



## Agenda

### Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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

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#### Homer City Hall

491 E. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

#### Zoom Webinar ID: 991 8847 0047 Password: 125016

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

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#### CALL TO ORDER, 5:30 P.M.

#### AGENDA APPROVAL

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

#### RECONSIDERATION

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Unapproved Minutes for August 20, 2024

#### VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS

- A. Ryan Foster - Draft Comprehensive Plan  
  
Homer Comprehensive Plan Survey Results  
Homer Comprehensive Plan Flyer

#### STAFF & COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Designate LAB Member to Report to Council
- B. Library Director's Report  
  
August 2024  
Stats for 2023  
Stats for 2024
- C. Fundraising Report
- D. Legislative Report
- E. Comprehensive Plan Report

#### PUBLIC HEARING

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

### A. Library Strategic Plan

Memorandum LAB-24-018 from Library Director as backup

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### A. Resolution for Council re: Public Libraries Assistance Grants and SLED Databases

Memorandum LAB-24-019 from Library Director as backup

Memorandum LAB-24-020 from Library Director as backup

### B. Procedure on Challenges to Materials

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

### A. City Manager's Report

CM's Report for August 26, 2024

CM's Report for September 9, 2024

### B. LAB Calendar

## **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE** (3 minute time limit)

## **COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

## **COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER**

## **COMMENTS OF THE BOARD**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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



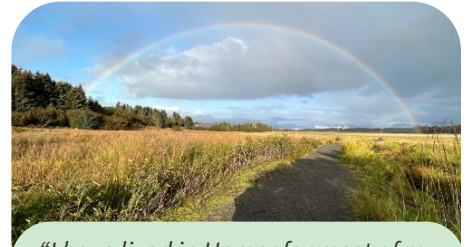




*"Thank you for gathering this input! Homer has been an amazingly connected and healthy place for me, and I want it to remain so for my kids and any who are drawn to our engaged, connected community."*



*"I came here to work a seasonal job... I stayed because Homer gave me the space and support to be who I am. I love this place deeply; I love the fun and quirky community that I've found."*



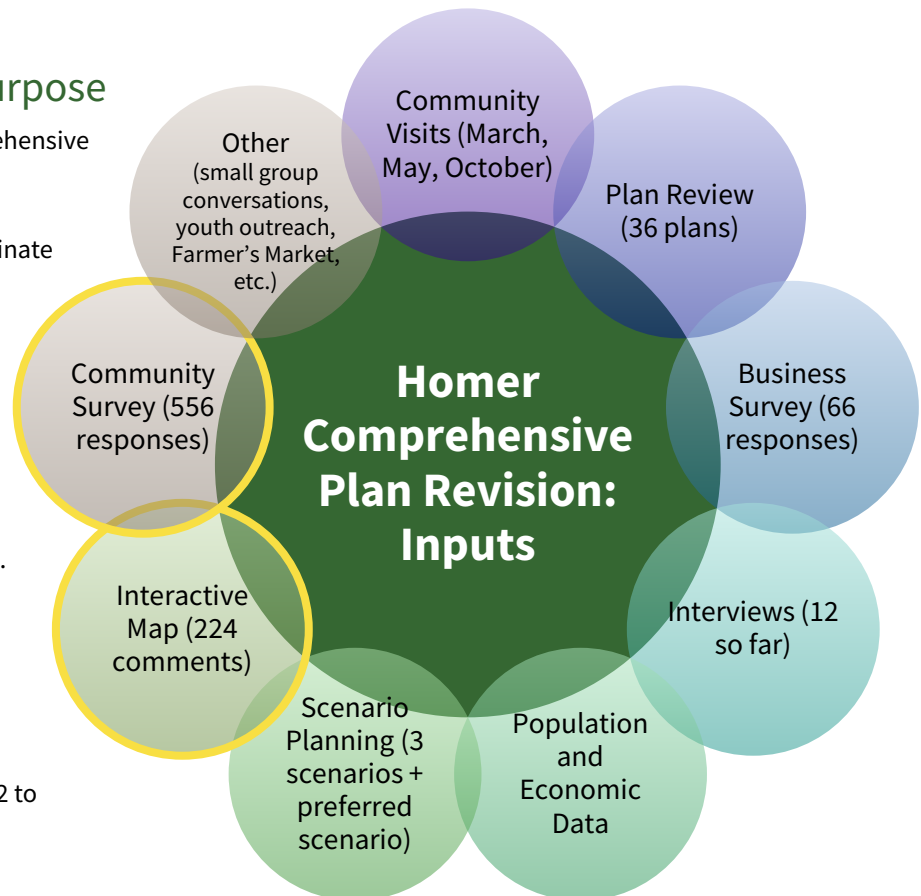
*"I have lived in Homer for most of my life and absolutely love this town and its surrounding areas. It is the most beautiful place I have ever seen. This community is just as beautiful as the land... Homer is my Home <3"*

## Executive Summary

### Survey and Comment Map Purpose

The City of Homer is updating the 2018 Comprehensive Plan to recognize and celebrate what we have accomplished, to address new challenges and opportunities for our community, and to coordinate efforts to achieve our shared vision for a future Homer.

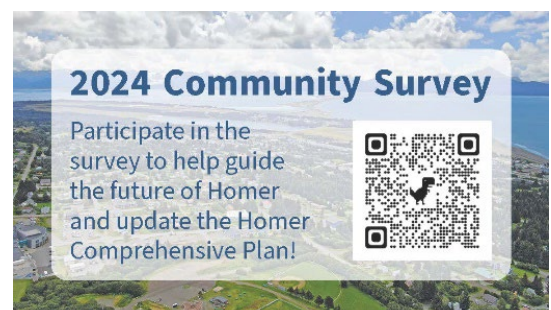
A community survey and interactive comment map were created to gather Homer residents' ideas and concerns about Homer's future. Survey results help the project team understand community priorities and develop strategies for the updated Comprehensive Plan.



### Process

- **DATES:** The survey and interactive comment map were open from April 22 to July 1, 2024.
- **OUTREACH:** The survey and map were promoted via:
  - Facebook
  - E-blasts to the project distribution list
  - Announcements at City Council and other public meetings
  - Outreach by the Project Steering Committee
  - Through business cards featuring the survey and comment map QR code and links at business, local events, and to individuals.

*See example business card →*





## Who Responded?

**556** people participated in the survey, exceeding our goal of 500 participants.

**224** comments were received on the interactive map.

### Of the 556 survey participants:

- 70% of have lived in Homer more than a decade.
- 91% live in Homer year-round.
- 39% reside within the City of Homer limits.

## Highlight of Results



Top 3 themes: What three things do you **value most** about living in Homer?

- Community, small town feel, family and friends
- Natural beauty and scenery
- Access to outdoor activities and ocean



Top 3 themes: What three things do you find **most challenging** about living in Homer?

- Overall cost of living
- Infrastructure and transportation challenges
- Lack of affordable housing



Top 3 themes: 20 years from now, what does your **ideal Homer** look like?

- Homer has retained its small-town character
- Affordable housing and reasonable cost of living
- Walkable, vibrant downtown



### Quality of Life

- A combined 82% rate the quality of life in Homer as good/excellent.
- A combined 88% rate Homer as a good/excellent place to raise a family.

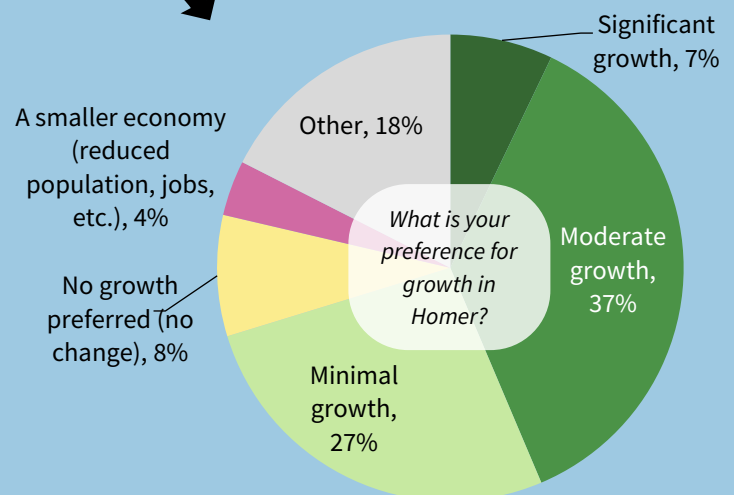


### Housing Highlights

- 76% of survey participants are satisfied/very satisfied with their current housing situation.
- 68% say housing is too expensive in Homer.
- 66% say more attainable starter homes are needed for younger residents, families, or residents that wish to downsize.



### Desired Growth



Most open-ended comments about growth discuss “sustainable and controlled growth” with a focus on planning that considers environmental impact, infrastructure capacity, and preservation of Homer’s character.

### Top Priorities and Projects for Homer to Focus on for the Next 10-20 Years

- Increase supply and accessibility of affordable housing
- Encourage the retention and creation of more year-round, higher wage jobs
- Preserve open public spaces within the city from development
- Create a livable, walkable, vibrant downtown
- Encourage renewable energy projects

*Identified as “important/very important” by 74% or more of survey participants*

# Introduction

To inform planning work, the project committee collected community feedback in two ways: a survey of open-ended questions and a comment map where participants could identify locations of interest. When appropriate to a specific survey question, feedback collected from the survey map has been included in the survey results using purple text. Partner groups, including the Homer City Council, Homer Planning Commission, Economic Development Advisory Council, Chamber of Commerce Marine Trades Association, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP), and others assisted in promoting the survey.

Community Survey Process

- **Timing:** The Homer Community Survey was open for a little over two months, from April 22 to July 1, 2024.
- **Promotion:** The survey was promoted via Facebook, e-newsletters, announcements at City Council and other public meetings. Survey participation was also sought through outreach by the Steering Committee, and through handouts at business, local events, and to individuals. Hard copies were available at City Hall and the library. Partner groups were encouraged to help share and promote the survey.

## Response Summary

We exceeded our goal of 500 survey responses, with 556 responses received. 552 residents responded online via SurveyMonkey and 4 responded via hard copy.

The common themes highlighted below were those that received approximately five percent or more mentions of the answers submitted. Additional relevant or topical themes are also included in the analysis on most of the questions. ChatGPT was used for some analysis and results verified by team members.

## Interactive Comment Map

### Process

- **Timing:** The interactive comment map was launched on May 13, 2024. The comment tool was disabled on July 3, 2024. The map with results remains live and can be viewed [here](#).
- **Promotion:** The comment map was promoted via e-newsletters to the project distribution list, announcements at City Council and other public meetings, and through outreach by the Steering Committee. Partner groups were encouraged to help share and promote the survey.

### Response Summary

The comment map received 224 responses. Most location-based responses were concentrated within the City of Homer limits (90%) and the primary focus areas of interest were Transportation, Quality of Life, Land Use & Environment, and Sustainability, Resilience, and Climate Change.



# Index of Results by Question

**Community Survey Results .....6**

Q1: How would you rate quality of life in Homer..... 6

Q2: What three things do you value most about living in Homer? ..... 6

Q3, What three things do you find most challenging about living in Homer? ..... 8

Q4: How would you rate Homer as a place to raise a family? ..... 10

Q5: In five words or less, how would do you describe Homer’s character, people, and attributes? ..... 10

Q6: How satisfied are you with your current housing situation? ..... 12

Q7: Please choose up to three statements from the options below that best summarize the housing situation in Homer..... 12

Q8: How satisfied are you with the availability of the following Health & Safety programs or services in Homer?..... 14

Q9: How satisfied are you with the availability of the following Community & Economic Development programs or services in Homer? ..... 16

Q10: How satisfied are you with the availability of the following Quality of Life programs or services in Homer? ..... 19

Q11: What is your preference for community/economic growth in Homer (increased population, jobs, specific industries expanding, etc.)? ..... 22

Q12: Please indicate your preferred level of growth for the following key economic sectors: ..... 24

Q13: Listed below are potential priorities for the greater Homer community to focus on for the next 10-20 years. For each potential priority, please indicate level of importance. .... 25

Q14: What is the single most important project we can do as a community over the next 10 – 20 years?..... 27

Q15: Twenty years from now, what does your ideal Homer look like? ..... 31

Q16: What leaders or organizations do you look to for guidance about Homer’s future? ..... 32

Q17: What other questions, comments, or concerns do you have? ..... 32

Demographic Questions..... 34

Q18: How long have you lived in the Greater Homer area?..... 34

Q19: How many months of the year do you live in Homer? If you live in Homer seasonally, during what months are you typically in Homer? ..... 34

Q20: Where do you live or own property in the Greater Homer Area? ..... 35

Q21: In your own words, please describe your connection to the Greater Homer Area, and its people, lands, and waters. .... 35

Q22: What is your age? ..... 37

Q23: What is your gender? ..... 37

Q24: What is your race? ..... 38

Q25: What is your annual household income from all sources? ..... 38

**Interactive Comment Map Results ..... 39**

Comment Map Table 1: Total Map Comments by Focus Area ..... 39

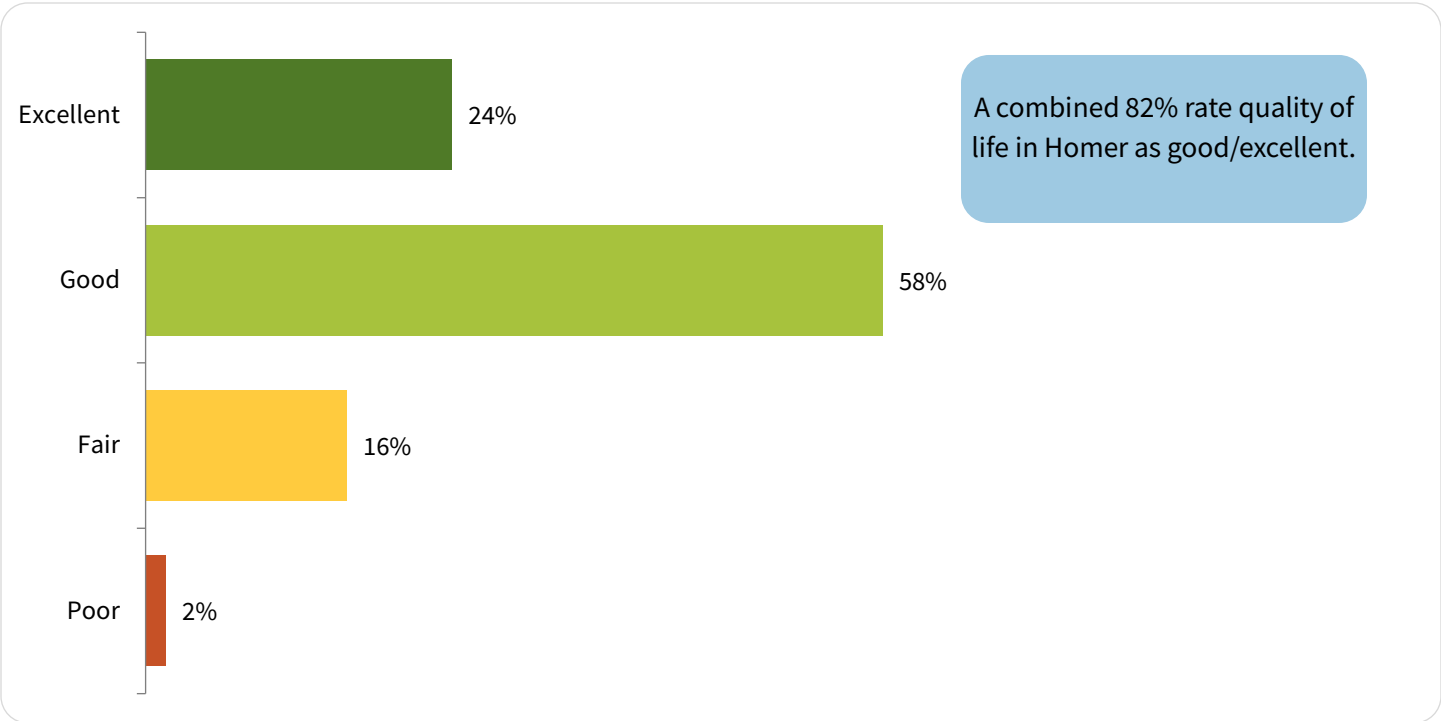
Comment Map Table 2: Location of Comments ..... 39



# Community Survey Results

## Q1: How would you rate quality of life in Homer?

Answered: 553.



## Q2: What three things do you value most about living in Homer?

Answered: 539; up to three answers per response.

Theme	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
<b>Community:</b> Small town feel, community spirit, friendliness, sense of community, and peace and quiet	420	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People - community and good friends</li><li>• The slower, quiet pace</li><li>• Small town vibe and being able to establish relationships with other folks that live here.</li><li>• Community collaboration and interdependence</li><li>• The small business centered economy</li><li>• Opportunity for generations to grow and have viability to have a small business</li><li>• Knowing my neighbors, being part of a community</li><li>• Everyone looks out for each other and cares for one another</li><li>• Loving community that rallies when needed</li><li>• There are endless opportunities to be involved in the community and people truly get involved</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• No large industry dominates town</li><li>• The love and community mindset folks have</li><li>• The People, (Community and passion in varied interests and willingness to do the work).</li><li>• Energetic, friendly and tight-knit community</li><li>• The people with their can-do spirit</li></ul>
<b>Natural Beauty and Scenery:</b>	350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The beauty and proximity of nature</li><li>• Open, green spaces</li><li>• Vast, open spaces, wide-spread and plentiful.</li></ul>

Views, scenery, wildlife, proximity to the ocean and mountains, and clean air and water		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Natural environment, living by the ocean</i></li> <li>• <i>Being able to walk on the beach every day— the fact that motorized vehicles are limited at Mariner Park beach, and there is ample parking there for locals</i></li> <li>• <i>View across the bay - that magic moment pulling off at Baycrest as you come into town</i></li> <li>• <i>Kachemak Bay's rich natural habitat</i></li> <li>• <i>The environment (scenery, climate, clean air and water)</i></li> <li>• <i>The wild land still integrated within the city</i></li> <li>• <i>Breathtaking, accessible natural beauty and wildlife</i></li> <li>• <i>Moose in my yard, slow tempo of life, natural beauty, quiet</i></li> <li>• <i>My kids get to grow up in wild places</i></li> <li>• <i>Beautiful. I can see the blue ocean and ice capped mountains from my driveway</i></li> </ul>
<b>Access to Outdoor Activities:</b> Outdoor recreational opportunities and experiencing nature	140	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Access to world-class outdoor recreation opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>Access to fishing and hunting and supportive resources to do so</i></li> <li>• <i>Outside space/recreation</i></li> <li>• <i>Access to Kachemak Bay</i></li> <li>• <i>The access to the outdoors</i></li> <li>• <i>Able to walk/bike to many places</i></li> <li>• <i>Fishing, camping across the bay, hiking, walking and biking trails</i></li> <li>• <i>Year-round outdoor activities</i></li> <li>• <i>Lifestyle and subsistence culture based on surrounding land and ocean</i></li> <li>• <i>Access to outdoor activities (skiing, hiking, boating)</i></li> </ul>
<b>Safety:</b> Low crime rates, feeling safe in Homer	71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Not a lot of crime</i></li> <li>• <i>Low crime</i></li> <li>• <i>Safety. I don't worry about my kids riding their bikes around the neighborhood</i></li> <li>• <i>Safe environment</i></li> <li>• <i>Feeling of safety</i></li> <li>• <i>mainly a safe place to live</i></li> </ul>
<b>Arts and Culture:</b> Local creative activities and opportunities to experience arts and culture	62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The people and all their artistic proclivities</i></li> <li>• <i>Pratt Museum</i></li> <li>• <i>A creative engaged community - lots of art and efforts</i></li> <li>• <i>Culture, arts community and nonprofits</i></li> <li>• <i>Food and arts</i></li> <li>• <i>I appreciate the vibrancy of the creative arts in Homer.</i></li> <li>• <i>Arts and culture investments</i></li> <li>• <i>Community events, focused on arts and nature</i></li> <li>• <i>Arts, Music, and Entrepreneurship. (creativity in general)</i></li> <li>• <i>Access to arts and culture despite being small town</i></li> <li>• <i>Lively creative inclusive crowd</i></li> <li>• <i>The many community opportunities for art, theater, classes, groups</i></li> <li>• <i>The arts community, the farming and flower growing</i></li> </ul>
<b>Friends and family:</b> Friends and family and the feeling of “home”	49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>My family nearby</i></li> <li>• <i>Personal ties, friends, family</i></li> <li>• <i>Our friendships</i></li> <li>• <i>The people! Newcomers and old timers.</i></li> <li>• <i>My family's history here</i></li> <li>• <i>My friends and neighbors</i></li> <li>• <i>My community of friends and musicians</i></li> <li>• <i>Kindness of neighbors, sense of belonging</i></li> </ul>
<b>Education:</b> Quality of schools and	34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Strong schools</i></li> <li>• <i>Educational and job training opportunities are valued</i></li> <li>• <i>Good public services - schools, health care, library, museum</i></li> </ul>

educational facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent schools</li> <li>• The college campus: for its availability of diverse community events as well as its educational programs</li> <li>• Good place to raise kids/schools</li> </ul>
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**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- Healthcare
- Environmental Awareness and Protection

### Q3: What three things do you find most challenging about living in Homer?

Answered: 539; up to three answers per response. Responses in purple text are from the comment map.

