 9	November 13	

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory Board Regular Meetings are held on the second Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in the months of February, April through August, October and November, with additional meetings called as needed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this _____ day of November, 2024.

CITY OF HOMER

RACHEL LORD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Impact: Advertising of meetings in regular weekly meeting ad and advertising of any additional meetings.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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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: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
DATE: October 9, 2024
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for October 14, 2024 Council Meeting

Library Trail – West Lot and Storybook Trail and Lucky Shot Trail

This project was completed on October 8, 2024 with in-house resources rather than contracting out the work as originally intended. Based upon previous work completed, it is estimated that the Public Works Department was able to save the City approximately \$50,000 by conducting this work using in-house resources. The Public Works Roads staff provided additional equipment and labor to support the Parks Division staff at completing the project. The only remaining work to be completed on the Storybook Trail portion of the project is the installation of the Storyboards. The installation of the Storyboards was not intended to occur this construction season as part of this effort and will be installed early next summer. Even though the Storyboards were not installed, wide spots in the trail were constructed as part of this effort to accommodate the Storyboards. The wide spots were constructed so the folks stopping to read the storyboards are not in the main trail. The Parks Division of the Public Works Department recognized the opportunity to save money by making improvements to the Lucky Shot Trail during the same mobilization effort, so this work was added to the project. Adding this work allowed for a seamless transition between the two trails. Photos below show before and after images of the Lucky Shot segment.



2024 Homer Transportation Plan

The 2024 Homer Transportation Plan has been submitted to the Kenai Peninsula Borough for final adoption. Staff expects the adoption process to be complete during the first quarter of 2025. In the meantime, now is a good time to be thinking of which projects and policies are priorities. All implementation requires staff time, funding, or a combination of both. The upcoming budget process is the ideal time to identify funding and staff resources for transportation related projects.

Utility Billing Vendor Update

The program the City uses to process autopay for City water and sewer monthly bills is aging out and will no longer be supported after November. The Finance Department has identified a new vendor to provide this service and is working towards implementing the replacement prior to the old system going offline. Similar notice will be going out to utility customers in our monthly bills in October and November. Customers will have to setup a profile with our new vendor to continue autopay services after November. Periodic updates will be provided as we move through the implementation process.

Homer Harbor in the News

Homer Harbor has recently made headlines, catching the attention of the media. Staff was interviewed for an article in the Alaska Contractor Magazine fall 2024 issue titled *When the Ship Comes In- Port and harbor projects support economic vitality in Alaska* and staff collaborated with HDR on an article for the Alaska Business Monthly about capacity issues at Homer Harbor, which ran in the October 2024 issue.

Homer Harbor Critical Float Replacement Project Funding Update

The City was recently informed that the planning and design phase of the Systems 4 & 1 Critical Float Replacement project, with a total estimated cost of \$2,205,000, was selected by the Denali Commission for a \$1.1 million Waterfront Improvement grant. This grant will assist with completing 100% design, environmental review, and permitting. Staff is currently responding to the Denali Commission's request for information for drafting a funding agreement. Once the Obligating Award Document is complete, staff will bring an Ordinance approving and accepting the funds for Council consideration. Denali Commission funds could potentially be in place to begin engineering and design activities in the first quarter 2025.

This funding, combined with a potential additional \$250,000 Federal appropriation submitted by Representative Peltola and contained in the FY25 House Department of Transportation Port Infrastructure Development Program Appropriations bill, will be instrumental in kick-starting the predevelopment activities for this critical project. Together, these funding sources would cover approximately 61% of the total design and permitting cost, significantly advancing the project's feasibility and timeline.

Homer Animal Shelter First Friday Event

The Homer Animal Shelter (HAS) hosted a First Friday Open House on Oct. 4 to help showcase local artists, as well as meet community members who may have never visited the City's shelter. Around 40 folks visited over a couple of hours to meet the animals and staff while taking a tour of the building. Volunteers provided food, face painting, and photos to support the event. HAS provides a safe haven for Homer's homeless pets, offers resources to pet owners in need, and enforces the City's animal ordinances by providing animal control services.



Attachments:

- October Employee Anniversaries
- Current job openings
- City Council Work Session Schedule



City of Homer

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Office of the City Manager

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(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: Andrea Browning
DATE: October 14, 2024
SUBJECT: October Employee Anniversaries

I would like to take the time to thank the following employees for the dedication, commitment and service they have provided the City and taxpayers of Homer over the years.

Charles Lee	Police	4	Years
Kathy Vogl	Comm Rec	1	Year



[Documents](#) [Job Openings](#) [Helpful Links](#)

Current Job Listings

Below is a list of the current openings with our company. Click on the job title to learn more about the opening.