Theme	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
<b>Overall Cost of Living:</b> Cost of food, utilities, fuel, transportation and other supplies; Wages not comparable to cost of living.	281	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spending 30% of my income on food per month</li> <li>• Lack of jobs that offer a livable wage &amp; benefits</li> <li>• The cost of groceries/gas/utilities</li> <li>• People are being priced out of the town</li> <li>• Wages are not enough to cover living expenses</li> <li>• Property prices very high for “average” working family</li> <li>• Price of utilities, food and rent</li> <li>• Expensive for families to participate in activities</li> <li>• The cost of living is high in Alaska and because we don’t get barge or container ships delivering directly to our port we have to pay to truck everything in from Anchorage and beyond. Folks in Anchorage will complain that the cost off living is high there but that’s where we go to stretch our shopping dollars</li> <li>• Cost of services like mechanics, water taxis, and medical services</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure and Transportation:</b> Pedestrian and biking safety, road maintenance (especially during winter), limited public transportation, and difficulties with local and out-of-town connectivity	191	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor road maintenance</li> <li>• Traffic and flow of traffic</li> <li>• Road maintenance--sand more and get rid of salt brine</li> <li>• Concern about future infrastructure with the growing outlying population that does not contribute to the tax base</li> <li>• Roads - East End as an example - when was the last time it received real maintenance, not just emergency repairs?</li> <li>• It's not a walking friendly city, even though I love all the little city trails, I wish there was more. Also, sidewalks are missing and not being maintained in the winter</li> <li>• Lack of public transportation</li> <li>• No cohesive downtown or walking core of businesses</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure for growth - east end and spit for example</li> <li>• No Dog Park</li> <li>• I wish it was more walkable- needs more crosswalks, needs more enforcement of crosswalk rules, sidewalks need clearing/ sanding in winter</li> <li>• Lack of sewer and water in some areas of Homer</li> <li>• There’s no real public restrooms at parks with flush toilets and sinks</li> <li>• Subsidizing tourists' water and sewer while I have to pay</li> <li>• I wish it felt easier to walk to places for basics like groceries. I live in town, but it takes me 30 minutes walking to get to the nearest grocery store due to lack of connections between parallel streets.</li> </ul>
<b>Affordable Housing:</b> Expensive housing costs and rent, limited rental options, impact of	163	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of affordable homes/rentals for locals year-round. I have a year-round dwelling, but I am seeing many service workers being priced out of living here</li> <li>• Quality housing affordability</li> <li>• I wish the housing market was better/more affordable for young folks/families wanting to invest</li> </ul>



seasonal vacation rentals, workforce housing, and new, expensive housing being built by non-locals		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of support and especially housing for seniors</li> <li>• Housing for workforce</li> <li>• Housing / rental costs astronomical</li> <li>• The cost of housing is not reflective of our local economy and is rapidly outpacing the middle class wage earner</li> </ul>
<b>Overdevelopment:</b> Impacts of development on the environment, increased noise and traffic (especially during tourist season), and how new development affects character of Homer	133	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gridlock on the spit in summer. It is overdeveloped to extend it is no longer attractive</li> <li>• Downtown moose habitat is being destroyed by new development</li> <li>• Development by those who want to make a buck, exploiting the beauty</li> <li>• RAPID GROWTH</li> <li>• Summer crowds and not enough parking for local boat owners on the spit</li> <li>• Summer crowds keep growing</li> <li>• Growing too fast</li> <li>• Unplanned, big development threats</li> </ul>
<b>Limited recreational opportunities:</b> Limited indoor recreational activities particularly for children, teenagers and during the winter	69	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like more trails and bike paths</li> <li>• Affordable access to hiking</li> <li>• Best hiking is on the other side of the Bay</li> <li>• Lack of functional/usable year-round maintained trail systems</li> <li>• I wish there was a space (larger than the SPARC) for indoor walking in the winter, for seniors especially</li> <li>• Lack of fun things to do in the winter inside (bowling)</li> <li>• Trails are really limited and not connected to each other - walking is a major form of recreation</li> <li>• Areas for young kids yr round</li> <li>• Lack of accessible organized sports for kids or camps, lack of indoor recreation center</li> <li>• I wish there were more trails here. I'm an avid outdoors person and boy do we have loads of places to ski and I'm so grateful for KNSC but hiking and biking trails are so limited on this side of the bay and across bay is expensive</li> <li>• [The south end of Bridge Creek Reservoir on Crossman Ridge Road] would be a benefit as a recreational park with established picnic areas. It's already used as such all summer.</li> </ul>
<b>Access and availability of goods:</b> Similar to “cost of living” but comments focused on limited selection of goods and fresh foods.	67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs and limitations associated with geographic isolation</li> <li>• Limited choice for shopping. Inconsistent hours and seasons restaurants and some services</li> <li>• Very difficult to get skilled services done, such as plumbing, fixing leaky roof or auto repair</li> <li>• Costs and limitations associated with geographic isolation</li> <li>• Access to groceries and other goods - slim pickings &amp; expensive</li> <li>• Limited food &amp; shopping options</li> <li>• Proximity to Amenities (Kenai/Anchorage)</li> </ul>
<b>Isolation and weather:</b> Challenges of living in remote area and effects of winter weather.	67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting here and away requires a big drive since the flight schedules have gotten trimmed down</li> <li>• Middle of winter weather</li> <li>• Winter can be pretty grim, and so much is closed and shut down</li> <li>• Winter ice</li> <li>• Lack of activities in the winter (I don't Nordic ski)</li> <li>• Traveling out in urgent situations (planes/ Ravn is unreliable)</li> <li>• Remoteness and the expense of getting to ANC for travel</li> </ul>

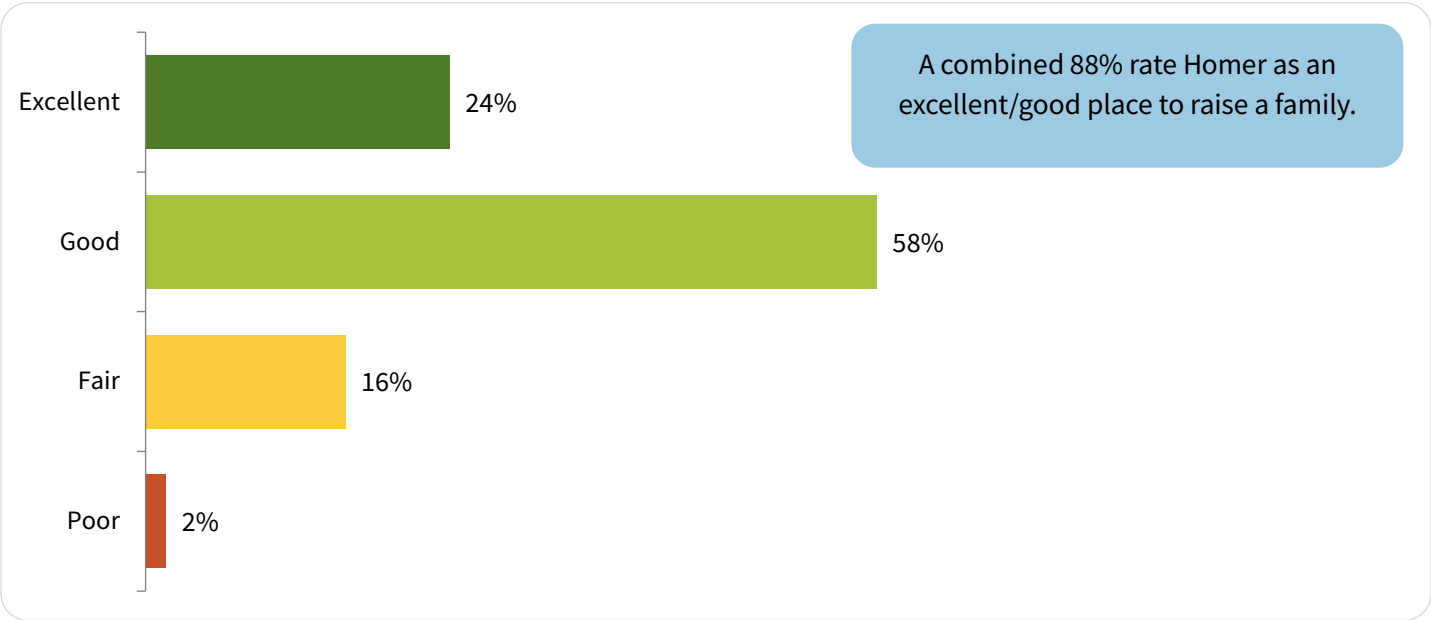
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long cold dark winters</li> <li>• It can be expensive and difficult to travel elsewhere</li> <li>• Winter windstorms</li> <li>• Feels isolated sometimes</li> <li>• The dark days of early winter.</li> </ul>
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**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- Lack of cohesive community vision; political and religious divisiveness; lack of diversity.
- Criticisms of local government decisions, taxes, and regulations.
- Lack of access to specialized medical care, behavioral health services, and substance abuse services.
- Lack of funding for education and accessible childcare.
- Impacts of climate change.

**Q4: How would you rate Homer as a place to raise a family?**

Answered: 544.



**Q5:, In five words or less, how would do you describe Homer’s character, people, and attributes?**

Answered: 482.

Theme	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
Creative, Artistic, Unique	120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent, artistic,</li> <li>• Free thinking, non-conforming</li> <li>• Funky, mostly okay people, great art</li> <li>• Unique. Artisanal</li> <li>• Kind of grumpy but okay</li> <li>• Hardy, artistic, nutty</li> </ul>
Friendly, Supportive, Community-Minded	90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respectful, kind</li> <li>• Caring, religious</li> <li>• Friendly and compassionate minded people</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Homer is feisty, fun &amp; kind</i></li> <li>• <i>Generous, caring, community minded</i></li> <li>• <i>Sweet as a fuzzy kitten!</i></li> <li>• <i>Encouraging, welcoming, helpful</i></li> </ul>
<b>Opinionated, Diverse, Civically Engaged</b>	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Very opinionated residents</i></li> <li>• <i>Small town politics</i></li> <li>• <i>Welcoming, but increasingly fractious</i></li> <li>• <i>Layered</i></li> <li>• <i>Politically and religiously diverse</i></li> <li>• <i>Colorful, opinionated, kind and generous if given a chance to connect face to face</i></li> </ul>
<b>Independent, Resilient</b>	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Driven, robust</i></li> <li>• <i>Hardy</i></li> <li>• <i>Resilient, generous, respectful, and upbeat</i></li> <li>• <i>Stubborn and caring</i></li> <li>• <i>Entrepreneurial</i></li> </ul>
<b>Outdoorsy, Active, Nature-Loving</b>	69	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Outdoor oriented</i></li> <li>• <i>Healthy, outdoorsy, active</i></li> <li>• <i>Attractive community, natural beauty</i></li> <li>• <i>Outdoorsy, friendly,</i></li> <li>• <i>Fishing people</i></li> <li>• <i>Environmentally conscience</i></li> </ul>

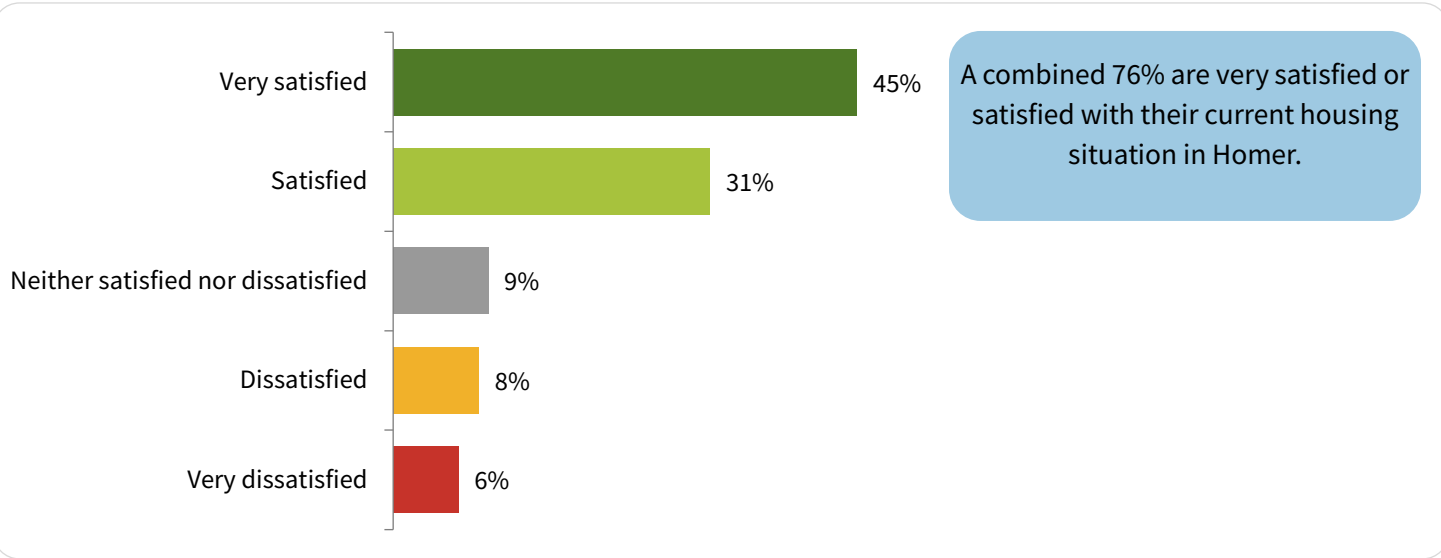
**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- Laid back and slow paced
- Changing
- Adapting



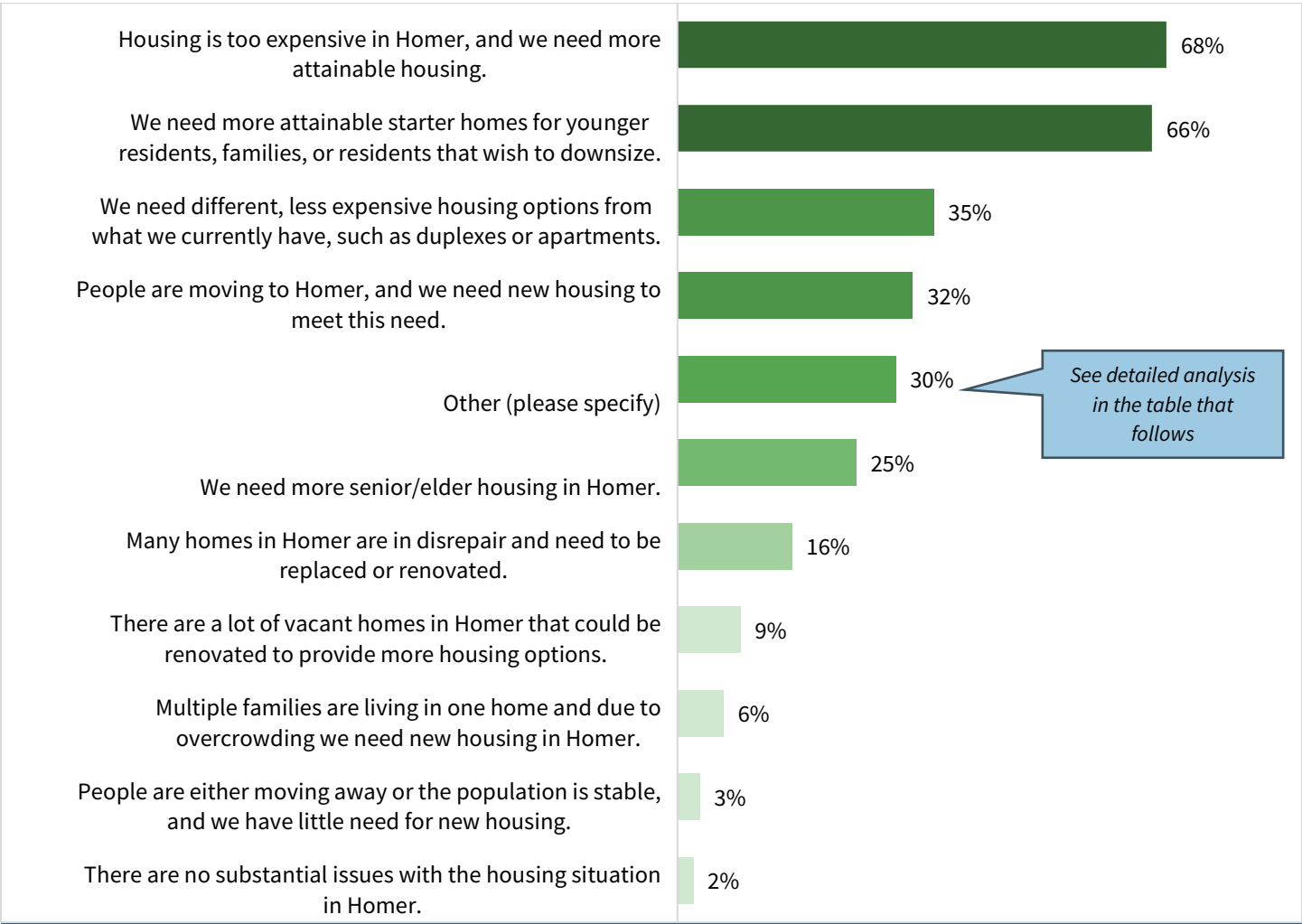
Q6: How satisfied are you with your current housing situation?