Search Jobs

Q

Search Jobs

City

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State

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Hide Filters

Clear All

Employment Type

▼

Department

▼

Sort By

▼

Number of Jobs: 3

Firefighter/ ALS EMT/ Driver Operator (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3514515>)

Fire | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time
Posted: Oct 01, 2024 Closing Date: Oct 31, 2024
[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3514515>)

Part-Time Port Property Associate (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3515932>)

Port and Harbor Administration | Homer, AK, USA | Part Time | \$25.32 - \$26.34 per hour
Posted: Oct 02, 2024 Closing Date: Oct 31, 2024
[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3515932>)

Port & Harbor Administrative Assistant (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3515893>)

Port and Harbor Administration | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$22.38 - \$23.94 per hour
Posted: Oct 02, 2024 Closing Date: Oct 31, 2024
[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3515893>)

[Jobs \(/jobs/\)](#) [Login \(/account/login.php\)](#)

Sign Up For Job Alerts!

Name

Email

Homer, AK US

☐ I agree to the [terms of service](#) (<https://refer.io/blog/terms>) and [privacy policy](#). (<https://refer.io/blog/privacy>)

Send Me Jobs

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Council Meeting Dates	Work Session Topic
Monday, August 12	<i>E-session: Cyber Security Risk Assessment Review</i>
Monday, August 19 Off-Cycle	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</i>
Monday, August 26	<i>Capital Improvement Plan & Legislative Requests</i>
Monday, September 9	<i>Vessel Haul Out/Camping Land Allocation Rescheduled</i>
Monday, September 16 Off-cycle	<i>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission Rescheduled</i>
Monday, September 23	<i>End of Year Financial Worksession</i>
Monday, October 14	
Monday, October 21	<i>Joint Worksession with Planning Commission To be Rescheduled in Early 2025</i>
Tuesday, October 21	<i>Comp Plan Event, Islands & Ocean Visitor Center</i>
Monday, October 28	<i>Future Use of Pier One Area Land Allocation Plan</i>
Tuesday, November 12	
Monday, November 18	<i>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
Monday, November 25	

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER

FALL | 2024



WHAT'S INSIDE?

NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REWRITE

Explore Homer's future! Using a combination of community input, city planning documents and demographic information, the project team has drafted three potential growth scenarios to explore how Homer could change over the next twenty years. The three scenarios will be shared at a community work session on October 22.

**SAVE THE
DATE!**



COMMUNITY WORK SESSION

When: October 22, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Where: Islands and Oceans Visitor Center

You are invited to see the scenarios, add your input, and hear other suggestions. There will also be a virtual option to share your thoughts. More details to come!

During the City Council regular meeting on September 23rd, Shelly Wade from Agnew::Beck updated the community on the comprehensive plan rewrite, highlighting recent feedback collected through a community survey, interviews, local business visits, and data analysis. The general community survey exceeded its participation goal, with 556 participants. A total of 66 businesses participated in the business survey. The results for both surveys are now available on the Comprehensive Plan website, homercompplanupdate.com ([Survey Results](#)). Additionally, the project team engaged with the community at the Farmers Market over two weekends. A big thanks to the community for participating and providing honest feedback—your opinions matter to the future of Homer!

[Homer Comprehensive Plan Update \(homercompplanupdate.com\)](https://homercompplanupdate.com)

- Comprehensive Plan Rewrite
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Clerks
- Fire Department
- Public Works
- Community Recreation
- City Manager
- Port and Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and stay informed with the latest updates on city projects! Discover how you can engage with City Hall and get involved in our wonderful community.

Follow us on Social Media

- City of Homer: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

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LIBRARY EVENTS

ONGOING & SPECIAL 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.

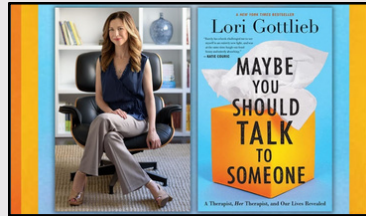
Oct 9 at 3 pm

Liberating Latin American Genre Fiction: In Conversation with Bestselling Author **Silvia Moreno-Garcia**



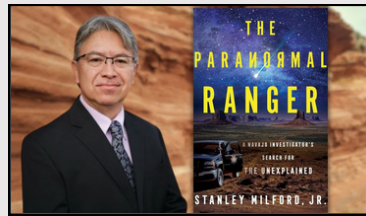
Oct 22 at 10 am

Maybe You Should Talk To Someone: Examining the Truths and Fictions we Tell Ourselves with **Lori Gottlieb**



Nov 7 at 3 pm

A Navajo Investigator's Search for the Unexplained: In Conversation with **Stanley Milford, Jr.**



SPECIAL EVENTS

Oct 10 at 6 pm

Bill Jirsa, the Chief Technology Officer for the City of Homer, delivers a talk and demonstration of Artificial Intelligence.

Oct 29 at 6 pm

Candidate Forum for House District 6, organized by KBBI, KDLL, the *Peninsula Clarion* and League of Women Voters

ONGOING EVENTS

Don't forget to check out the library calendar for ongoing events you won't want to miss!

[click here!](#) [Library Calendar of Events](#)

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

PIONEER AVE. TRICK-OR-TREAT

Thursday, October 31

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Pioneer Avenue and Beyond

homerakaska.org/events/pioneer-ave-trick-or-treat

NUTCRACKER FAIRE

Saturday, December 7 | 11:00 am - 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 8 | Noon - 5:00 pm

Homer High School Commons and Gym

homerart.org/community/nutcracker-fair

NUTCRACKER BALLET

December 7, 8, 11, 13, & 14

Homer High School Theater

Tickets will be available in November

homernutcrackerproductions.com



Council Member Conversations

Noon to 1 pm

At the Homer Public Library

Tuesday, October 15:

Rachel Lord

Wednesday, November 13:

Caroline Venuti

Lit Lineup 2024

The Homer Public Library has created a community-wide initiative to read fifteen books throughout the year.

View the list and submit entries [here](#). You could be eligible to win the grand prize!



CLERKS

CITY OF HOMER MUNICIPAL ELECTION

After in-person voting on October 1, 2024 in the City of Homer Regular Election, the Canvass Board met on Friday, October 4, 2024 to review and process all ballots received through Absentee In-Person, By Mail, Email, and Fax. The results of that count have been entered on the [Certificate of Election](#) along with the certified election day vote count by the Ballot Tabulation System for Homer's two precinct polling places.

Preliminary Election Results

The following candidates were on the ballot and the preliminary results are as follows:

Shelly Erickson and Donna Aderhold ran unopposed and were both reelected to Homer City Council for three-year terms.

Rachel Lord, candidate for the two-year Mayoral term, received 55% of the votes, ahead of Jim Anderson who received 44% of the votes.

The City Council will officially certify the election results and swear in the elected candidates on Monday, October 14th, at Homer City Council's Regular 6:00 p.m. meeting. We look forward to the new term ahead as the elected officials prepare to continue their service to the community.

UPCOMING 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

The 2024 General Election is on Tuesday, November 5, 2024!

The 2024 General Election is approaching. The municipal elections may be over, but City Hall will still be an early and absentee voting location until the General Election on November 5th. Make a plan to vote, whether in person or by mail and encourage friends and family to join you in this civic duty!

General Elections

Voting information can be found at:
www.elections.alaska.gov/voter-information



General Elections

October 21 - Start of Absentee and Early Voting period (Held at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.)

Ballot by Mail – Apply online at

www.elections.alaska.gov/voter-information, or in person at the City Clerks Office.

November 5 – **General Election**

FAQ's for voting in Federal Elections:

https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/document_library/files/VotersGuide_508.pdf



A BIG THANK YOU!



Deputy Clerk Zach Pettit, City Clerk Renee Krause, poll workers Nancy Lord, and Pam Brodie

While election outcomes often capture the headlines, we wanted to take a moment to recognize and thank our behind the scenes election heroes – our city clerks and dedicated poll workers – who work long hours to ensure voting is a safe, secure and accessible for all.

Our Clerks ensure voting is accessible and ensure an equitable voting process. The poll workers assist voters with checking in and oversee the ballots being dropped in the ballot box. We truly appreciate the work the clerks and poll workers do to ensure the fundamental elements of our democratic process.

State House District 6 Candidate Forums

Folks have two opportunities to hear what the 2024 Candidates have to say!

Monday, October 14, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Located at the Kachemak Bay Campus
Sponsored by the Homer Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday, October 29, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Located at the Homer Public Library
Sponsored by KDLL and the Peninsula Clarion,
in partnership with the League of Women Voters,
KBBI and KSRM radio

On Oct. 29 you can attend in person, listen live at KDLL 91.9 FM, on KSRM 920 AM or on 92.5 FM. Stream at KDLL.org, radiokenai.com or Facebook Live on the Peninsula Clarion Facebook page.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIREFIGHTER AND EMS TRAINING

Over several weeks in August and September, staff and volunteers from the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) underwent intensive training to prepare for emergencies, which includes physical fitness drills, hands-on skills practice, and real-life scenario simulations. Homer Fire and EMS conducted a Mass Casualty Incident Drill with the Homer Airport's Department of Transportation fire response team. This annual training is required by the FAA for commercial air carrier services. The exercise simulated a Dash-8 aircraft crash involving 25 passengers and 3 crew members, during which HVFD established a Unified Command with Homer Airport's fire crew. EMS personnel practiced treating and transporting the injured to local hospitals, with some being airlifted to Anchorage.