Answered: 551.



Q7: Please choose up to three statements from the options below that best summarize the housing situation in Homer.

Answered: 551; respondents could select up to three from the list below.



## Themes from Responses to “Other (Please Specify)”

Answered: 166. Responses in purple text are from the comment map.

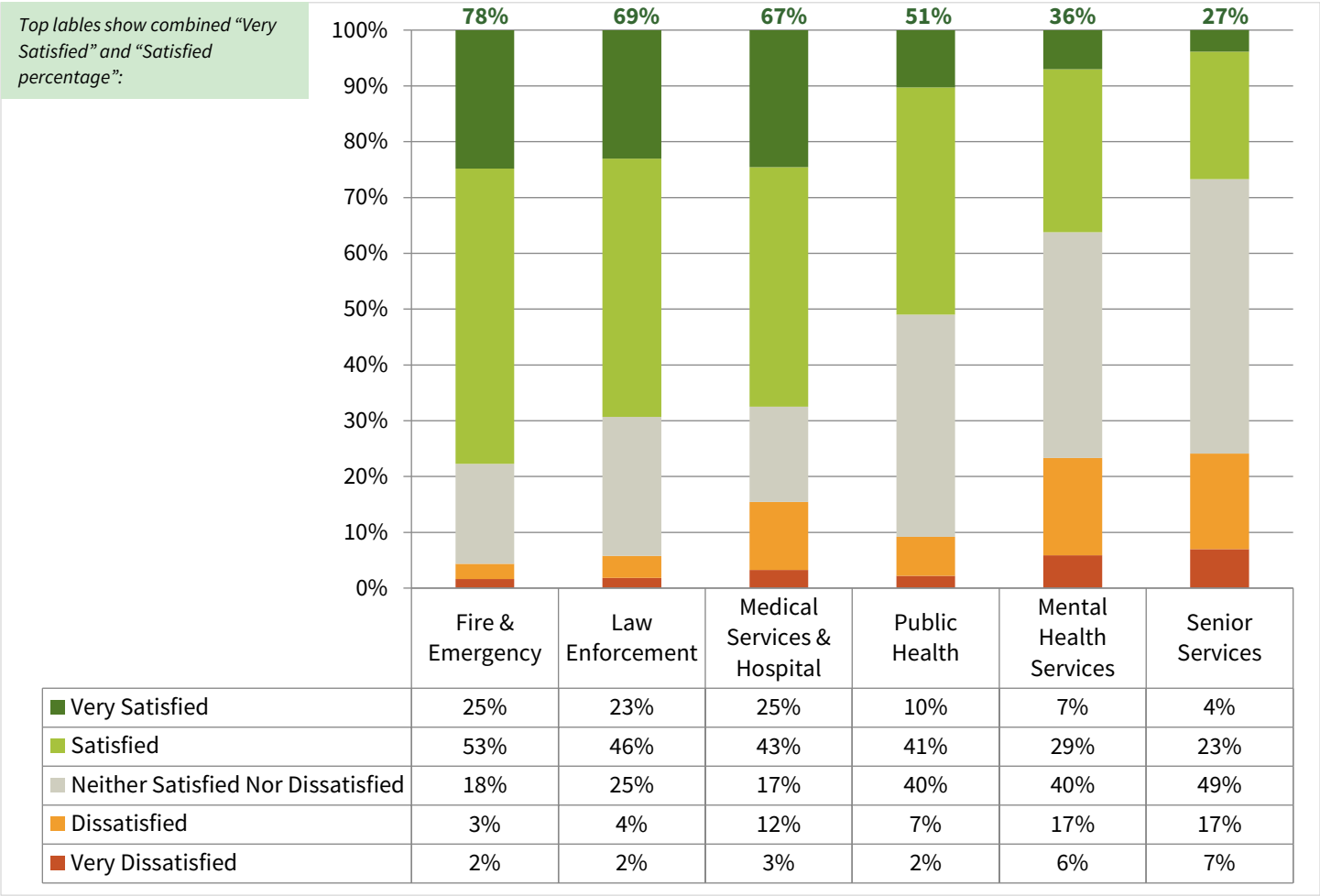
Theme	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
<b>Short-Term Rentals and Vacation Homes</b> - Impacts of short-term rentals and vacation homes on housing availability, affordability, and community character	112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too many vacation rentals that take away from having available real estate on the market. Increases prices and decreases availability</li> <li>I think short term rentals are causing this bubble that makes it hard for young working families to start out here</li> <li>Air bnbs are taking all the mid to small houses from local people. Rentals are very hard to find at reasonable prices and home prices are so high that they are out of reach for the average young family.</li> <li>We don't need more housing, we need fewer BnB's and fewer people</li> <li>People are moving to Homer and building huge houses only living here part-time, making it harder for those full-time residents to afford to stay.</li> <li>I think that there is more than enough housing options, and the only issue is that our land is being used for vacation rentals. This is only destroying more of what makes homer a beautiful travel destination!</li> <li>Zone to clarify that only owner-occupied short-term rentals are allowed in all residential zones. No non-owner occupied STRs in residential zones to prevent the hospitality industry from taking over our neighborhoods.</li> <li>Zoning of the Cranberry Peninsula neighborhood needs to prohibit non-owner-occupied short-term rentals to prevent it from becoming a hospitality industry zone.</li> </ul>
<b>Affordability and Housing Costs</b> - High cost of housing, including both rentals and homes for purchase	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We don't need MORE housing. We need to find ways to make the current housing affordable!</li> <li>Seasonal workers cannot afford housing</li> <li>We need to incentivize people willing to build affordable, year-round housing</li> <li>High property taxes combined with very high square footage costs and interest rates are making it nearly impossible for average family to buy (and getting harder for families to sell because not affordable/attractive to new buyers with high property taxes)</li> <li>Overpriced real estate/housing, excessive property tax values/utilities make housing difficult. People with poor credit/lack of affordability are most vocal about the issue</li> <li>The cost of rentals has skyrocketed! Seemingly due to the current cost of seasonal housing. It's gotten absolutely ridiculous! People want to charge locals the same amount in winter!</li> </ul>

### Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):

- Lack of rentals that allow pets
- Regulation and zoning
- Gentrification and influx of wealthy outsiders
- Overdevelopment and loss of green space
- Housing for families and young residents
- Role of government in housing

Q8: How satisfied are you with the availability of the following Health & Safety programs or services in Homer?

Answered: 552.



Reponses to “In the space below, please share more about those things you are dissatisfied with – this will help us better understand potential needs and priorities. Don’t see a program/service in the list above? Tell us more here.”

Answered: 294. Responses in purple text are from the comment map.

Theme	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
Senior Services and Housing: Existing senior care facilities; limited housing options; limited hospice and in-home care options	85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Need better senior housing options</li><li>There needs to be a Memory Care Unit here</li><li>We need another Assisted Living Facility, more licensed hospice care, and maybe a skilled nursing/rehab facility</li><li>As seniors living in Homer, you are on your own if you have no family or friends to assist. This leads to depression and isolation. Senior services are as essential as youth programming</li><li>There is a huge lack of senior care and senior housing in this community. The assisted livings are already full, and we are expecting a silver wave in this community.</li></ul>



<b>High Healthcare Costs and Access to Healthcare:</b> High cost of medical services in Homer; limited availability of medical specialists; Homer residents must travel to larger cities for certain types of care	81	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health care is too expensive, especially considering both taxes and service costs</li> <li>• Healthcare costs are very high, wait time to see a doctor is far too long, there is a shortage of wound care and surgeons, all major emergency situations require life flight to Anchorage, elderly and disabled transportation is a major issue</li> <li>• It takes months to get in anywhere even with private insurance. Several of the people in our community either don't have insurance or are on state insurance which limits their access to mental health services even more. The workers in this field do all they can but we need more of them to support our rapidly growing population</li> <li>• Long waits for regular appointments with local doctors, dentists, and counselors who take my insurance (and I hear the same from others)</li> <li>• Medical services are ridiculously expensive, basic things like x-rays cost several times the national average</li> </ul>
<b>Mental Health Services:</b> Shortage of mental health providers; long wait times; challenges accessing care, especially for children and seniors	73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is little to no help for those who suffer from mental illness and isolation</li> <li>• Not enough mental health professionals to fill the need; the ones we have are overburdened</li> <li>• Mental Health Services were excellent ten years ago. Cuts from State funding have changed the quality and availability of mental health and social services</li> <li>• Very few mental health providers take Medicare - I was referred, and the waiting list was over 7 months</li> <li>• There is a massive mental health crisis facing every demographic in Homer right now. There are simply not enough providers to meet patient demand</li> <li>• Mental health professionals are already difficult to retain, add in a sky-high cost of living and unattainable housing, and they won't stay for long</li> <li>• There is no support for being who are struggling with severe mental illness and drug misuse. Folks who have severe mental illness are also victims of homelessness, domestic violence and sexual assault</li> </ul>
<b>Fire and Emergency Services:</b> More staffing and resources needed; challenges posed by relying on volunteers for critical emergency services	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is not enough law enforcement to cover the city of Homer and outlying areas</li> <li>• It would be great to have all services with designated staff instead of volunteers. Takes a long time for responses by time the volunteers get to the station, then out on the call</li> <li>• Our fire and emergency services are grossly understaffed. Please fix it. We finally increased the staff from one to two on call at night but that is still insufficient</li> <li>• Public safety should be first and foremost on the minds of a local government, the rest is details</li> <li>• Our fire and emergency response teams need more funding so they can hire more staff. They have a very large area to cover and with limited staff their ability to do their job is negatively impacted.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health:</b> Decline in public health services due to state funding cuts; a lack of proactive community health initiatives	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Health Services have declined due to State funding cuts. Vaccination education is not consistent and there is a threat from old childhood diseases rebounding</li> <li>• Public Health nurses used to go and do "home checks"/"wellness checks" and there is no staff to do that.</li> <li>• Public Health: there's ONE PH nurse, that's not enough, services have suffered</li> <li>• I would like to see more traditional public health service aimed at supporting young families and decreasing rates of child abuse and neglect</li> <li>• Public Health was gutted by the state years ago. They used to do wonderful work supporting families, helping new parents, (all socioeconomic statuses) providing vaccination, etc.</li> </ul>

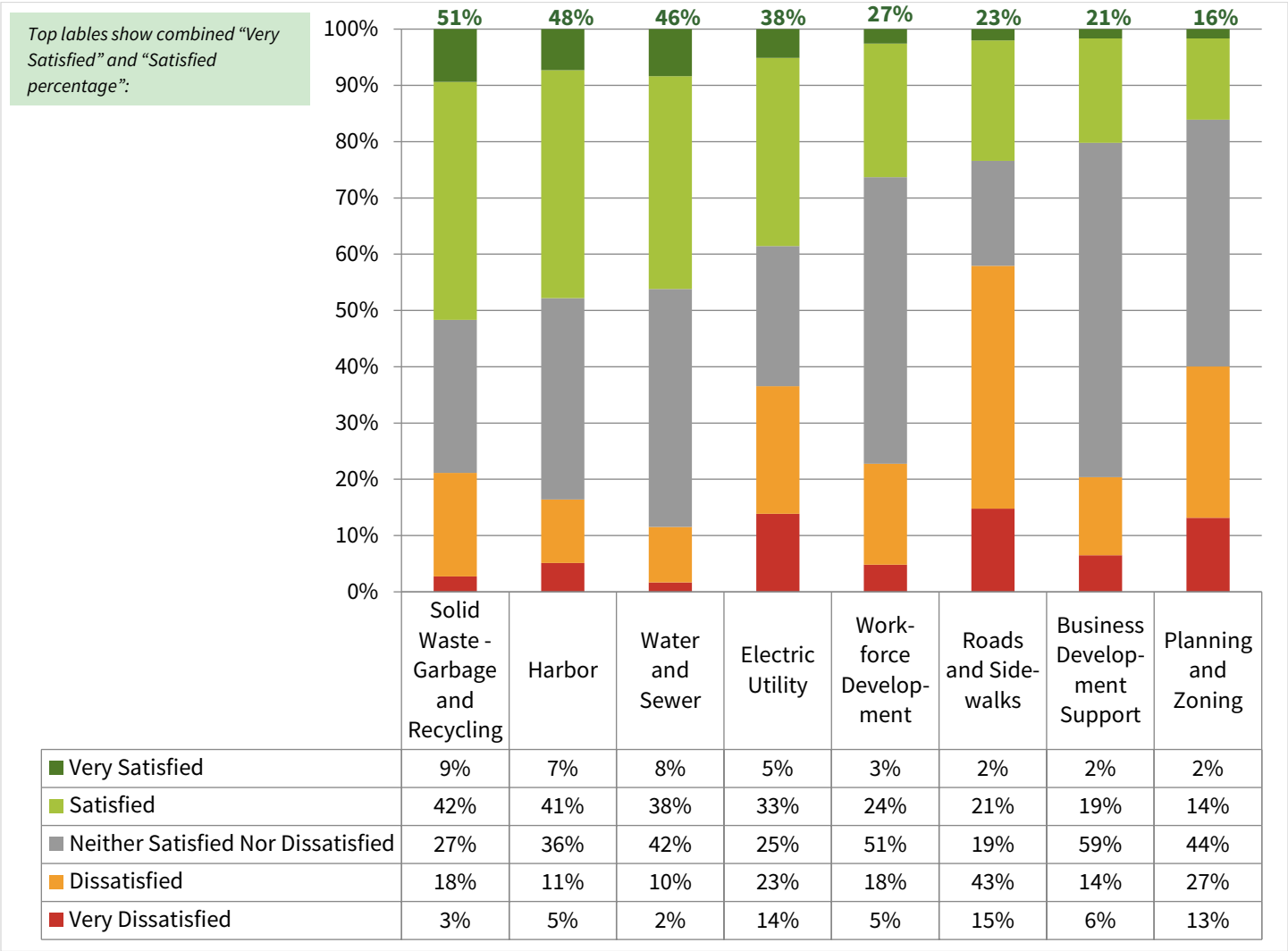
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The HERC needs to be modified into more of a community center space. It would be lovely to see Head Start, WIC, Sprout, OCS and Public Health in one spot and I think this is the perfect place to enhance public, family and community growth.</li> </ul>
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Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):

- Recreational opportunities
- Preventive health resources
- Homelessness
- Substance abuse services

Q9: How satisfied are you with the availability of the following Community & Economic Development programs or services in Homer?

Answered: 551.



Reponses to “In the space below, please share more about those things you are dissatisfied with – this will help us better understand potential needs and priorities. Don’t see a program/service in the list above? Tell us more here.”

Answered: 364. Responses in purple text are from the comment map.

Theme	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
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<b>Electricity Costs and Utility Services:</b> High costs associated with electricity and inconsistent utility services; high cost of water and sewer services; lack of availability for many residents within city limits.	92	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our electric utility is ridiculously expensive</li> <li>• Electricity is expensive...really expensive</li> <li>• The high cost of electricity is an issue</li> <li>• Electric prices continue to climb as there is no competition</li> <li>• Water/sewer should be available to all residents</li> <li>• Our electricity is all solar, because the expense of extending HEA services from the next lot over is prohibitive</li> <li>• Electricity is expensive even when not using a lot</li> <li>• <i>About 1/2 of the water that goes into the Reservoir is ground water and 1/2 is surface water. Homer needs to do more research to understand this dynamic, protect the groundwater discharge slopes from development, and develop a water budget to ascertain how much water can be harvested from the reservoir. This is the true measure of how much development Homer can support.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Sidewalks, Walkability, and Bikeable Areas:</b> Need more sidewalks, better pedestrian and bike infrastructure; improved winter maintenance	77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sidewalks which are available are not cleared in the winter months in a timely manner ever and puts pedestrians at risk frequently and this is very inequitable to those who either choose or must walk</li> <li>• Would like to see more sidewalks and more traffic lights</li> <li>• Bike paths are lacking</li> <li>• I would not consider Homer a very walkable/bikeable community. Connector sidewalks or trails are needed in town and from east hill and west hill</li> <li>• Roads and sidewalks are a huge issue. I know they're a money pit, but as an external observer, I don't see evidence of a lot of comprehensive or strategic planning as related to mitigating issues, but also growing pedestrian and bike-friendly infrastructure</li> <li>• Better sidewalks and crosswalk signals</li> <li>• <i>It would be great to extend the walking trail from the library all the way to Main Street.</i></li> <li>• <i>Can sidewalks and/or bike path be added along Skyline/East Hill. A lot of bikers/walkers. It's dangerous.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Road Conditions and Maintenance:</b> Poor road conditions; potholes; inadequate maintenance	70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The roads are in horrible shape: Kachemak Drive, Skyline Drive just awful</li> <li>• Road maintenance could be much better particularly in winter</li> <li>• Roads need repair and upgrade. East End Road is dangerous between the people speeding, drifting while on the phone or texting and the animals in the road</li> <li>• Potholes on roads are very damaging and not always permanently fixed</li> <li>• Prioritize public tax dollars towards maintaining the existing road system (not expanding it)</li> <li>• <i>This sidewalk [north side Sterling Hwy near Chevron] is in terrible condition in winter. Can it be maintained?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Planning and Zoning:</b> Issues surrounding zoning regulations; new developments; overregulation; inconsistent zoning enforcement; a lack of vision in planning	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Zoning Department needs more staffing and a more balanced approach to development</li> <li>• Planning is too slow. Need to speed up. Way behind the curve</li> <li>• I wish there were more zoning laws outside city limits.</li> <li>• Would like to see more congruence in planning/zoning - esp. in the downtown Pioneer area</li> <li>• Planning needs consistent enforcement and long-term goals - new subdivisions should be required to have sidewalks, for example</li> <li>• <i>This once nicely wooded area [west of Karen Hornaday] is now a horrible eyesore, with cleared brush sitting (burn hazard) and erosion from access to property left undeveloped. Planning and zoning should consider development. This bluff is not stable.</i></li> <li>• <i>Restrictions on development have aided in Pioneer's lack of walkability. There are too many large vacant parking lots and no public parking. Additionally, if property developments weren't required to install or maintain green space on</i></li> </ul>

		<i>their properties there would be more space for commerce. There is enough green space in the surrounding areas to keep our town beautiful. Planning and EDC need to recognize the zoning and codes that are preventing our downtown from reaching its full potential.</i>
<b>Recycling and Solid Waste Management:</b> Recycling efforts; solid waste management practices and services	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Would love to see more recycling communication and maybe the option to recycle MORE. Love the electronics recycle days!</i></li> <li>• <i>The landfill is inadequate in size and scope</i></li> <li>• <i>There should be more public trash bins in the city</i></li> <li>• <i>The dump should be open more often to accommodate people working 9-5pm Mo-Fr.</i></li> <li>• <i>Would love to see more options for trash pickup services</i></li> <li>• <i>Overnight camping should not be allowed where there are no waste disposal options at the Bishops Overlook parking lot, which also needs support and improvement.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Harbor Expansion and Management:</b> Conflicted thoughts about the planned harbor expansion	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Harbor needs some funding, two dilapidated dry docks one of which is now closed, these are things our local working fishermen actually use and use year round</i></li> <li>• <i>Harbor: love the plans for a larger harbor, we need it. Can we pave the parking lots, so the lines aren't spray painted on each summer?</i></li> <li>• <i>Harbor is expensive for locals and keeps going up. We don't need an expensive expansion. Increase fees for non-locals</i></li> <li>• <i>I'm not very educated about the harbor, and whether expansion is a good thing</i></li> <li>• <i>Small sports boats should not be allowed to park in the larger boat area of the harbor. Too many commercial fishermen are blocked out by tiny boats using valuable space on this side.</i></li> <li>• <i>Please continue to pursue the harbor expansion! It is much needed.</i></li> <li>• <i>The annual beach replenishment on the west side of the spit is ridiculous. This comp plan should focus on over slope development in the harbor.</i></li> <li>• <i>There is a lot of space that appears to be underutilized.</i></li> <li>• <i>The harbor should only be expanded to the minimum size absolutely needed, otherwise over the next decades, residents will be stuck with paying massive maintenance bills and dealing with environmental degradation, which will reduce tourism</i></li> <li>• <i>Harbor should only be expanded if the cost-benefit analysis truly warrants it and there is dedicated funding for O &amp; M.</i></li> </ul>