Mass Casualty Incident drills at the Homer Airport.



FF/EMT Paige Jones, FF/EMT Galina Orlova, FF/EMT Alex Miller (All from Homer Fire); FF/Paramedic Jamie Long, FF/EMT Angie Hicks-Clary (both from WES); FF/EMT Kelli Parker (KESA)

HVFD also partnered with Kachemak Emergency Services and Western Emergency Services for fire apparatus driver/operator training. A firefighting apparatus is any vehicle that has been customized for use during firefighting operations. This training includes vehicle familiarization, safe driving techniques, pump operations, emergency response protocols, basic vehicle maintenance, safety procedures, and hands-on drills to ensure participants can operate fire apparatus effectively and safely in emergencies. Excellent teamwork was demonstrated among all agencies involved!



FF/EMT2 Derek Haws Steering the Aerial Ladder



Deputy Chief Aaron Knowles Demonstrating the Aerial Ladder



9/11 NEVER FORGET

In a special tribute to 9/11, the Homer Volunteer Fire Department proudly displayed a thin red line firefighter flag outside the fire hall, hanging it over Pioneer Avenue honoring the courage and sacrifice of first responders and the lives forever changed.

PUBLIC WORKS

BEN WALTERS LANE SIDEWALK PROJECT COMPLETE

On Monday, September 30th, City officials and staff were joined by the project's contractor, East Road Services, and Homer residents for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Ben Walters sidewalk project! The sidewalk, which runs from Lake Street north to East End Road, will provide a safe and enjoyable place for residents to walk through town.

Throughout the summer, East Road Services has been hard at work. After all the drainage work, including storm drains, curbs, and gutters, was completed, paving started on September 12th and wrapped up a week later. Thanks to all the residents and businesses in the neighborhood for their patience during the construction period.

Though paving is complete, we're still not quite ready to put a bow on this project. Over the next couple of weeks, the contractors will finish constructing a new pressure-reducing vault building and its plumbing assemblies.

The \$1.45M project was funded through the City's HART (Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails) Program, which is funded by a voter-approved dedicated sales tax and assessments levied on adjacent benefited properties, where applicable. The purpose of the HART program is to pay for reconstructing substandard city roads, upgrading existing roads, and constructing new streets, sidewalks, and non-motorized trails. The new Ben Walters sidewalk is a great example of HART funds hard at work!



Mayor Ken Castner, Councilmembers Shelly Erickson, Caroline Venuti, and Rachel Lord cutting the ribbon, and Lori Pond

HOMER AIRPORT TERMINAL SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT



Airport Terminal sidewalk replacement progress.



Temporary ramp into Homer Airport Terminal.

The City is wrapping up a project to improve the sidewalks and access to the Homer airport terminal building. If you are flying out of Homer Airport, you may have noticed some temporary detours to the terminal doors. Please watch your step while construction is in progress!

The project involved removing the existing sidewalk, planters, curb, and pavement in front of the terminal building, as well as installation of sub-grade materials, including insulation board and heating tubes to help reduce ice buildup on the sidewalk during the winter months. The completed project will feature brand new sidewalks, curbs, and ramps, promising smoother journeys for you and your luggage.

Re-paving started in late September. We anticipate the paving to wrap up in the first week of October.

After that, the contractors will be working on the finishing touches, but regular access to the building should be restored. Until then, bear with us just a little longer as some parking areas may be impacted.

By the way, the long-term parking pay kiosk is taking a little vacation during construction, but we've got you covered with alternative payment options. Check out the [Parking at the Homer Airport webpage](#) for payment options.

PUBLIC WORKS

SITE VISIT FROM NOAA STAFF FROM THE OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT



Jan Keiser, Timi Vann, Jaci Overbeck, Katherine Schake, Hamilton Smillie, Brett Folger, Harper Baldwin, Dan Kort, Leon Galbraith, Rebecca Smyth, and Lauren Sutton

On Friday June 28, 2024, the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNERR) in Homer hosted a regional leadership and science & geospatial team visit from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office for Coastal Management in Alaska. Joining the KBNERR and NOAA teams were City of Homer staff, Dan Kort, Director of Public Works, Leon Galbraith, City Engineer/Special Projects Coordinator, and KBNERR Council member Jan Keiser. The group toured the City of Homer Reservoir, discussed land acquisition projects and the Kachemak Sponge site, and visited the KBNERR weather station in the Homer harbor.