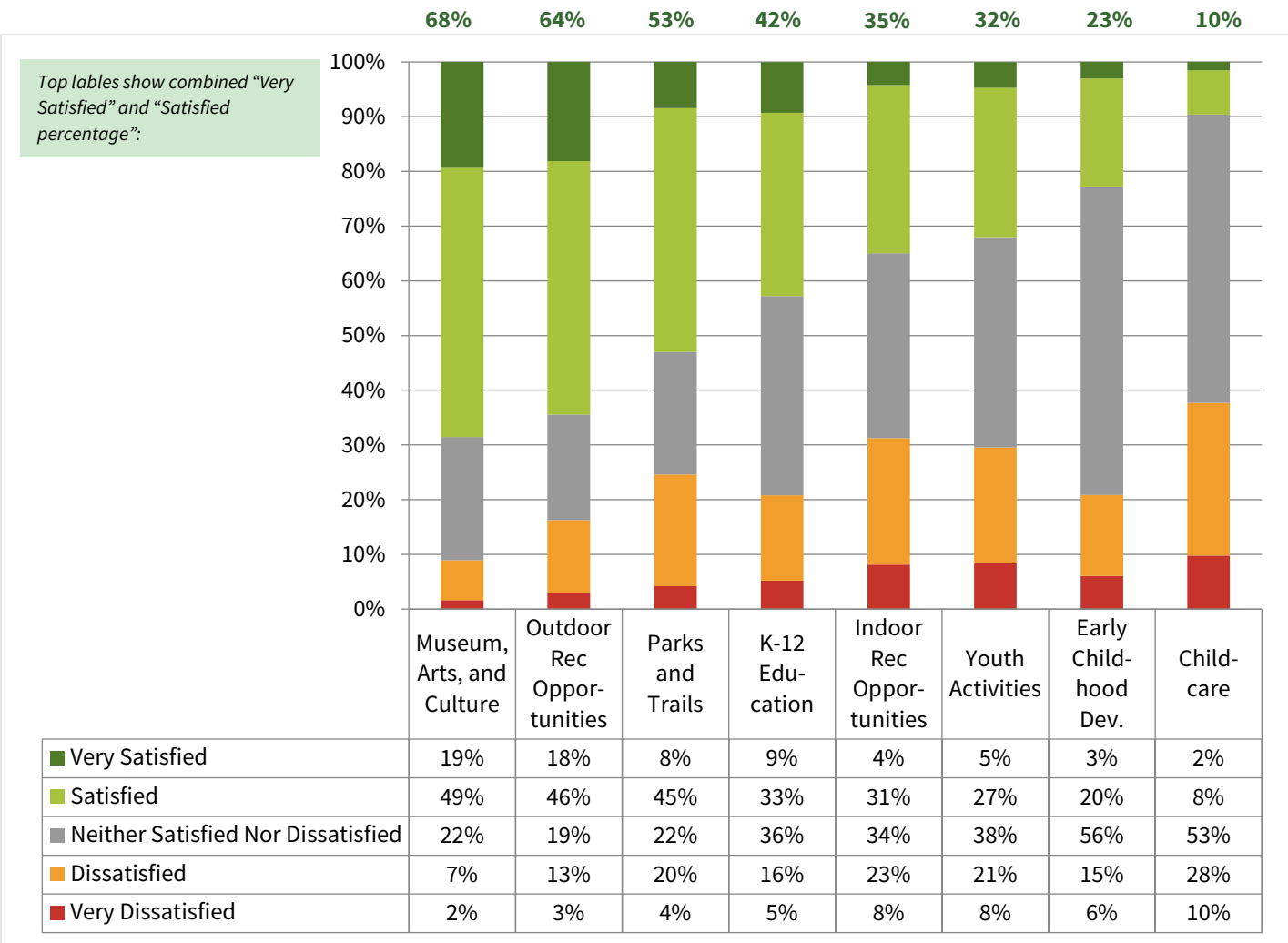
**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- Workforce development and vocational training
- Tourism and business development



Q10: How satisfied are you with the availability of the following Quality of Life programs or services in Homer?

Answered:551.



Reponses to “In the space below, please share more about those things you are dissatisfied with – this will help us better understand potential needs and priorities. Don’t see a program/service in the list above? Tell us more here.”

Answered: 326. Responses in purple text are from the comment map.

Theme	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
<b>Childcare Availability and Affordability:</b> Lack of affordable childcare and the impact on working families	110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We need more childcare options for all, but especially low income families</li><li>It’s almost impossible to find childcare or preschool without waiting on a very long wait list</li><li>More childcare is need for littles we have</li><li>Homer has a serious lack of childcare and early preschool options. Of the options there are, there are some truly wonderful programs... but not enough and also expensive</li><li>Summer childcare availability is very limited and makes it hard for working full time parents in summer</li><li>Homer needs more youth oriented space, activities especially between 3 and 5 pm, especially after school. Places they can go until parents free from work</li><li>I believe childcare is hard to find here and inadequate for the need</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Having a community funded childcare/after school activities for pre-k through 6th grade would increase parents ability to work until kids are old enough to be left unattended after school</i></li> <li>• <i>Licensed childcare spots need to be available for families so they can receive financial support. Childcare that meets the needs of young children with a variety of behavioral needs is important</i></li> <li>• <i>Childcare workers need better wages</i></li> <li>• <i>Preschool and daycare options are VERY limited and only for those with financial security. Not helpful for healthy families or stimulating local economy</i></li> </ul>
<b>Public Transportation, sidewalks, trails, and parks:</b> Better sidewalk infrastructure; more bike paths and trails; improved public transportation options to enhance walkability	154	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Parks and trails-can always use development of more trails</i></li> <li>• <i>I'd love to see the city develop more parks and trails, to allow access to the outdoors for both residents and visitors. We have some, but not too many on this side of the bay (and it's really pricey to get across!), and a lot of our trails seem vulnerable to landowners trying to block easement access</i></li> <li>• <i>City Parks need improvements</i></li> <li>• <i>More bike paths, especially along Kachemak Drive.</i></li> <li>• <i>There could be better maintenance of the current parks, not to mention more park development especially in the vacant lots in town. Put in walking parks like in Kenai. But also, bathrooms at the park next to McDonald's and Karen Hornaday, not just porta-potties</i></li> <li>• <i>The community needs a comprehensive trail system (not just the Spit Trail) to encourage a more pedestrian in-town, user-friendly atmosphere Could use improved indoor rec opportunities</i></li> <li>• <i>I'd like to see more trails, more affordable indoor and outdoor exercise opportunities for elders</i></li> <li>• <i>Lack of a community-member user friendly aquatic and indoor exercise / recreational facility (such as Bay Club)</i></li> <li>• <i>Homer needs a community center</i></li> <li>• <i>There are plenty of lower-income households out here whose jobs, errands, and activities rely on transportation into Homer. How can we get safe, reliable public transportation from out here into town?</i></li> <li>• <i>If the new road was built, a bike path should be included. This would connect the Spit with East End paths, and those on Ocean Dr.</i></li> <li>• <i>Ocean drive needs a sidewalk/bike lane.</i></li> <li>• <i>The bike path becomes a sidewalk without any notice here [intersection of E Hill Rd and East End Rd]. A safe lane for cyclists on the road or a better shoulder would be great. This area also notoriously has a lot of sand in the shoulder and is dangerous for cyclists. More road sweeping is needed!</i></li> <li>• <i>Kachemak Drive should have a bike path which connects directly to the bike paths on the spit and east end road</i></li> <li>• <i>It would enhance the quality of living to have more trails on this side [west] of the bay. Is it possible for the city to develop the old Bob Gordon Road up above Karen Hornaday Park, to a destination bench or picnic table, then back down again? Accessed up and back from Hornaday Park. The old road provides a good start.</i></li> <li>• <i>This parcel [south of Cook Inletkeeper] should be acquired by city, with trails connected to the Kachemak Bay Conservation Center/Cook Inletkeeper office. As in-filling occurs, this parcel becomes even more important to retain open space and trails. The city also has an obligation from acquisition of the adjacent parcel from Tony Neal to make Beluga Lake amenable for ice skating in winter.</i></li> <li>• <i>Add a public trail to connect Mission Rd to Streamhill park trail system. This would give many East Hill residents a safer route to access East End Rd and in-town services.</i></li> <li>• <i>We still have a lot of work to do to make our trails ADA compliant. Not just trails! but in town locations, parking lot to business accesses etc. I hope the Beluga slough trail will finally get completed so the gravel path (out the picnic table in</i></li> </ul>

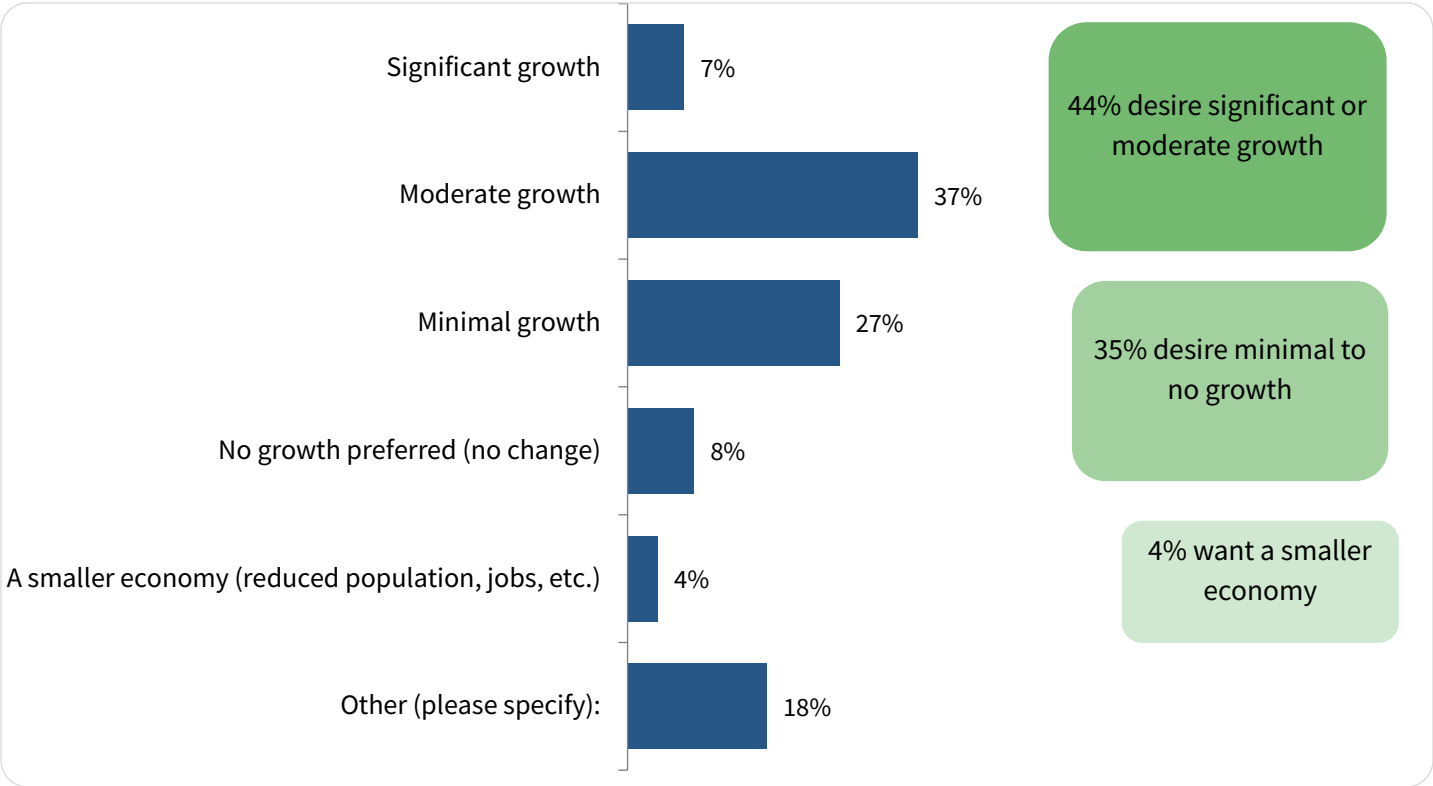
		<p><i>the slough) will be wheelchair and walker friendly. That would make that whole loop usable.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• 'Homer Shares the Road' information at the Visitor Center would be VERY helpful.</i></li> </ul>
<b>K-12 Education and School Funding:</b> Declining school funding; teacher retention	80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Our schools are great, but lack stable funding from the state which makes for a challenging environment</i></li> <li><i>• Childcare and K-12 education is inadequately funded and, therefore, we are unable to attract and retain educators and related professionals.</i></li> <li><i>• K-12 services need more financial and institutional support. Teachers are underpaid and the quality of instruction is therefore poor, but even more importantly, classroom services aren't equipped for the personal problems of Homer students</i></li> <li><i>• We are failing our youth with lack of advocacy for education, K-12 as well as Early ed/daycare. Teachers are leaving and class sizes are increasing, leading to less support in the classroom</i></li> <li><i>• Seriously, if there is only one thing important in this community, it is to INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN! We want a healthy, smart, social, and proud community, and that starts and ends with providing the youth the ability to become this</i></li> </ul>
<b>Youth Activities and Spaces:</b> More activities and spaces for youth and teenagers, especially indoor recreation options during the winter	85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• More activities/programs for school aged kids is needed</i></li> <li><i>• Indoor play area for toddler young kids in the winter</i></li> <li><i>• Children need more opportunities for indoor recreation in the winter</i></li> <li><i>• Youth Activities: thank goodness for the SPARC, but we need more!</i></li> <li><i>• Many other cities in the peninsula help fund youth activities and buildings that house those things. Kenai and Soldotna have affordable youth hockey programs funded through their city. They also have affordable soccer programs and facilities as well. All with nice buildings taken care of by our city. More kids could have access to this awesome opportunity if it was more affordable</i></li> <li><i>• Youth activities: we do not have enough. Growing up here I struggled to find things to do outside of school. Herds of children end up at the library to play on computers. We used to have the Boys &amp; Girls Club but that is no longer.</i></li> <li><i>• The city set aside money to improve [Bayview Park] 3 years ago and it is still sitting empty. This is an important recreation access place for neighborhood kids and pets.</i></li> <li><i>• The Pratt Museum has inspired community engagement for decades, while ensuring Homer's history is collected and preserved for future generations. Homer's people are our greatest asset. Support for organizations like the Pratt and other nonprofits is essential for growing future leaders who can realize many of the goals of this project.</i></li> <li><i>• Something needs to happen with [the HERC lot]. Either renovate or raze. It could be a great center for community rec and after school programs for middle school and/intermediate elementary because of its location, but it is underutilized now.</i></li> </ul>

**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- More funding and support for arts and cultural organizations
- Support for City Parks Department and staff

# Q11: What is your preference for community/economic growth in Homer (increased population, jobs, specific industries expanding, etc.)?

Answered: 548.



## Reponses to “Other (please specify).”

Answered: 146 – “#of mentions” may total more than 146 because of multiple comments or topics mentioned by a single respondent. Responses in purple text are from the comment map.

Responses to “Other (Please Specify)”	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
<b>Sustainable and Controlled Growth:</b> Focus on planning that considers environmental impact; infrastructure capacity; preservation of Homer’s character	67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable, with respect for natural setting</li> <li>Rational, measured, sustainable growth</li> <li>Growth however it may be, but we need to plan for what is likely to be coming. Not always reacting after it's a crisis</li> <li>Growth that reflects community values and benefits the local economy--not growth for growth's sake. Keep local input central</li> <li>Sustainable, minimal growth that prioritizes year-round residents</li> <li>Carefully crafted growth</li> <li>I don't think you can hold back growth but a thoughtful vision on how to accommodate it is in the best interest of the community</li> <li>I would like growth with mindfulness.</li> </ul>
<b>Minimal to Moderate Growth:</b> Limited growth, suggesting that Homer should maintain its small-town feel and avoid overexpansion or overdevelopment	54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed minimal growth--control water distribution</li> <li>Minimal growth with planning, please!</li> <li>Planned incremental slow growth with long term vision</li> <li>Controlled growth that brings in revenue and promotes physical growth</li> <li>I would like to see moderate growth so long as adverse impacts of such growth are mitigated. For example, do not bring in big cruise ships if we don't have the infrastructure to support them</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Slow, moderate growth that focuses on year-round residents, recreation, "working" people (i.e. fisherman, marine trades), and avoids catering to large corporations, second homeowners, and cruise ship-tourism</i></li> </ul>
<b>Economic Opportunities and Local Business Growth:</b> Growth that supports local businesses and creates more job opportunities, particularly in year-round industries such as marine trades and small businesses	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The new port construction will add to the economic growth. More family sustaining, year-round jobs will pay into the tax rolls and help the things happen</i></li> <li>• <i>Growth of young people with very small businesses pursuing their passions</i></li> <li>• <i>I would like to see the opportunity for local people to establish businesses here</i></li> <li>• <i>Increase the number of businesses in the community from within</i></li> <li>• <i>No growth of population or oil and gas industries</i></li> <li>• <i>Prioritize preservation of environment and commercial fishing, and smaller businesses</i></li> <li>• <i>Significant growth in the fishing and tourism sectors, and the creation of a remote service economy</i></li> <li>• <i>Doyon Hotel: It was a mistake to not allow Doyon to build the hotel. That project would have been used by hundreds of Birders to the pictures, walk the greatly expanded walking path/observation area, and provide jobs for many young people - which is greatly needed.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Zoning and Planning for Future Growth:</b> Improved zoning, infrastructure planning; development strategies that accommodate growth without compromising Homer's natural beauty or livability	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Until the City can support growth with good infrastructure of facilities, roads, etc., limit growth plans</i></li> <li>• <i>Planned growth. I want brave leadership that embraces complex challenges of community sustainability through systemic solutions.</i></li> <li>• <i>Strict zoning imperative</i></li> <li>• <i>Any kind of growth, whether rampant or minimal, without zoning is very hard on the environment and the people who already live here. There seems to be a mentality that if someone owns a piece of land they can do whatever they want to with it regardless of how it impacts others in the immediate vicinity or community</i></li> <li>• <i>You cannot stop the growth in Homer but you could try to enhance it with better planning and less regulations on size of lots and homes</i></li> <li>• <i>Create a Professional Corridor along East End Road to allow for services like dental, optometry, legal, and other similar often-used services. This can be combined with residential. All of these buildings should have high architectural standards resembling residential appearances.</i></li> <li>• <i>How is a one-acre lot at 1308 Lakeshore Drive allowed to contain an air taxi service, restaurant, RV site, 6 rental cabins, an event center and 2 suites with inadequate parking so vehicles crowd Lakeshore Drive?</i></li> <li>• <i>Some of this area [Highland Drive near Jade Drive] is served with City water/sewer. This expensive infrastructure should be leveraged by upzoning to allow more dense residential development.</i></li> <li>• <i>There are times when development in Kachemak City adversely affects property in the Homer City Limits. Also, Homer's sewer lines serve parts of Kachemak City. There needs to be better coordination between the cities to manage these issues most effectively.</i></li> <li>• <i>[Homer FAA Site Subdivision lot] is one example of a property that would make sense for in-fill development, there are several others. As we consider whether to incentivize in-fill development, we should first evaluate wildlife travel corridors to preserve natural pathways that moose (and other animals) already consistently use.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Balancing Tourism and Local Priorities:</b> Concerns about tourism, particularly	35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Support tourism and growth in the community</i></li> <li>• <i>Tourism that prioritizes local businesses, local owners, and is definitively NOT cruise or tour company related</i></li> <li>• <i>Cap on tourism. It's ruining the town for locals</i></li> <li>• <i>Local economy growth, less focus on tourism</i></li> </ul>



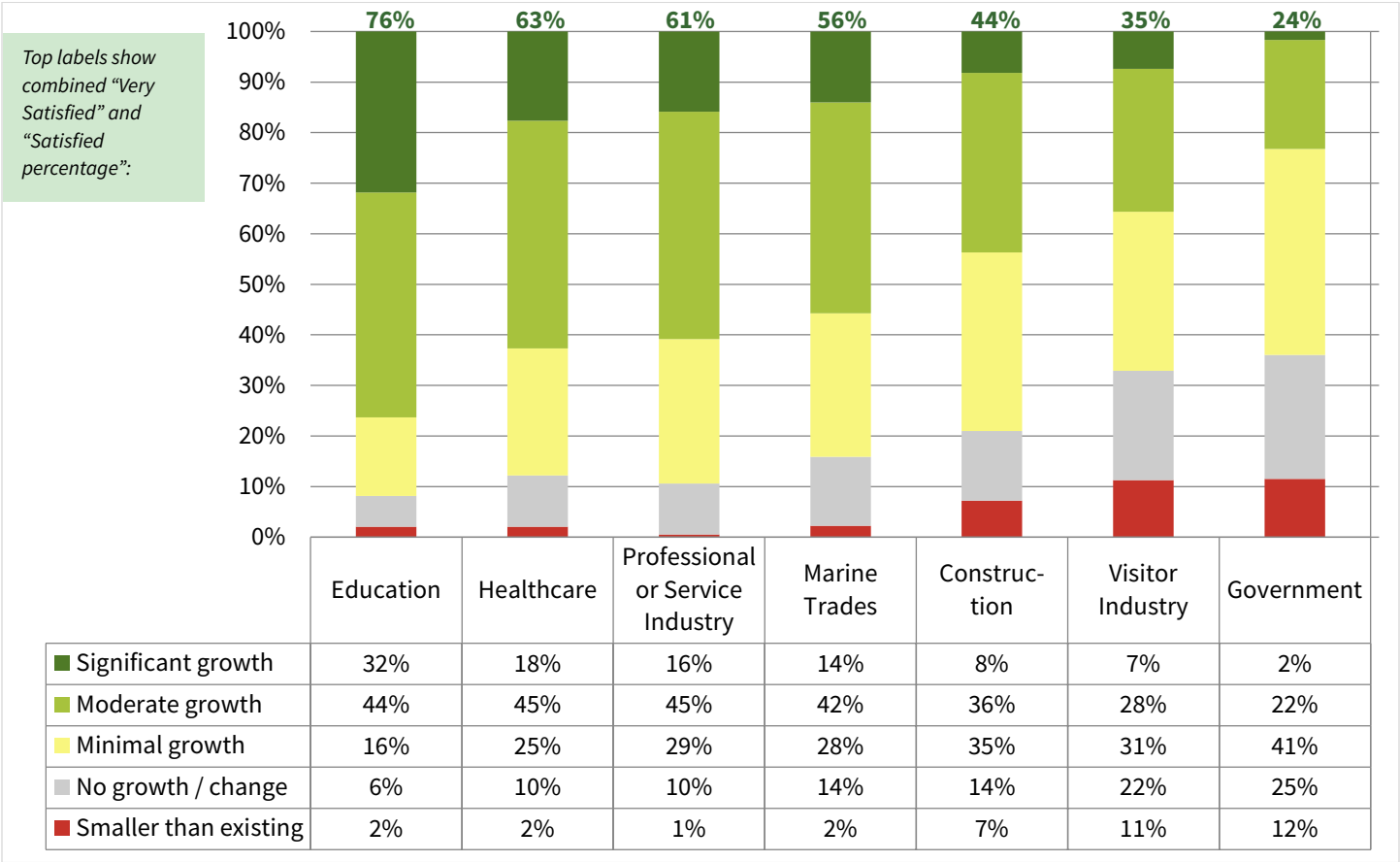
large-scale cruise ship tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>STOP all public money from marketing Homer and the Kenai Peninsula as a tourist destination, retirement haven or a great place for remote workers to live. Stop promoting growth incompatible with an economy that benefits year-round local people. Instead, I would like to see a core economic foundation in marine trades, education (particularly trade schools and an expanded residential college) as well as nonprofits, government entities such as NOAA and other scientific agencies, as well as environmental and cultural institutions</i></li> <li>• <i>Carefully crafted growth. Not cruise ships but making Homer a must-see destination</i></li> <li>• <i>Tourism is an opportunity to capture revenues from outside the Kenai Peninsula Borough rather than just moving money around within the Borough's distinctly different source of revenue. I hope the Comprehensive Planning Process will provide better economic development/revenue/tax revenue information alongside the 'gotta have' and 'like to have' improvements or land use options in a transparent, understandable fashion that will facilitate a meaningful conversation on how we can shape our community going forward.</i></li> </ul>
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Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):

- Housing affordability and infrastructure
- Environmental and community preservation
- Market-driven growth vs planned growth
- Wealth inequity and outside investment

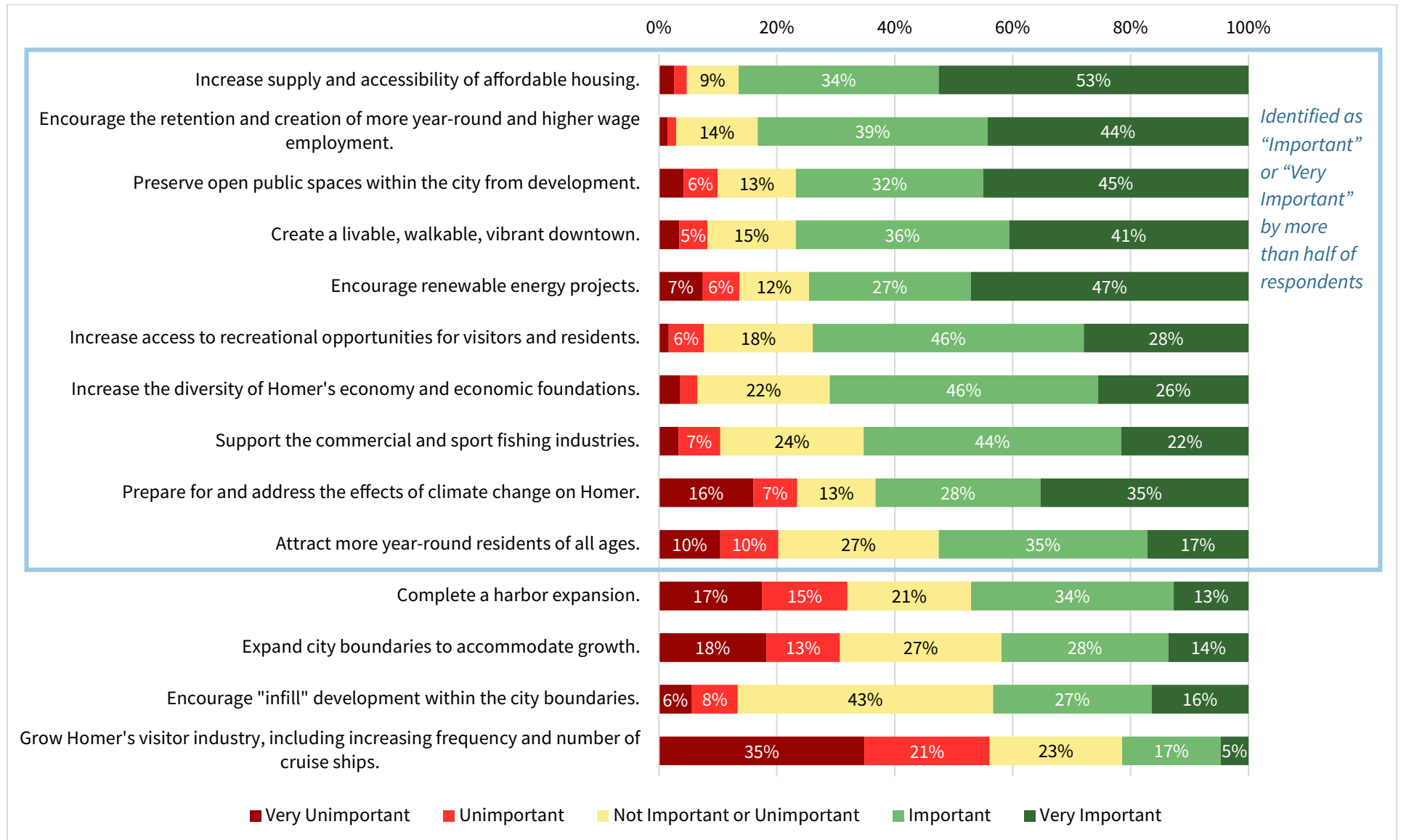
Q12: Please indicate your preferred level of growth for the following key economic sectors:

Answered: 544.



**Q13: Listed below are potential priorities for the greater Homer community to focus on for the next 10-20 years. For each potential priority, please indicate level of importance.**

Answered: 551.



## Reponses to “Other (please specify).”

Answered: 114 – “#of mentions” may total more than 114 because of multiple comments or topics mentioned by a single respondent. Responses in purple text are from the comment map.

Responses to “Other (Please Specify)”	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
<b>Concerns About Unchecked Growth and Over-Tourism</b>	92	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned about further harbor expansion, but it could be improved instead!</li> <li>I think the harbor should be limited for recreational/private use and have more space for the fishing industry and other industry boats</li> <li>Homer needs to stay unique - please do not invite cruise ships here!</li> <li>I have no problem with growing the visitor industry, but I do not support larger cruise ships. We do not have the infrastructure to handle them</li> <li>The harbor expansion is a mistake. Cruises would be a disaster for quality of life. We need to prioritize year-round residents, especially young people and new families -- development is unaffordable to people who live here and who are not older with incredible wealth</li> <li>No more cruise ships. We have plenty of tourists that actually spend money without them.</li> <li>Limiting the spit to commercial, art, tourism etc. is thought provoking and worth more discussion. I'm not sure it's a bad thing to have crew housing or even offices- especially if they are related to fishing/maritime/tourism businesses.</li> </ul>
<b>Balancing Development and Growth with Green Space Preservation, Sustainability, and Maintaining character of Homer</b>	73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage infill if preservation open public spaces protection within city is encouraged--even purchasing/trading for sensitive lands</li> <li>Improve what we have, in place. Preserve any low elevation well drained agricultural land if left. maintain wildlife corridors!</li> <li>Emphasize infill development, however, do it in a thoughtful way that facilitates moose travel from the hillside, through town, to the water's edge. (Establish moose travel corridors)</li> <li>Encourage infill but preserving green space is important as well, there's a balance</li> <li>One of Homer's attractions as a place to live is its relatively small size. I would like to see its growth slow down before it loses its small town quality of life</li> <li>I'd like to see this lot [south of Charles Way] acquired for Bishop's Beach Park expansion or otherwise protected from development for wildlife and stormwater management.</li> <li>Large buildings for overnight guests should be prioritized to be in town and not where they can degrade and block the views and small town feel of the spit, and significantly contribute to already bad traffic. This is no place for a major development.</li> <li>The development of housing in this area of lower West Hill has negative impacts on the seasonal movement patterns of wildlife, specifically moose, who would use this area for early season browsing, calving and grazing. The importance of integrating and prioritizing wildlife corridors in current and future zoning of private/public lands is essential for optimizing wildlife health while reducing wildlife/human conflict issues not only in this location but throughout the Homer area.</li> <li>If [the Spit] is developed with more housing and business, how exactly will they safely and quickly evacuate from a tsunami?</li> </ul>
<b>Need for Housing Solutions</b>	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerned about gentrification and cost, increasing rental prices and more exclusive housing, out placing low income families</li> <li>I'm wary of the impacts (on the housing market) of encouraging people to buy/build largely uninhabited 2nd homes/ summer homes</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There's a large portion of land available and for sale. It's just priced in the ridiculously high range</i></li> <li>• <i>More compact density housing on a city lot (possibly 3-5 structures on a lot</i></li> <li>• <i>Incentivize new affordable housing with tax, and permitting breaks, disallowing only those units that used incentive programs from being short term rentals</i></li> <li>• <i>Expand employee housing so spit workers do not need to bring cars every day or have out of the way place to park. Also helps local businesses retain workers.</i></li> </ul>
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**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- Unsure what “infill” means
- Support for local businesses and economic diversification
- Environmental concerns regarding development
- Infrastructure and public services adapting
- Economic equity and fair taxation

## Q14: What is the single most important project we can do as a community over the next 10 – 20 years?

Answered: 482 - “#of mentions” may total more than 114 because of multiple comments or topics mentioned by a single respondent. Responses in purple text are from the comment map.

Projects	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
<b>Downtown Revitalization and Walkability Improvements:</b> Projects aimed at improving downtown Homer’s walkability; beautifying the area; making downtown more vibrant and pedestrian friendly	92	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A walkable/accessible downtown: Creating and improving existing parts of the environment that allows our kids to walk from their schools to positive recreational activities in town. Making a welcoming downtown for our youth will create a pleasant place overall. Places we can exist as a community without the necessity to spend money</i></li> <li>• <i>Develop the Homer city center. Make Homer more than a retirement community</i></li> <li>• <i>Making downtown more vibrant, walkable and attractive. It is not attractive now. It’s a deterrent to visitors, especially year-round visitors</i></li> <li>• <i>Continue to look at walkability and connectivity, planning to preserve green space to that end and allow denser housing options</i></li> <li>• <i>Town Center</i></li> <li>• <i>Enhance the downtown including making it a walkable city and improving the grocery store situation.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Waddell lot (across from McDonald’s) has long been an eye-sore for locals. With such a central location, how can we turn this into a public park - showing how much Homer values greenspaces and community? And right by the Police Station and shopping!</i></li> <li>• <i>The Farmers Market needs a different location with more parking to accommodate current and future needs.</i></li> <li>• <i>Almost all of the downtown pioneer gardens are poorly maintained and overrun with weeds. Some shopkeepers are under the impression it is the city's duty to maintain them, and whether the city spent thousands of dollars or private owners spent thousands of dollars to create these gardens, it is a big waste for these areas to be let go and overrun with weeds.</i></li> <li>• <i>Create a safer and more scenic way for those on bike or foot to connect from east end path to the spit trail and city center. Perhaps through creating a path from Calvin Coyle to Pennock or across the head of Beluga Lake to the airport road.</i></li> <li>• <i>Our downtown area could use more green spaces/parks for folks to spend time in. Could we use some of our existing green spaces/undeveloped spaces for this purpose?</i></li> <li>• <i>The city needs a plan for the lot it owns [south of Don Jose’s]. If the City can't do anything productive with it, the city should put it back in private hands.</i></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The City needs a new plan for this Town Center property. It is going to waste!</i></li> </ul>
<b>Road, Transportation, and Infrastructure Improvements:</b> Improve roads, sidewalks, and bike trails; expand utilities; upgrade infrastructure to support the town's growth	85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fix roads</i></li> <li>• <i>Support our infrastructure. Our water and sewer facilities are at capacity, and we keep building new things with little thought to how we will maintain them</i></li> <li>• <i>Improve the roads and side streets</i></li> <li>• <i>Safe roads, sidewalks, and bike paths</i></li> <li>• <i>Build a Truck Route - FAA Rd to Turnview</i></li> <li>• <i>Make sure infrastructure keeps up with growth</i></li> <li>• <i>Expand city boundaries and services, repair roads, and sidewalk</i></li> <li>• <i>Invest in the infrastructure of this community, improving roads, improving parks</i></li> <li>• <i>Add more sidewalks to well-traveled area</i></li> <li>• <i>Decrease cost of power</i></li> <li>• <i>Expand utilities to those near town who don't have them</i></li> <li>• <i>I love the recent change to the campground. The disc golfers act as stewards to the area being encampment free and support the recreational area. More connecting trails would be very cool!</i></li> <li>• <i>The bike trail into town is really falling apart and difficult to ride a bike on. I live in Streamhill Park and would like to commute to the grocery store, but the sidewalk/bike trail is very difficult to ride on.</i></li> <li>• <i>Improve downhill mountain bike trails [near Tulin Ocean View Drive] and make this a destination to ride.</i></li> <li>• <i>[Kachemak Way corner near Nordic Living] is an incredible dangerous corner and hill with very little pedestrian infrastructure. The road is also degrading.</i></li> <li>• <i>It would be amazing to extend the bike path out further east, where the views from East End Road are breathtaking. Currently the road is too dangerous to bike on after the bike trail ends.</i></li> <li>• <i>A bike path on Kachemak Drive would be so great! Right now, it is dangerous to ride a bike on this road.</i></li> <li>• <i>A bike path or at least an expanded shoulder should be added to the East Hill Road. Many bikes and pedestrians use the road.</i></li> <li>• <i>Access road to the baseball fields is in terrible condition. The road receives a band-aid repair every spring; yet the road condition gets worse every year. Please implement a permanent fix.</i></li> <li>• <i>Can a guard rail be added along any cliff side exposed road on skyline? Winter driving along this road is terrifying in sections.</i></li> <li>• <i>When Eric Lane/West Fairview get paved, there will need to be traffic calming at base of Reber Trail.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Affordable Housing Development:</b> Increase affordable housing, including options for year-round residents, seasonal workers, and young families; regulate short-term rentals	77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Establish ways to makes services and housing more affordable</i></li> <li>• <i>Affordable and safe housing for seasonal employees to support summer visitor influx, safe and affordable housing for our lowest income and most vulnerable residents</i></li> <li>• <i>Provide affordable housing and childcare for young families just starting out</i></li> <li>• <i>Housing affordable for young and senior</i></li> <li>• <i>Improving housing options for first time homebuyers</i></li> <li>• <i>Make a concerted effort to lower the number of short-term rentals, build affordable housing</i></li> </ul>
<b>Harbor Expansion:</b> Support the harbor expansion and marine industry	48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The port project has the best long-range possibilities</i></li> <li>• <i>The Deep Water Port</i></li> <li>• <i>Complete the Harbor Expansion</i></li> <li>• <i>Humbly expand the harbor</i></li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the large vessel harbor expansion. If we support growth in the industry that supports our economy we'll grow a sustainable future for Homer and the outlying communities that rely on the Homer connection..</li> <li>• Harbor expansion and cruise ships/ cargo ships. We used to get a lot in Homer and I think it would impact us a lot and encourage growth of the community</li> <li>• The harbor expansion and developing a diverse maritime support industry (cargo, fleet maintenance, and processing of fish)</li> <li>• Expand the harbor, incentivizing cruise ships and a broadened marine economy.</li> <li>• Would be nice to see the harbor expansion actually happen. There shouldn't be a multiyear waitlist to get a slip.</li> <li>• Harbor electrification must be a priority in the comp plan. The Blue Economy is taking off and the future of maritime operations will be clean and electric energy.</li> <li>• Petro Marine only opens the fuel dock a few weeks a year. It's some of the most valuable property in the entire harbor. It could be a water taxi hub and would push water taxi parking to backside of harbor.</li> <li>• The public restrooms on the spit are regularly disgusting and out of toilet paper or soap. We should make sure we're making every effort to keep our town a nice place for our locals and visitors alike.</li> <li>• Let's keep the Spit a working waterfront by supporting the commercial fishing industry as well as charter operators and recreational boaters. Economic diversity is key to resilience of a small town and commercial fishermen need to feel valued.</li> <li>• From a planner's perspective, Homer Spit should consider the recreational and hospitality corridor that it is. Some buildings are being converted into offices and housing for crews. This leads to a less vibrant merchant/arts/food corridor.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth and Family Support Facilities:</b> Build parks and youth centers; improve schools and childcare	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give youth access to activities and earnings so that they stay out of drugs</li> <li>• Provide childcare and construct more elder services</li> <li>• Ensure the quality and sustainability of our schools and childcare programs. Everything starts from the ground up and families follow good educational opportunities</li> <li>• Send Homer High graduates to post-secondary training</li> <li>• Support for children and families. Safety for women and children</li> <li>• Investment in improving childcare and K-12 education. Address funding education from the local to state level via Municipal League, election of representatives and city council advocacy</li> <li>• Indoor playground for kids and toddlers</li> <li>• Little Fireweed needs to expand, how is the city going to support education with limited access to land and buildings?</li> </ul>
<b>Community Recreation &amp; Activities:</b> Community facilities, including sports, fitness and event spaces	45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicate a parks and recreation department</li> <li>• Build a multipurpose recreational center. Allow for expansion of recreational complex. Allow for after school programs</li> <li>• Develop the Town Center with facilities. Eg: recreation center, fire hall, small hotel with conference center</li> <li>• Community center, fix Karen Hornaday</li> <li>• Create a centralized community space that serves all the community. Not just pickleball for all the retired community</li> <li>• Community center</li> <li>• Off-street parking (N side of road) for access to Lambert Lake</li> <li>• [Homer FAA Site Subdivision] would be the perfect venue for the performing and mixed arts facility that Homer has needed for the last 30+ years</li> <li>• City of Homer has a large parcel [west of Highland Drive] that is slated for recreational purposes, yet COH isn't doing anything to move that use forward.</li> <li>• Adding a pool modeled after the pool in Nikiski that could be open year-round would be amazing. Aquatic rehab, swim recreation, lessons, etc.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Homer needs an arcade/bowling alley/roller-skating rink for all ages healthy fun and maybe prevent the burning down of old structures.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Diamond Creek Recreation Area Resource Management Plan which was adopted by COH in 2013 and never acted upon, needs to be part of the new comprehensive plan.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Conservation and Green Space Protection:</b> Protect green spaces and wildlife habitats; ensure responsible development	44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Preserve the remaining wilderness access we have and not allow developments to ruin areas with little thought to such things as drainage</i></li> <li>• <i>Protect wildlife habitat, and plan maintainable community infrastructure for a future of climate uncertainty</i></li> <li>• <i>Preserve our natural spaces. Keep some areas free from residential development</i></li> <li>• <i>Radically reimagine the tapestry of our community with an emphasis on less parking lots, less car-oriented neighborhoods, more walkable spaces, public spaces, public transportation. More small business areas, and alternative housing like ADUs and trailer / tiny home parks</i></li> <li>• <i>Develop plans and code that encourage moderate, sustainable growth that powers a diverse and vibrant economy in town and makes it easy to steward the natural beauty and resources OUTSIDE of the City Limits</i></li> <li>• <i>Stop the erosion of the Spit and the bluff around Kachemak Drive. In tandem, develop these areas further to prevent future erosion. It is a very big issue that very little seems to be being done about</i></li> <li>• <i>[South of Robert Avenue] would make a great spot for a green infrastructure project, thereby mitigating drainage issues from multiple neighborhoods as well as protecting the bluff and the Sterling Hwy.</i></li> <li>• <i>The city should not allow the installation of City -owned water/sewer mains in areas of known geologic hazard.</i></li> <li>• <i>[West of Sanjay Ct; south of Elderberry Drive] is a very environmentally vulnerable section of wildlife habitat. Increased housing and property development in the above neighborhood and cutting of old growth trees is increasing erosion and trail degradation. This is also an essential trail for fireweed and Homer HS youth. The trail must be maintained, and wildlife habitat preserved.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Climate Change Preparedness and Renewable Energy Initiatives:</b> Projects that focus on renewable energy, sustainability, and infrastructure improvements to prepare for climate change	42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Make our community fully sustainable</i></li> <li>• <i>Prepare for climate change</i></li> <li>• <i>Prepare for climate changes including major changes in marine environment and the fisheries it supports as well as local food security</i></li> <li>• <i>Focus on resiliency for climate change</i></li> <li>• <i>We need to make considerations about how we are going to get our energy in 10-20 years and adjust for climate change. Invest in ways to minimize our energy demand and alternative methods of harnessing our energy</i></li> <li>• <i>The city should update its climate adaption plan and coordinate with other organizations that are drafting similar climate adaption plans or Water Resource Management Plans for the K-Bay Watershed.</i></li> </ul>