Geospatial work in a coastal area, like Homer, plays an important role in managing and safeguarding these environments. By tracking key factors such as erosion, sea-level rise, and habitat loss, this work provides essential data.

Having this information at hand is useful for anticipating disasters and managing resources effectively. It lays the groundwork for urban planning, ensuring that development is both safe and sustainable. Additionally, it preserves biodiversity by monitoring changes in habitats and species distribution.

Click on this link, [KBNERR website](#), to learn more about how KBNERR protects and sustains Homer's beautiful coastlines.

REVITALIZING THE WEST LOT AND LUCKY SHOT TRAILS FOR COMMUNITY USE

The West Lot Trail has served Homer for 18 years but had narrowed to just 3-4 feet in some areas due to organic growth. Recently cleared and widened to about 12 feet, it now offers a welcoming space for hikers and outdoor recreation.

To enhance durability, plans include applying calcium to stabilize the path and topping it with one-inch crushed gravel. Once compacted, the trail will meet ADA standards, ensuring accessibility for everyone. The Friends of the Library have exciting plans to make the trail more interactive for children during their summer programs, which will make the outdoor experience even more fun for the community.



Newly widened West Lot Trail.

Alongside the West Lot Trail updates, work is also kicking off on the Lucky Shot Trail, which connects with it. While the northern part of Lucky Shot requires fabric installation and has not yet been fully developed as a trail, efforts will be made to bring it as close to ADA compliance as possible, given the constraints of space and right-of-way.

Both trails are designated for year-round maintenance, including winter upkeep, to tackle those long-standing maintenance issues. These upgrades are a big step in revitalizing our community spaces, making sure they stay accessible and enjoyable for everyone.



Chad Felice working on the West Lot Trail.

PUBLIC WORKS

BAYVIEW PARK IMPROVEMENTS

After gathering public ideas and working with Corvus Design on the park improvement plan, Bayview Park's makeover is underway! The park is temporarily closed to the public for the duration of the construction phase, which is tentatively scheduled to wrap up by the end of November.

So what's happening? A contractor is extending the accessible parking area, creating an accessible pathway from the parking area to the play area and leveling an area for playground equipment. Public Works is managing and supervising the construction, and will be assembling and installing the playground equipment, which is designed for preschool age children and their families.

We're excited about the park improvements! It's been a team effort brought to you through community planning, donations from the Kachemak Bay Rotary Club, a Healthy and Equitable Communities grant from the State of Alaska and funds from Homer's HART program. We can't wait to share these enhancements with you!



Riprap installation along the new pathway to combat erosion.

COMMUNITY RECREATION

UPCOMING EVENTS



Ski and Winter Gear Swap & Telluride Mountainfilm On Tour

When: Wednesday, November 13, 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Where: Homer High School Commons & Theater
Cost: For Film Show \$10 / ticket
(Tickets available at Homer Bookstore or at the door of the show.)



Barter, trade, sell or give away your winter and ski gear. HHS Ski team will be waxing skis as a fundraiser.

Stay and watch the Telluride Mountainfilm show at 7pm!

HOWL will be providing soup for sale & dessert fundraiser for the AK to DC Trip!

Jewelry Making Classes October 2024

October 12-13: Intro to Silversmithing
October 18-20: Lost Wax Casting
October 26-27: Intermediate Silversmithing



Where: Homer High School Art Room

Cost: \$180 per class (or \$100 for repeat students) in addition to cost of materials (average project \$15 - \$20)

Classes taught by Art Koeninger.

For class times and more details, follow this link:

cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/jewelry-making-classes-october-2024

Cuong Nhu and Karate Program

Weekly:

Youth (Ages 6 & up): 4:30 - 5:30 pm, M-W-F
Adult: 5:45 - 6:45 pm, M-W-F



Where: HERC Activity Room

Check out the website: polarisdojo.com or contact Sensei Martha at (206) 414 8319 or at polarisdojo@gmail.com for more information and registration.

For more details, follow this link:

cityofhomer-ak.gov/com-rec/cuong-nhu-and-karate-program

CITY MANAGER

US COAST GUARD VISITS HOMER

On September 11, members of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Western Alaska & U.S. Arctic paid a visit to the City to discuss enhancing our Coast Guard City partnership and understanding local needs. Sector Western Alaska & U.S. Arctic is the Coast Guard's largest geographic sector, exercising authority in a jurisdiction extending through-out Western Alaska, The North Slope, and the Aleutian Islands through Prince William Sound. We were thrilled they came for a visit!

The visit introduced key Coast Guard staff Deputy Sector Commander Scott Farr, Senior Chief Matthew Burns, Chief of Prevention Christine Brown, and Lieutenant Juston Lee with the local Marine Safety Detachment and outlined ways their staff are able to enhance the USCG City relationship through community engagement opportunities.