**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- Reform government; reduce taxes and regulations
- Expand medical services in Homer

## Q15: Twenty years from now, what does your ideal Homer look like?

Answered: 464 - “# of mentions” may total more than 114 because of multiple comments or topics mentioned by a single respondent.

Themes	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
<b>Preserving Small-Town Character and Charm</b>	382	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Just like how it is now. But more food options and able to afford houses</i></li> <li>• <i>A thriving community of no more than 30,000 people, a vibrant downtown with year-round bustle,</i></li> <li>• <i>A small quaint town</i></li> <li>• <i>Thriving community</i></li> <li>• <i>A safe place for my children to grow up in</i></li> <li>• <i>I moved to Homer for the small town feel. I would hate for us to lose that by growing larger</i></li> <li>• <i>A small city feel and community- please don't encourage lots of growth that can't be sustained in the long run - look forward, not immediate</i></li> <li>• <i>Nice downtown. Walkable and bikeable. Much more pedestrian connectivity and awareness. A vibrant, diverse community</i></li> <li>• <i>A small tourist town that supports the beauty of the town in a clean and friendly environment</i></li> <li>• <i>It doesn't become overgrown</i></li> <li>• <i>Still very community based, about the same population, with a welcoming feel</i></li> </ul>
<b>Affordable Housing and Reasonable Cost of Living</b>	162	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Affordable higher density housing in town</i></li> <li>• <i>More jobs, more housing. Supporting the locals not just the tourists</i></li> <li>• <i>A thriving community with a happy population that can afford to live and have fun in our beautiful city</i></li> <li>• <i>Young families move to town and stay in town because there are good jobs and cost of living is affordable</i></li> <li>• <i>Hopefully we've found a better way to house and care for the residents, especially seniors</i></li> <li>• <i>Services are more available and affordable for those who actively live here year round</i></li> <li>• <i>Reasonable cost of living</i></li> <li>• <i>Where people are making a livable wage, have access to healthy food options, housing resources are available</i></li> <li>• <i>Housing for the workforce to live year-round and opportunity for all to affordably live</i></li> </ul>
<b>Walkable and Vibrant Downtown</b>	144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bike paths walking trails and a walking friendly downtown</i></li> <li>• <i>Walking/biking paths throughout town, and out to Fritz Creek &amp; Anchor Point. Safe bike path on the North Fork Road, and Old Sterling. No more trendy bandwagon events</i></li> <li>• <i>Denser and multipurpose development downtown, highly walkable</i></li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Preservation and Conservation</b>	131	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>About the same size with little damage to our natural resources. I hope it looks a lot like it does now</i></li> <li>• <i>Increasing development will damage our ecosystems and quiet way of life</i></li> <li>• <i>More green spaces, more indoor well-lit community spaces for the winter</i></li> <li>• <i>There's a focus on the community health and sustainability over tourism</i></li> <li>• <i>Marine habitat and resources monitored for sustainability</i></li> </ul>
<b>Economic Diversity and Year-Round Jobs</b>	120	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Good paying private sector employment, great fishing opportunity, vibrant economy not dependent on government or nonprofits</i></li> <li>• <i>Thriving year-round businesses and employment opportunities</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community that has grown and developed to be able to support families living here without the stress of parents having to leave to earn a living</li> <li>• Thriving businesses makes for Thriving community</li> <li>• Homer would have a vibrant downtown area that is open year-round with various businesses that cater to all ages and interests</li> <li>• A thriving healthy economy with steady growth</li> </ul>
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**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- Community cohesion and inclusivity
- Improved infrastructure and public services
- Support for arts and culture
- Resisting over-tourism and cruise ship influx

**Q16: What leaders or organizations do you look to for guidance about Homer’s future?**

Answered: 378.

The following word cloud shows combined responses to this question; the size of the word indicates the frequency of mention. For a broad breakdown of responses by category, see the table below.



Group	# of mentions	Themes
Local Government	150	Respondents mention city council, the mayor, planning commission, and other government entities.
Non-profits and Environmental Organizations	180	Respondents mentioned local non-profits and environmental organizations like the Homer Foundation, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Cook Inletkeeper, MAPP, Homer Drawdown, Homer Trails Alliance, and various arts organizations like Bunnell Street Arts Center and Homer Council on the Arts.
Local Businesses and Industry Leaders	70	This includes mentions of small business owners, marine trades, and fishing.
Faith-Based and Religious Organizations	50	Respondents cited local churches and faith-based organizations as important sources of guidance, particularly for moral and community-centered leadership
Healthcare and Education Institutions	40	Respondents mentioned South Peninsula Hospital and the local school systems as organizations that are mindful of Homer’s future needs, especially regarding public health and youth development.
Skepticism and Disillusionment	40	Respondents express distrust or skepticism toward existing leadership and organizations, feeling that no one is adequately guiding Homer’s future or that there is a lack of unified vision.
Civic Engagement and Public Input	30	Respondents mention looking to public forums, community meetings, and input from long-time residents and knowledgeable citizens as sources of direction.
Youth	20	Respondents expressed a desire for younger generations to take on leadership roles, viewing the youth as key to addressing future challenges and long-term planning.

<b>Comparisons to Other Models and Communities</b>	20	This theme includes mentions of other successful small towns, tourism models (e.g., New Zealand), and urban planning theories (e.g., Strong Towns, Nordic models) as inspiration for Homer's future.
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## Q17: What other questions, comments, or concerns do you have?

The final question in the survey asked respondents if they had any additional comments, questions or concerns.

Of the 222 responses, 26 wrote “nothing to add,” “n/a” or “thank you for this survey” or a similar response, with a revised total of 196 substantive comments. Other themes that emerged in the final question not already captured in previous response summaries above include:

### Exclusion of residents outside city limits:

- *A big concern is that the actual city limits are so small compared to the actual areas that many local residents live in and thus many of us who own businesses and earn sales tax for the city, do not actually live within the city limit and therefore are not able to vote on city decisions. Nor do we qualify for city services, such as the Police and Animal Shelter, etc. Something needs to change around all of that. Perhaps we don't need the city water and sewer where we live but would sure like to have more of a voice.*
- *I currently live with my family out East End Road, so I am not the most informed on all the public services, but I have heard a lot from other people. I do plan to live in Homer in the future, but that looks difficult with the expensive and limited housing options.*

### Cultural integration and recognition:

- *I'm concerned that there was zero reference to Alaska Native communities in this survey. Homer needs to do better in acknowledging all cultures of our land and seeking diverse voices.*
- *Ultimately, 10-20 years is not far enough into the future to be considering in any sort of future vision and we should be thinking within the 7th Generation concept so that we are far more considerate of our descendants to come who will live with the consequences of how we choose to live now.*

### Desire for specific amenities or support for specific community assets and infrastructure:

- *A permanent structure for the Saturday Market and outdoor music performances - place for our diversity to mingle. Soldotna does that really well.*
- *Can we get a bowling alley?*
- *Support the ice rink*
- *I am concerned about the airport using PFAS firefighting foams that drain into the Critical Habitat Area/Beluga Wetlands Complex. Two confirmed PFAS contamination sites drain directly into moose, shorebird, and riparian habitats.*
- *I really wish that there was a dog park somewhere near/within the City.*
- *I think the traffic and parking on the spit is crazy. It would be so cool to see a bus type of vehicle taking people in and out every hour or so to the spit so that we can cut down on the congestion of traffic, people can have a safe space to park, and maybe we can cut down on car pollution. There could be one place for pick up and one place for drop off, maybe at the islands and oceans visitor center and then by ramp 3. This should be extremely affordable and be attractive for the bus drivers.*

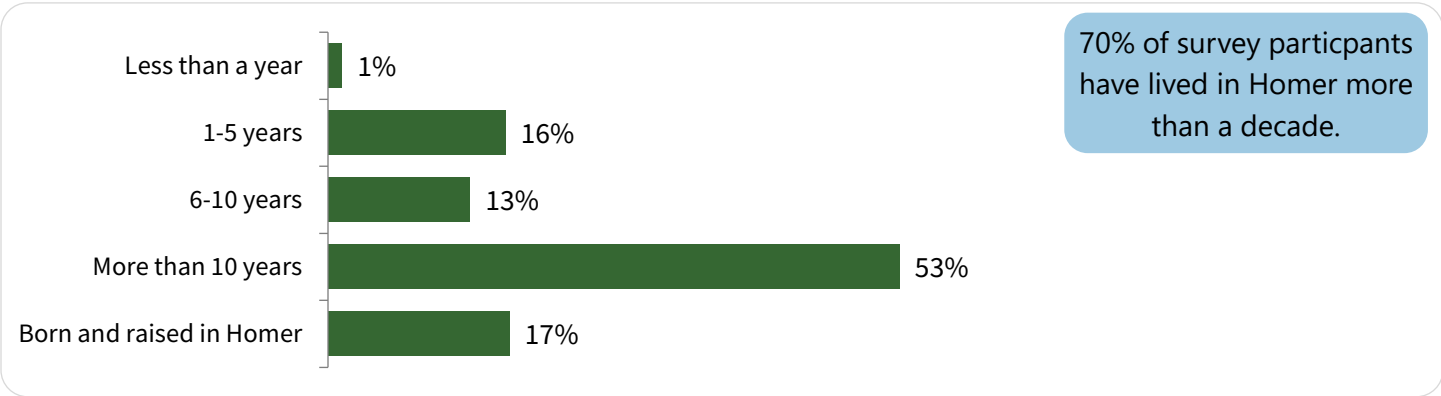


# Demographic Questions

The following subsections summarize the demographic characteristics of survey respondents with comparison to demographic data of Homer’s population (the demographic comparison data for Homer is constrained to the City of Homer.) This information helps identify how closely survey respondent demographics match the overall demographics of the City of Homer and where there may be gaps in perspectives of specific groups. Most demographic data used for survey comparison was taken from U.S. Census data. When the demographic comparison data says “Homer” (as in “Homer Age”, “Homer Gender”, and “Race in Homer”) the area refers to Homer City as designated by the U.S. Census.

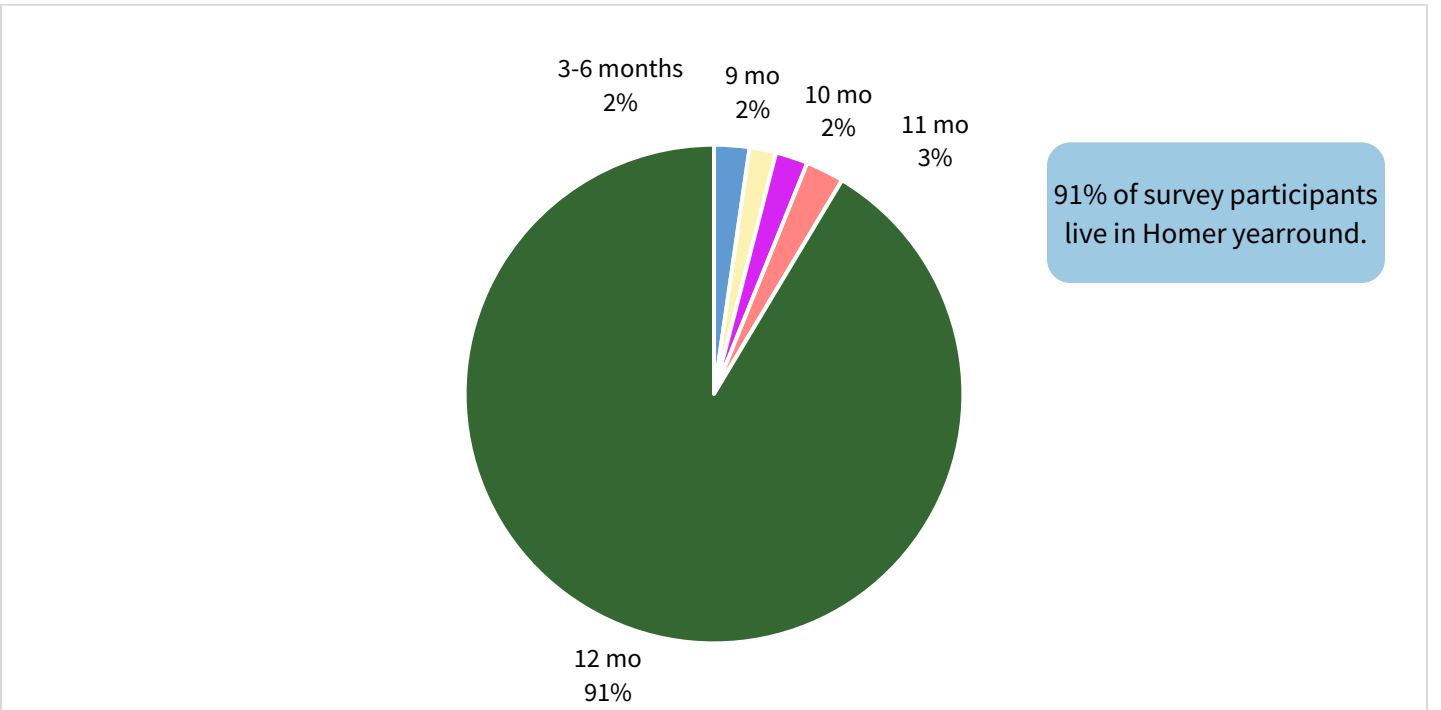
## Q18: How long have you lived in the Greater Homer area?

Answered: 551.