Mayor Ken Castner and Council Member Rachel Lord discussed local needs and reiterated great appreciation for the important role the USCG plays in our maritime community – including search and rescue, pollution prevention & response, waterways management, port security, vessel inspections, and investigations.



Left to Right: Bryan Hawkins, Lt. Juston Lee, Mayor Ken Castner, Chief Matthew Burns, Chief of Prevention Christine Brown, Lori Pond, Julie Engebretsen, Rachel Lord, Melissa Jacobsen, and Deputy Sector Commander Scott Farr.

PORT AND HARBOR

US COAST GUARD DOUGLAS DENMAN VISITS HOMER



The Douglas Denman, moored next to the USCG Cutter Aspen on Homer's Pioneer Dock.

Earlier in September, the Port and Harbor hosted the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Douglas Denman. The Douglas Denman is part of the fleet of Sentinel class cutters built to replace the 110' island class cutters and are being phased in across Alaska. They are built to spend more time at sea than the island class cutters like the Naushon. Currently home ported in Ketchikan, the Douglas Denman will eventually find her home in Sitka. The Douglas Denman has 22 crew on board and was here for three days for provisioning and shore leave.

Port & Harbor staff worked with the USCG to identify mooring that would be safe for the ship and for crew transfers. Options included having them enter the harbor to raft out from the Naushon, moor at the Deep Water Dock or raft out from the Cutter Aspen. Because the ship is large for safe maneuvering in the current harbor, but small for the Deep Water Dock, the crew chose to raft next to the Aspen (they could use the Aspen's gangway to get crew on and off the dock for shore leave) after refueling at the Deep Water Dock.

Visits from this new class of cutters are expected to be regular occurrences in the near future. The new large vessel harbor basin being considered in the General Investigation would enhance the port's capability to serve these cutters by providing deeper draft and wider turning radius, allowing the cutters to maneuver safely and efficiently to floats for safe crew transfers.

HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

STUDY UPDATE

In late September, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Environmental team conducted its final field work visit. A team has visited the study site every month since April to gather data through:

- Beach seining: This technique allows the team to sample fish populations in shallow waters.
- Bottom trawls: Used to assess the diversity of marine life on the harbor floor.
- eDNA analysis: This innovative method detects genetic material in the water, providing insights into the biodiversity of our harbor without directly observing each species.



The team also resumed monthly coordination meetings with Federal and State agencies to keep them engaged and updated on the status of the study, and will re-engage the Environmental Stakeholders Working Group after field work has concluded.

Simultaneously, subcontractors have been out collecting crucial geophysical data, which includes the water depths and topography in the study area. Data collection will wrap up in mid-October. Of particular interest is the multi-beam sonar survey, which has mapped the seafloor up to 100 feet below the surface providing information about the density and composition of the seafloor.



Once collated, the USACE Project Development Team will review the information and make a plan for supplemental geotechnical drilling. The data from these activities will inform the design of potential harbor improvements, ensuring they're built on a solid foundation of geophysical understanding.

Building upon previous community input, the USACE Economics and design teams are collecting and analyzing moorage demand data, and are planning for small focus group meetings with different harbor user groups in late October to gather insight on how current harbor conditions impact daily operations and harbor user experience. A recent meeting with the US Coast Guard has already provided valuable perspectives, demonstrating the importance of these stakeholder consultations.

Looking Ahead: Key Milestones

Now that study activities have resumed at pace, the USACE published an updated schedule for reaching study milestones:

- January 2026: Community meeting to share USACE updates to conceptual harbor expansion designs
- Late June 2025: Tentatively Selected Plan to be completed
- Late August 2025: Draft feasibility study to be released for public comment and review
- Late October 2026: USACE to submit the final feasibility report
- Late February 2027: Expected signing of the Chief's Report

Stay informed about upcoming community meetings and opportunities to provide input.

Go to www.homerharborexansion.com

Your engagement can help ensure that the final recommendations meet the study's goals and objectives:

- Relieve transportation congestion
- Improve navigational safety and efficiency within the harbor
- Enhance regional connectivity and economic activity
- Foster maritime trades industry and other year-round opportunities
- Sustainable construction, operations and maintenance budget
- Maintain environmental integrity and quality of life and minimize adverse community impacts.





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.

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

October 17th is the [Great Alaska ShakeOut!](#) Join millions of people worldwide to participate in earthquake drills at work, school, or home!

Alaska is one of the most seismically active regions in the world. The state experiences more earthquakes each year than any other state in the United States.

In an earthquake, you may only have seconds to respond before you are knocked off balance or something falls on you. By practicing “Drop, Cover, and Hold On”, response times can be quicker during a live event.

What is the ShakeOut? It's a worldwide earthquake drill and a great way for your family or business to practice being prepared to survive and recover quickly from a big earthquake.

When is the ShakeOut? The ShakeOut drill is set for 10:17 am on Thursday, October 17th. At 10:17 am, practice how you will Drop, Cover, and Hold On during a large earthquake, which only takes about one minute out of your day.

The main goal of ShakeOut is to help Alaskans be prepared for major earthquakes, so use the ShakeOut as an opportunity to learn and do more to be safe before, during, and after an earthquake.



How to Be Prepared!

In partnership with the Great Shake Out, Earthquake Country Alliance provides Seven Steps to Earthquake Safety. Follow these steps to be prepared, to survive, and recover. Learn more at [EarthquakeCountry.org](#).

Prepare:

1. **Secure your space** by identifying hazards and securing moveable items.
2. **Plan to be safe** by creating your emergency plan and deciding how you will communicate.
3. **Organize emergency supplies** in convenient locations.
4. **Minimize financial hardship** by organizing important documents, strengthening your property, and considering insurance coverage.

Survive:

5. **Drop, Cover, and Hold On** or other recommended actions (if you feel shaking or get an alert).
6. **Improve safety** after earthquakes by evacuating if necessary, helping the injured, and preventing further injuries or damage.

Recover:

7. **Reconnect and Restore** daily life by reuniting with others, repairing damage, and rebuilding community.

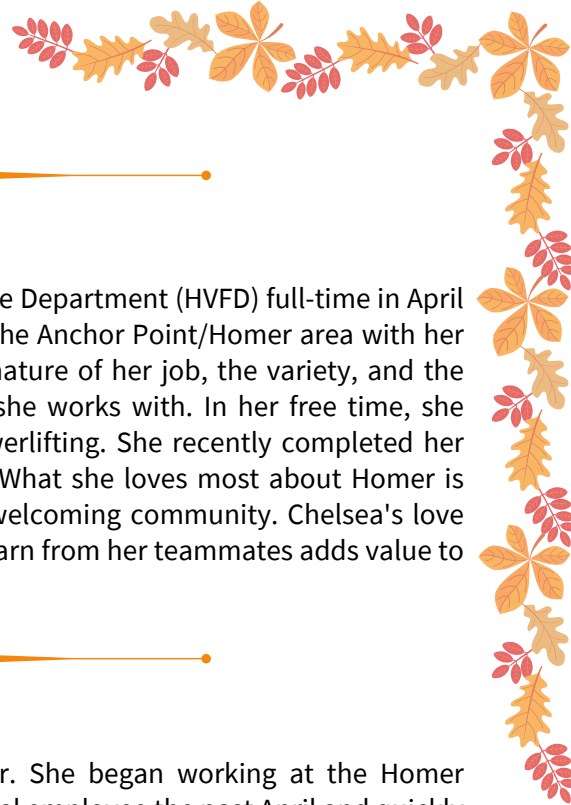
[Earthquake Preparedness | City of Homer Alaska Official Website](#)
([cityofhomer-ak.gov](#))



Create a Grab & Go Bag

One way you and your family can prepare for any emergency is to put together a Grab & Go Bag ahead of time! [www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](#) ("[Grab & Go](#)")

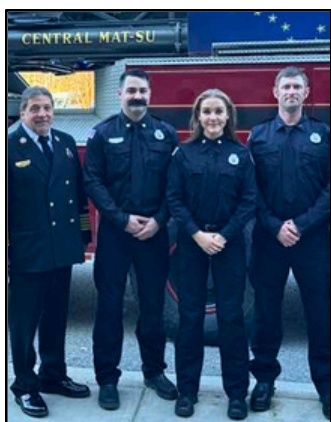
MEET THE STAFF



Meet Chelsea Marsh

Captain Homer Volunteer Fire Department

Chelsea Marsh joined the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) full-time in April after volunteering since 2018. She moved to the Anchor Point/Homer area with her family in 2010. Chelsea enjoys the dynamic nature of her job, the variety, and the opportunity to learn from the great people she works with. In her free time, she loves gardening, home renovations, and powerlifting. She recently completed her first powerlifting competition in September! What she loves most about Homer is the stunning mountains and the close-knit, welcoming community. Chelsea's love for the variety in her work and her desire to learn from her teammates adds value to the HVFD and our community.



Meet Paige Jones

Firefighter / EMT

Paige Jones, was born and raised in Homer. She began working at the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) as a seasonal employee the past April and quickly transitioned to a full-time role. Driven by a strong commitment to her community, she enjoys the ongoing training and learning opportunities that come with her position. Paige thrives during the busy summer months, when the team shifts into high gear to accomplish a lot in a short time. In her free time, she loves outdoor activities, and on rainy days, she indulges her creative side by painting. Paige's passion for her work and community makes her a great addition to the HVFD.