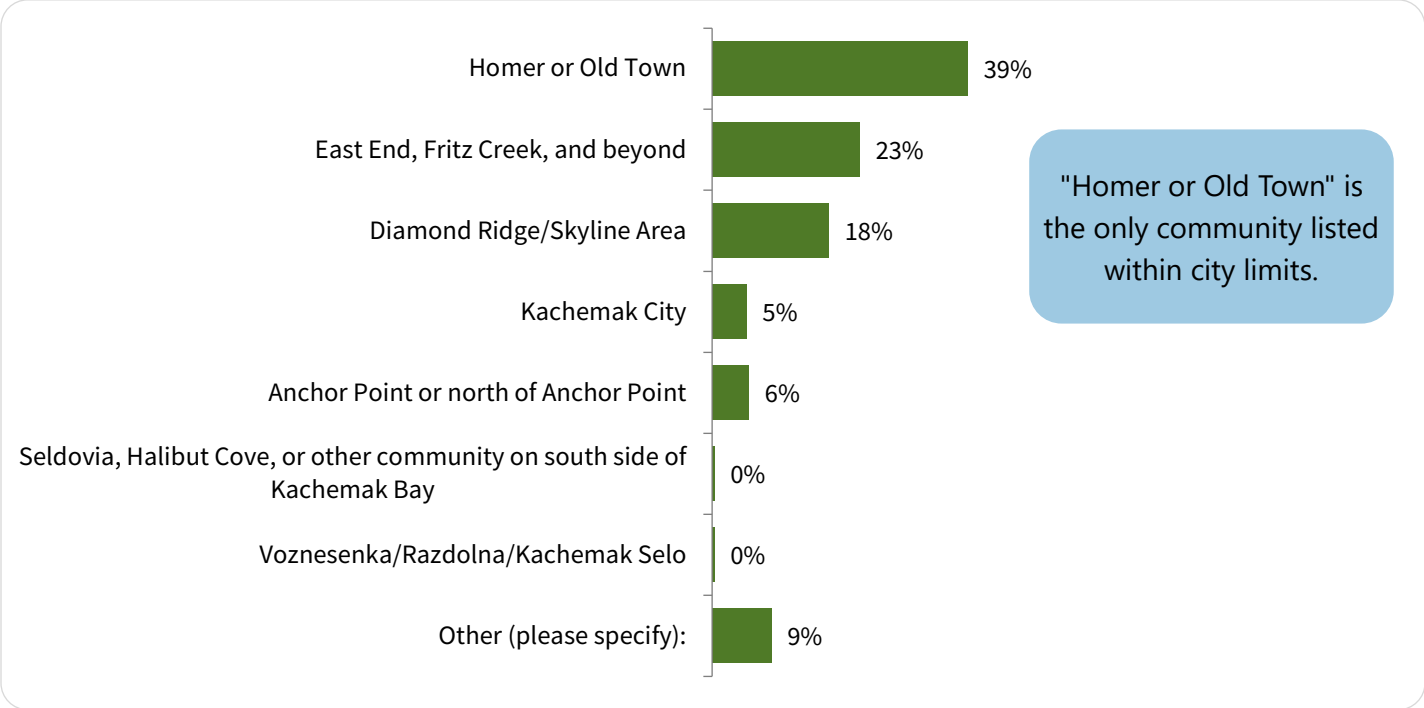
## Q19: How many months of the year do you live in Homer? If you live in Homer seasonally, during what months are you typically in Homer?

Answered: 538.



Q20: Where do you live or own property in the Greater Homer Area?

Answered: 551.



Selection of “Other (please specify)” that received more than one mention:

- Baycrest
- East Hill
- Mountain View
- Old Sterling
- West Hill

Q21: In your own words, please describe your connection to the Greater Homer Area, and its people, lands, and waters.

Answered: 386.

Themes	# of mentions	Representative Quotes
Emotional and Personal Connections, References to “Home,” and love for the area; Invested in the Area; Commitment to Future Generations of Homer Residents	148	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I have lived here over 40 years and know what a special place on earth Homer is</li><li>• Homer is Home. It was always my intent to return to raise a family here. I have a wide circle of close friends who love and support one another</li><li>• Some residents are really struggling. It's all of our responsibilities to lift up others, support the economy, and protect our youngsters as they grow and take their places in our community</li><li>• This community is just as beautiful as the land. There are so many friendly and caring people in Homer from a variety of backgrounds, political parties, financial brackets, and religious beliefs who are all just trying to connect and help each other out</li><li>• I love knowing my neighbors and seeing friends and acquaintances almost everywhere I go</li><li>• I'm invested in land and a business here, my children were born and attend school here</li><li>• This is my home by choice and my roots run deep</li><li>• My neighbors are kind and caring, as are so many people in this town. Homer is truly one of a kind</li></ul>

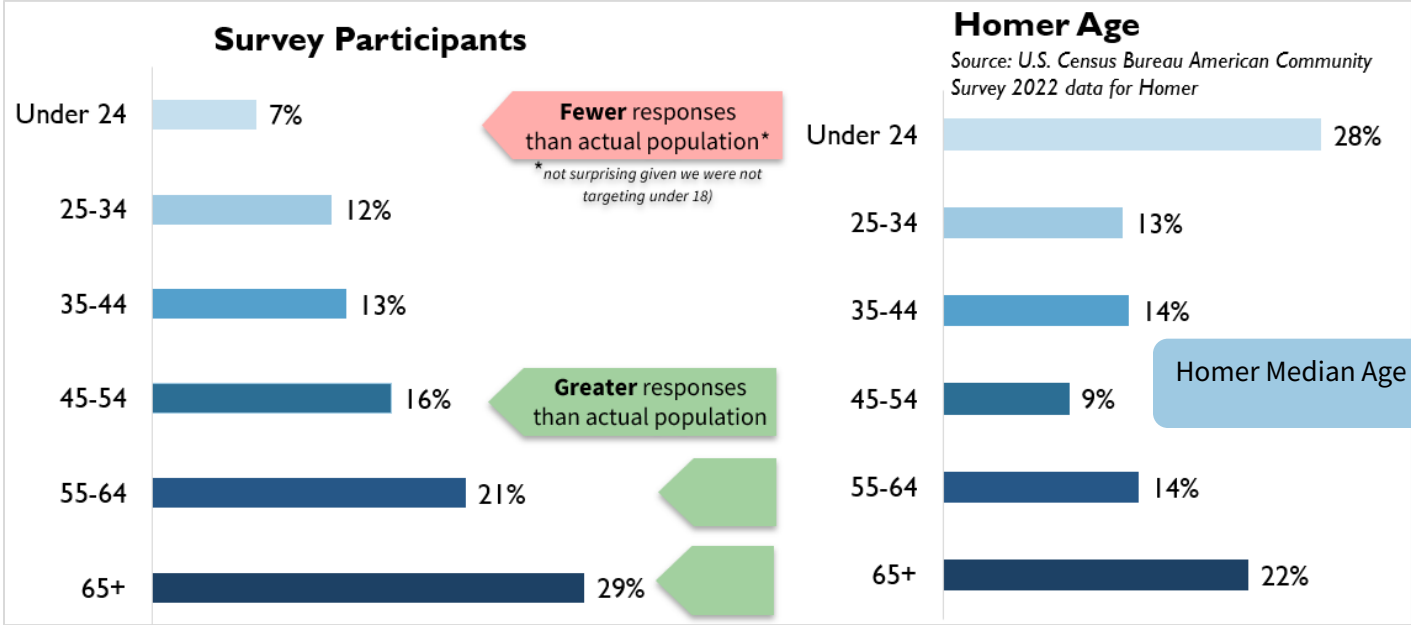
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Homer, its land, its people; this place is the Heart and Soul of my family</i></li> </ul>
<b>Connection to Nature and the Environment, Outdoor Activities, and Stewardship</b>	88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Beautiful, kind, peaceful and just amazing place to live. Couldn't image anywhere else</i></li> <li><i>My family regularly camps, hikes, fishes, skis, forages, walks on the beach, goes birding together and appreciates the community we have and the access to nature we've retained</i></li> <li><i>I hunt and fish and explore the hills</i></li> <li><i>We are invested in the sustainability, beauty, kindness, interdependence, and health of our community and the lands that belong to Native populations</i></li> <li><i>I care about property ownership with stewardship of the land</i></li> <li><i>More space, less people, more peace and quiet. More life qualities</i></li> <li><i>I am deeply connected to the land and waters around Homer</i></li> <li><i>I am a guest on Dena'ina and Sugpiaq ancestral lands. I am inspired to care deeply and think systemically by the stewardship practices of the original inhabitants of this land, who preserved its special qualities for generations</i></li> <li><i>Deeply invested in sustainability and shared resources for a brighter future</i></li> </ul>
<b>Community Involvement with Local Organizations and Civic Activities Including Connection to or Appreciation of Arts and Cultural Activities</b>	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>We have worked and volunteered around Homer in schools, fishing industry, sports, environment</i></li> <li><i>Spend a lot of time volunteering</i></li> <li><i>The community of people and non-profit organizations here have provided opportunities which have helped me thrive</i></li> <li><i>Concerned active participant at many levels</i></li> <li><i>Volunteer opportunities are unlimited</i></li> <li><i>Have enjoyed working with numerous arts groups and continue to do so</i></li> <li><i>Connected to the art, visitor, outdoor and various assistance programs (through Rotary and other organizations)</i></li> </ul>

**Other themes mentioned (received fewer than 5% of answers):**

- Job or own a business in Homer
- Can't afford to move

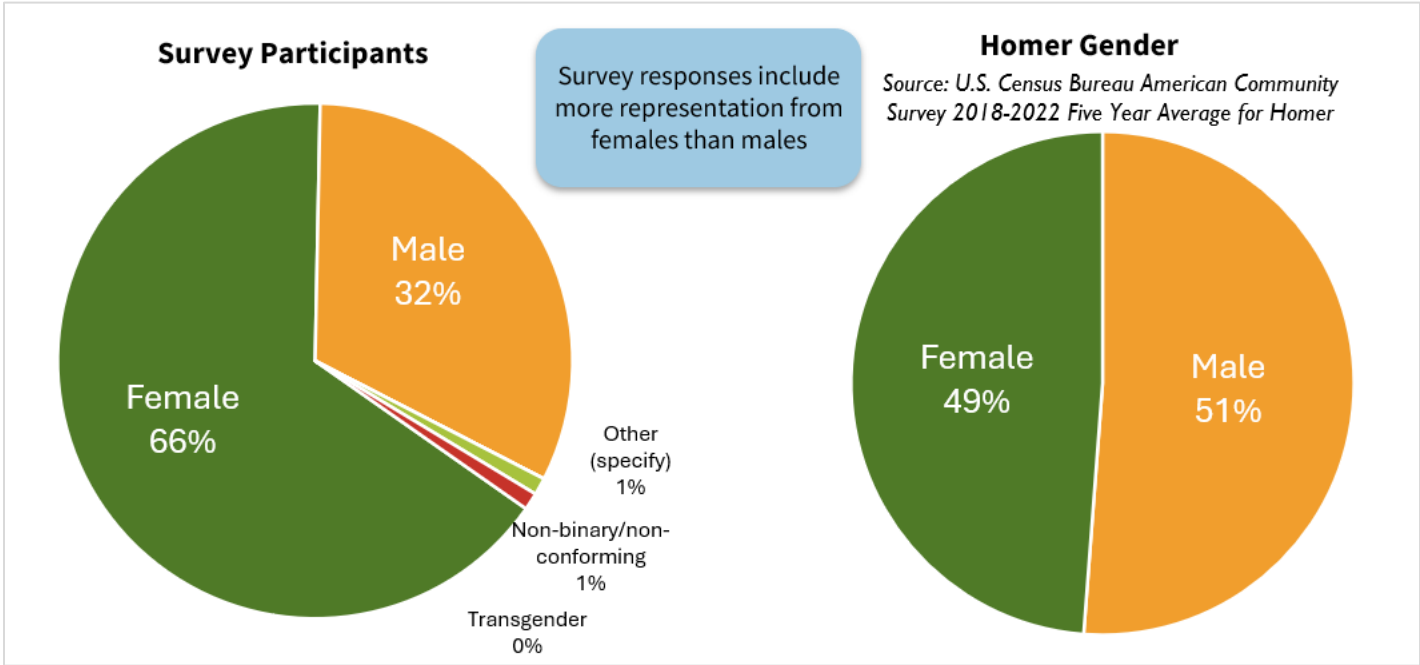
Q22: What is your age?

Answered: 552.



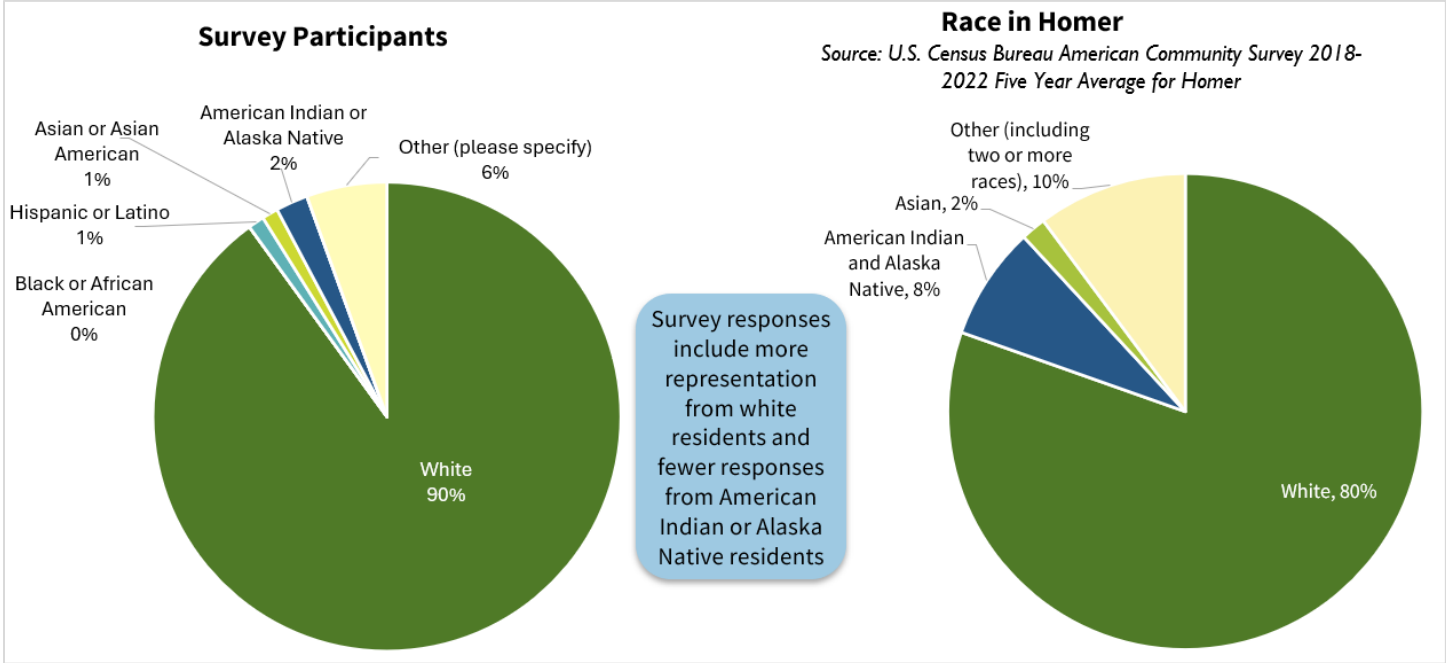
Q23: What is your gender?

Answered: 546.



Q24: What is your race?

Answered: 546.

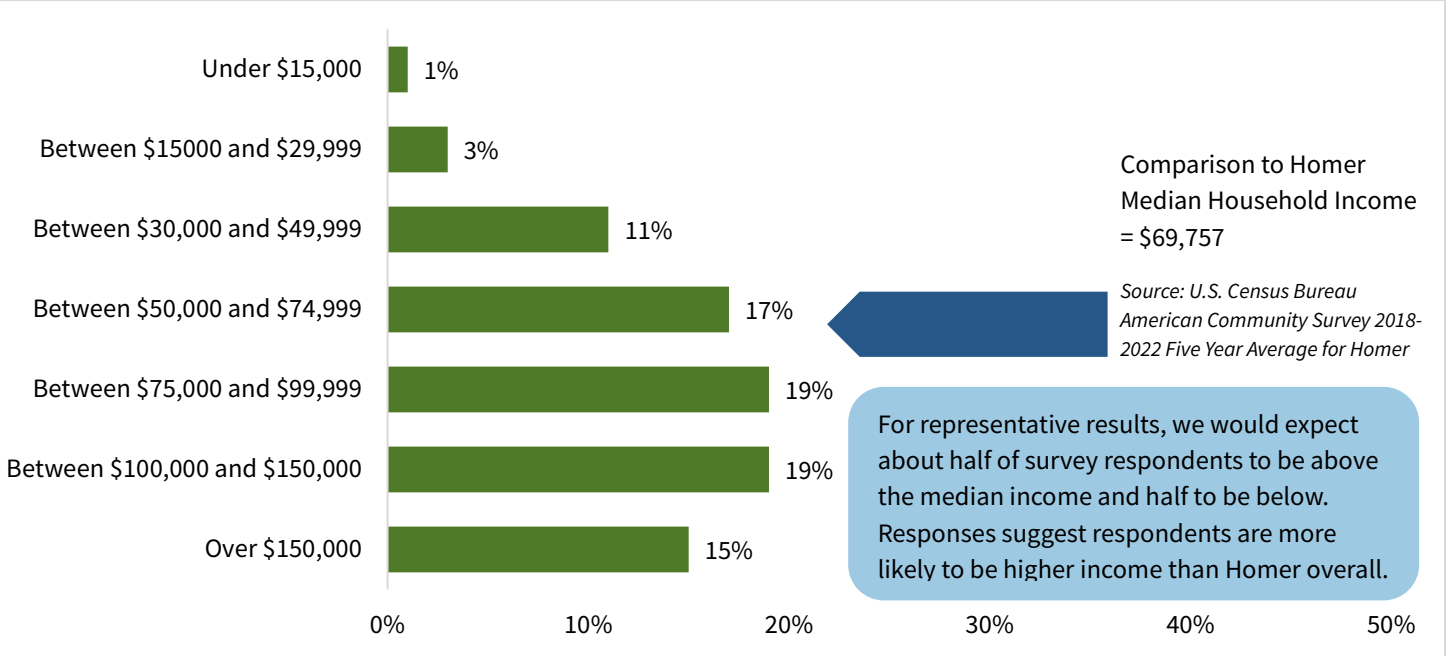


Choices received fewer than 2% of responses:

- Hispanic or Latino (1%)
- Asian or Asian American (1%)
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (Less than 1%)
- Black or African American (No responses)

Q25: What is your annual household income from all sources?

Answered: 546.



Total does not equal 100% - remaining 15% are participants that selected “prefer not to answer”

# Interactive Comment Map Results

An interactive comment map was launched alongside the community survey to provide Homer area residents a way to pin their feedback to specific locations.. The comment map compiles 224 comments with 82% related to the City of Homer / Old Town locations. Comments are sorted by comprehensive plan focus areas.

Comment Map Table 1: Total Map Comments by Focus Area

Focus Area-related Comments*	Total Comments	Includes comments about:
Quality of Life	111	Education, health services/programs/activities/spaces, culture/identity, affordability, natural environment
Land Use & Environment	107	Current and future land use, natural hazard mitigation, habitat value, zoning code
Sustainability, Resilience, & Climate Change	96	Air and water quality, climate change, natural hazard mitigation, habitat value, energy, active transportation modalities and connections, green infrastructure
Transportation	89	Roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, transit, transportation modes (bus, cycling, walking, ATVs, etc.), connections
Public Services & Infrastructure	85	Utilities (water, sewer, stormwater, solid waste, etc.), public buildings/ facilities/ programs/ spaces/ safety, taxation
Health & Wellness	72	Education, health services/programs/activities/spaces, accessibility
Economic Development	40	Small business support, workforce development, economic sectors (fishing, tourism, consumer goods, etc.)
Other	18	Comprehensive plan rewrite process, technical edits, maintenance requests
Housing	10	New construction, housing affordability/availability/preservation/revitalization

Comment Map Table 2: Location of Comments

Location	# Comments
Homer/Old Town	182
East End, Fritz Creek, and Beyond	6
Diamond Ridge, Skyline Area	7
Kachemak City	6
All areas or non-location-related	22

Most comments focused on the City of Homer boundaries.