Renee Krause

City Clerk/ADA Coordinator

We are delighted to congratulate Renee Krause on her promotion to City Clerk! Renee has been a dedicated member of the city's administration, showcasing exceptional skill and commitment in managing city records, public communications, and ensuring efficient operations. In addition to her new role, she also serves as the City's ADA Coordinator, further demonstrating her dedication to inclusivity. Renee's skills and dedication will surely make a positive impact in our community!



Taylor Crowder

Investigations Sergeant

Sending a well-deserved congratulations to Taylor Crowder on his recent promotion to Investigations Sergeant! He has worked as a police officer since moving to Homer in April 2021. Inspired by his mother, who served for nearly 20 years, Taylor has always aspired to be a police officer. Helping people is his calling. He is married to his high school sweetheart, is a devoted Baltimore Ravens fan, and enjoys playing in the city softball league, fishing, and playing disc golf with his kids. With his commitment and genuine desire to help others, there's no doubt he will excel in this new role!

MEET THE STAFF



Kathy Vogl
Recreation Programmer

Kathy Vogl recently transitioned to a full-time role as Recreation Programmer with Community Recreation, where she has been a valued team member since 2022. What she enjoys most is the opportunity to create engaging programs and connect with an energetic mix of people, from the young to the young at heart. Kathy moved to Homer in 2000 at the age of 25, drawn by its stunning scenery and welcoming community. In her free time, she loves playing pickleball, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Her passion for creating engaging programs and her love for the community make her a wonderful fit as the Recreation Programmer!



Susie Inglis
Special Projects Associate

We're excited to introduce Susie Inglis as our new Special Projects Assistant. After leaving their film careers in California, Susie and her husband moved to the Homer area to build their dream home. A passionate researcher, Susie finds satisfaction in diving into the city's special projects. Outside of work, she loves reading, exploring new places, and recently tackled off-roading in Joshua Tree National Park. She appreciates Homer's stunning views and strong community and looks forward to contributing her diverse experience to the city.



Work Anniversaries

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

July

Employee	Dept.	Years
Lori Sorrows	Finance	17
Dan Olsen	Public Works	15
Julie Engebretsen	Community Dev	12
Dave Welty	Public Works	10
David Bernard	Library	8
Jason Hoffman	Public Works	5
Jason Hanenberger	Public Works	5
Mark Kirko	Fire	5
Owen Meyer	Public Works	3
Ryan Foster	Community Dev.	2
Keith Bohlken	Public Works	1
Bradley Bordner	Police	1
Tom Gilbert	Port	1
Aaron Knowles	Fire	1
Greg Trail	Public Works	1

August

Employee	Dept.	Years
Kellen Stock	Police	5
Winnifred Wade	Police	2
Japheth McGhee	Port	1

September

Employee	Dept.	Years
Aaron Glidden	Port	20
Ryan Browning	Police	14
Tracie Whitaker	Police	10
Lisa Linegar	Police	9
Charles Benson	Police	3
Jessica McGuire	Finance	2
Dawn Brooks	Library	1
Chad Felice	Public Works	1



We Appreciate You!

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

Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
Renee Krause, City Clerk, ADA Coordinator
Mark Robl, Chief of Police
Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer
Julie Engebretsen, Community Development Director
Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director
Mark Kirko, Fire Chief
Dave Berry, Library Director
Andrea Browning, Personnel Director
Bryan Hawkins, Port Director
Dan Kort, Public Works Director
Ryan Foster, City Planner
Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Economic Development Advisory Commission
Library Advisory Board
Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Planning Commission
Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



The Giving Salmon, by artist Christina Demetro

Acquired in 2017 - The sculpture has a slot in the mouth of the Salmon to accept donations to the Homer Foundation.

This sculpture is an inspirational bronze sculpture to celebrate our community and the non-profits that support it. Donations received support the community's needs.

Located on the Homer Spit,
Ramp 2 Boathouse Pavillion

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)

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

View all meetings on the City's website.

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/meetings>

City Council: Oct. 14 & 28, Nov. 12 & 25

ADA Advisory Board: Oct. 10, Nov. 14

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee: Oct. 9

Economic Development Advisory Commission: Oct. 8, Nov. 12

Library Advisory Board: Oct. 15, Nov. 19

Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission: Oct. 17, Nov. 21

Planning Commission: Oct. 2 & 16, Nov. 6, Dec. 4

Port & Harbor Advisory Commission: Oct. 2 & 23, Nov. 20, Dec. 11



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 quarterly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us

City of Homer

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