## Homer Comprehensive Plan Rewrite Comment Map Locations - August 2024

The interactive comment map was active from May 13 to July 3, 2024. Comments are summarized by Comprehensive Plan focus area below.

### See the Full Map

To view all comments received during the survey period, go to <https://prod.mapfeede.com/comment/index.php?city=HomerPlan>

### Transportation (89)

Comments focused on the conditions of roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails. Many encouraged improvements to public transit and making the area more accessible for various transportation modes, including buses, cycling, and walking. Some comments highlight the need for better connections between different transportation networks and enhancing safety and convenience for non-motorized transportation.

### Land Use & Environment (107)

Many expressed the need for better natural hazard mitigation strategies, preserving habitat value, and ensuring that zoning codes support sustainable growth to protect sensitive areas.

### Housing (10)

Some comments noted the need for affordable housing types and the expansion of workforce housing options.

### Quality of Life (111)

Many comments supported improved educational opportunities, housing affordability, better health services, and more cultural activities.

### Public Services & Infrastructure (85)

Comments noted the need for reliable utilities and the efficiency of public services, with some suggesting the need for better funding or taxation strategies to support infrastructure improvements.

### Economic Development (40)

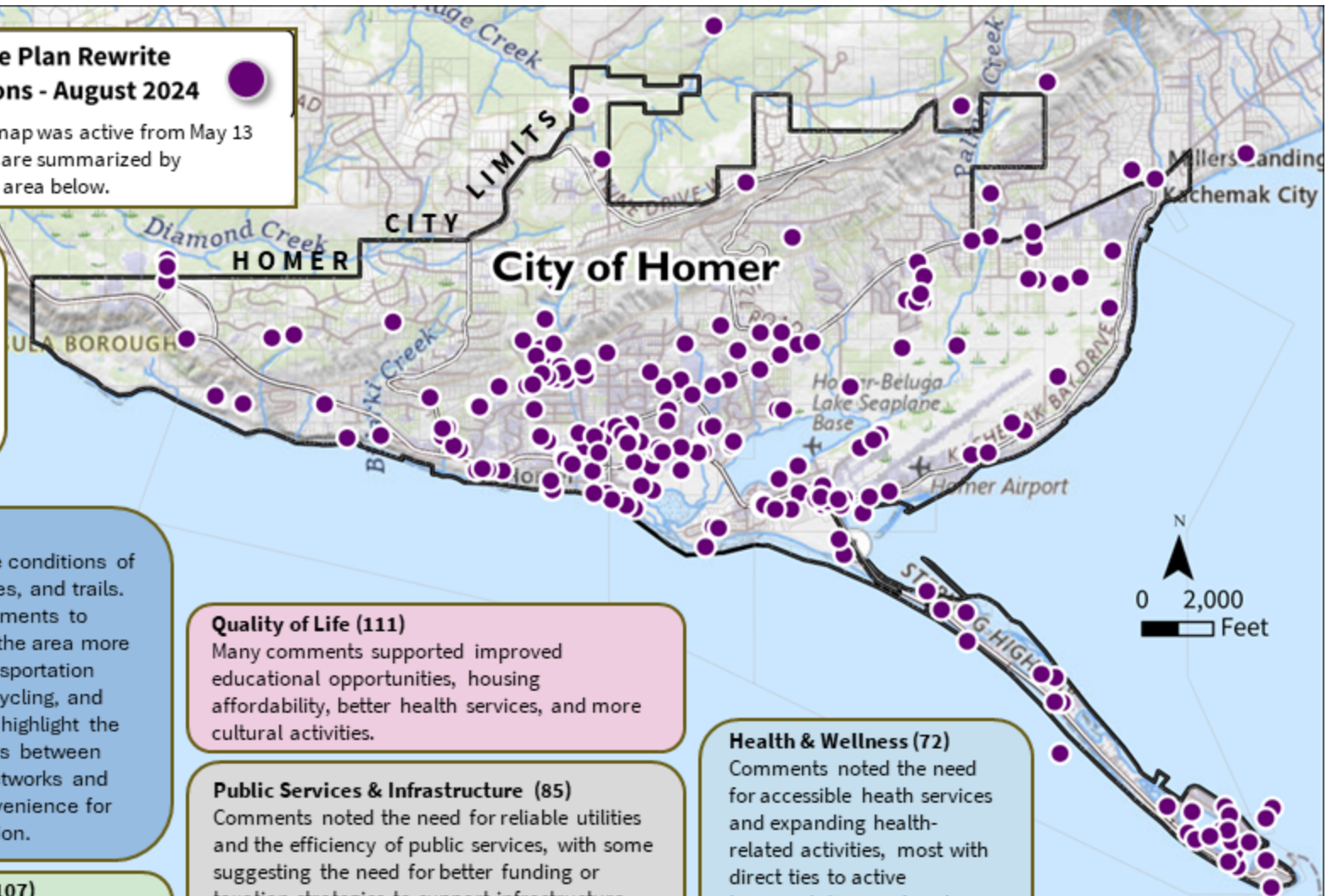
Comments highlighted the importance of supporting small businesses, workforce development, and the need for initiatives that could drive economic growth in various sectors. There was some concern about the sustainability of key economic sectors like fishing and tourism.

### Health & Wellness (72)

Comments noted the need for accessible health services and expanding health-related activities, most with direct ties to active transportation and parks improvements.

### Sustainability, Resilience, & Climate Change (96)

Many expressed the importance of maintaining air and water quality, addressing climate change, and enhancing resilience against natural hazards, with emphasis on protecting habitat value and promoting energy efficiency.



# CITY OF HOMER

## Comprehensive Plan Rewrite



## What We've Learned and What's Next

**SEPTEMBER:** Over 550 surveys and more than 200 comments on the interactive comment map! Join us at one or more of the gatherings below to **view and hear the results** and how they are informing Growth Scenarios and Draft Plan Development.

**September 10:** Economic Development Advisory Commission

**September 12:** Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Board Meeting

**September 17:** Library Advisory Board

**September 18:** Planning Commission/Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture (PARC) joint work session  
(tentative)

**September 23:** City Council

**September 25:** Port & Harbor Advisory Commission

View meeting details at [www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/meetings](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/meetings)

### OCTOBER sneak peek: Explore our future!

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 for community feedback the week of October 22**, with both in person and virtual options to share your thoughts.

### Save the Date!

#### COMMUNITY WORK SESSION

**October 22, 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

Islands and Oceans Visitor Center  
more details to come!

### Contact Information

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

### Resources

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



43



# Library Director's Report

August 31, 2024

## General Notes

On August 16, the State Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums announced major cuts to the Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grants. The FY24 grants came to \$7,000 per library, while the FY25 amount is set at \$1,829. Homer Public Library will have to cut back on ordering new materials and delay updates to certain sections, but we'll survive. The smaller libraries around us are in serious trouble.

Separately, the amount allocated to the State Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) was cut from \$500,000 to \$369,514. SLED provides 60 of the 68 databases available to patrons through our library website, so the cuts will have significant impacts on our patrons. Several small databases (LearningExpress, Auto Repair Source, Hobbies and Crafts Source, Home Improvement Source and Small Engine Repair Source) will disappear shortly. If no further funds can be obtained, the next resources on the chopping block are BrainPOP and HeritageQuest.

Earlier this year, we planned on hosting a Human Library event at the library, theoretically around late January 2025. Unfortunately, after consulting with the Human Library organization, we've concluded the project is too big for us to take on.

Election season is on! In collaboration with KDLL, KBBI, the *Peninsula Clarion* and the League of Women Voters, the library hosted a candidate forum for Homer city council and mayor on August 29. There will be one more forum, for State House District 6, on Oct. 29.

## Staff Notes

Cinda Nofziger and I attended the Alaska Library Association/Pacific Northwest Library Association conference in Juneau from Aug. 1-3. I attended a workshop on intellectual freedom, an overview of changes to the SLED databases in light of budget cuts, a lecture on interacting with library boards and a discussion of online newspaper resources that serve Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, among other things. There was a fascinating presentation from Teresa Quiner at the Kuskokwim Consortium Library about the Bethel community's effort to build a residential shelter, which both

offered social services to patrons and relieved some of the pressure on the library. I met with the directors of a number of other public libraries to swap info and war stories.

Cinda went to 11 sessions. Highlights included a Story Time Plus workshop involving puppets, a 'zine workshop about collaborating with teens and Laughter Yoga for Librarians. She also made contacts with a lot of other library staff from the region, and greatly enjoyed the author/illustrator talks from Michaela Goade, Candace Fleming and Eric Rohrman.

Library Tech I Susan Jeffres stepped down on August 15, and we're nearly finished with the hiring process for her replacement. We're sorry to see Susan go, after three years of fabulous work with the library!

Director's meetings:

- Staff: 4
- LAB: 1
- FHL: 5
- Council: 2
- Department Heads: 1
- Other: Niche Academy, Human Library, SLED committee, interviewing job candidates, Susan Pope author talk, candidate forum, various City meetings

## **Facility**

There were some minor issues with the building, but no big problems. City IT staff cleaned up the server room and restarted all equipment on August 9.

Renovation work has started! We have shifted the print station, the ADA computer and one self-checkout terminal, and Building Maintenance has removed the built-in furniture in study room 5.

## **Library Advisory Board (LAB)**

The LAB had a full agenda, including reviewing the draft FY 2026 Capital Improvements Plan and making recommendations to city council. (The board recommended including the library siding replacement in the list of legislative funding requests and adding the parking lot drainage project to the regular CIP.) The LAB endorsed sending a letter of thanks to the mayor and city council for funding the security grille and discussed the deeply worrying cuts to library funding at the state level. Board

members reviewed the results from the Library Needs Survey and made some changes to the draft Library Strategic Plan.

### **Friends of the Homer Library (FHL)**

The Friends discussed logistics for the Book and Plant Sale on Sept. 6-7, as well as smaller events such as the AI lecture on Oct. 10, the candidate fora and the author talk by Susan Pope on Aug. 22. There was some debate about scheduling the end-of-summer-reading-program party, and whether it would be better to do it on a weekend, possibly earlier in the afternoon.

Separately, the design for the informational signs on the western lot has been finalized. We walked the trail with the Parks Division and marked the locations for the new signs. Parks has scraped the western half of the trail to remove overlying vegetation and has placed some fill dirt around the site of the wraparound bench.

## **Ongoing Events**

Mondays, 1:30-4:30: Knitting Club

Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30: Chess Club

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:00: Toddler Time

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30: After School at the Library

Fridays, 10:30-11:30: Preschool Storytime

Fridays, 3:30-5:45: Live-Action Role Playing (LARP)

First Tuesday, 6:30-8:00: SPARC Radio Club

First Thursday, 1:00-3:00: Literary Ladies

First and Third Thursdays, 5:30-7:30: Tech Help

Second Wednesday, 4:45-5:45: Teen Advisory Board

Third Thursday, 10:30-11:30: Radio Storytime on KBBI

Third Saturday, 10:30-12:30: Writing Circle with Richard Chiappone

Fourth Tuesday, 4:30-6:30: FHL/HPL Book Club

Tuesday following the first City Council meeting of the month, 12:00-1:00: Conversations with a Councilmember (schedule may vary depending on availability)

## Special Events

- Aug. 5, 11:00-12:00: Independent Living Center.
- Aug. 10, 12:30-3:00: Connections Home School Solutions.
- Aug. 20, 6:15-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.
- **Aug. 22, 6:00-7:15: Author talk by Susan Pope, author of *Rivers and Ice*, a memoir of life in Alaska.**
- Aug. 27, 1:00-2:30: Homer OPUS.
- **Aug. 29, 6:00-7:00: Candidate Forum for Mayor and City Council, organized by KBBI, KDLL, the *Peninsula Clarion* and League of Women Voters.**
- Sept. 2: Library closed for Labor Day.
- Sept. 6-7: Book and plant sale.
- Sept. 10, 4:30-6:00: Japanese Club.
- Sept. 13, 2:00-4:45: Showing of *The Muppet Movie*.
- Sept. 17, 6:15-7:45: Kachemak Swim Club.
- **Oct. 10, 6:00-7:00: Bill Jirsa, the Chief Technology Officer for the City of Homer, delivers a talk and demonstration of Artificial Intelligence.**
- Oct. 18: Library closed for Alaska Day.
- **Oct. 29, 6:00-7:30: Candidate Forum for House District 6, organized by KBBI, KDLL, the *Peninsula Clarion* and League of Women Voters.**
- Nov. 11: Library closed for Veteran's Day.
- Nov. 28-29: Library closed for Thanksgiving.
- Dec. 25: Library closed for Christmas Day.



## Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2023

Date: 13-Feb-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	11,912	11,843	12,613	11,546	11,646	12,422	13,492	15,594	14,813	14,008	14,064	13,681	157,634
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	9,322	9,289	9,449	8,728	8,933	9,900	10,782	12,842	11,907	10,991	10,976	10,352	123,471
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	108	116	90	109	111	128	121	115	106	120	122	1,337
*Alaska Digital Library	2,443	2,408	2,984	2,655	2,507	2,327	2,408	2,465	2,665	2,754	2,771	2,938	31,325
*Flipster e-magazines	28	22	36	26	27	32	51	30	20	13	32	29	346
*Kanopy streaming video	28	16	28	47	70	52	123	136	106	144	165	240	1,155
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	24	14	17	24	13	7	20	21	14	14	14	18	200
Outgoing (Lent)	18	6	22	14	26	11	20	23	30	13	25	9	217
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	10,232	11,500	12,884	12,022	13,253	12,711	10,327	9,676	9,734	8,109	7,800	7,427	125,675
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	200	219	244	236	237	224	188	256	220	216	212	158	2,610
Study Rooms (# of people)	336	361	434	426	397	371	283	441	446	414	372	302	4,583
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	40	28	36	25	16	34	20	18	25	25	21	21	309
Meeting Room (# of people)	282	205	238	229	162	383	220	161	230	166	187	151	2,614
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,701	1,840	2,510	2,224	2,427	2,851	2,695	1,226	2,612	1,527	2,069	1,913	25,595
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,006	1,055	1,401	1,372	1,533	1,763	1,588		1,553	447	1,112	995	13,825
*Hardwired Internet sessions	695	785	1,109	852	894	1,088	1,107	1,226	1,059	1,080	957	918	11,770
Website visits (sessions)	4,720	3,966	5,143	4,332	5,041	5,442			2,273	2,789	3,026	2,601	39,333
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	947	933	1,101	915	1,206	1,342	1,061	1,200	1,191	1,149	1,485	974	13,504
*Programs for Age 0-5	670	597	725	662	910	854	751	984	952	872	878	851	9,706
*Programs for Age 6-11	176	160	143	63	150	217	170	67	78	41	109	37	1,411
*Programs for Age 12-18	14	26	72	44	34	69	57	36	73	28	12	11	476
*Programs for Age 19+	63	44	161	58	85	80	49	76	84	159	344	49	1,252
*Programs for All Ages	24	106	0	88	27	122	34	37	4	49	142	26	659
OUTREACH													
# Events	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	3	2	5	2	4	31
# People	12	8	14	17	18	11	3	4	11	9	15	11	133
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	41	33	27	26	28	38	31	32	30	34	25	23	368
Borough	30	32	25	26	17	30	30	32	33	32	22	17	326
Temporary	0	1	0	0	1	5	3	4	2	1	2	0	19
Reciprocal	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	4	1	0	1	1	16
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	73	67	55	65	39	58	57	60	63	72	61	66	736
# of hours	312	227	150	233	198	173	157	196	240	163	215	202	2,466
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	324	180	143	311	265	190	125	303	189	213	127	185	2,555
Audio	7	7	23	11	19	8	6	7	5	12	19	17	141
Video	56	31	26	46	74	20	32	18	15	19	7	38	382
Serials	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Electronic Resources	31	61	32	52	16	0	13	0	0	53	67	136	461
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	523	216	326	95	359	412	88	98	51	141	110	52	2,471
Audio	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	8
Video	0	0	3	15	0	78	33	23	93	1	3	0	249
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	10,315.37
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants													0.00
TOTALS	865.00	1,037.00	0.00	1,101.00	971.00	915.00	1,020.00	1,709.00	900.00	906.00	0.00	891.37	\$10,315.37

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.

Note 3: Gate count for July may be low due to equipment failure.

## Homer Public Library Statistical Summary for 2024

Date: 11-Sep-24

CIRCULATION	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Y.T.D.
TOTAL (*Included)	14,636	14,431	15,039	14,426	14,469	13,937	15,411	15,254	0	0	0	0	117,603
*Physical Print/Audio/Video	11,344	11,115	11,546	11,133	11,081	10,772	12,113	11,988					91,092
*Other Physical items (n. 2)	91	90	75	83	92	96	113	106					746
*Alaska Digital Library	2,936	2,975	3,219	2,990	3,118	2,893	2,967	2,985					24,083
*Flipster e-magazines	41	18	36	18	21	41	14	8					197
*Kanopy streaming video	224	233	163	202	157	135	204	167					1,485
INTERLIBRARY LOANS													
Incoming (Borrowed)	19	11	12	11	21	14	11	11					110
Outgoing (Lent)	28	26	24	28	28	17	20	21					192
BUILDING USE													
Gate Count	8,880	8,111	8,662	8,564	9,795	8,258	9,312	8,596					70178
Study Rooms (# of group sessions)	266	238	229	206	205	180	197	234					1755
Study Rooms (# of people)	499	454	442	373	390	309	344	415					3226
Meeting Room (# of group sessions)	27	30	36	34	31	38	29	22					247
Meeting Room (# of people)	206	214	309	213	254	244	256	205					1901
INTERNET USE													
TOTAL (*Included)	2,315	3,288	3,045	3,065	2,324	2,111	2,782	3,333	0	0	0	0	22,263
*Wireless Internet sessions	1,169	2,190	1,923	1,926	1,221	1,011	1,616	2,122					13178
*Hardwired Internet sessions	1,146	1,098	1,122	1,139	1,103	1,100	1,166	1,211					9085
Website visits (sessions)	3,415	3,136	2,813	2,861	2,825	2,697	2,888	2,809					23,444
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE (n. 1)													
TOTAL (*Included)	1,205	1,101	1,223	1,216	1,436	1,196	1,415	1,064	0	0	0	0	9856
*Programs for Age 0-5	900	884	922	990	891	845	867	821					7120
*Programs for Age 6-11	31	47	62	24	239	171	288	74					936
*Programs for Age 12-18	26	16	41	37	54	52	62	50					338
*Programs for Age 19+	150	134	196	131	115	84	63	119					992
*Programs for All Ages	98	20	2	34	137	44	135	0					470
OUTREACH													
# Events	3	1	2	2	5	4	0	2					19
# People	11	9	9	9	11	18	0	20					87
NEW CARDS ISSUED													
City	38	24	20	25	17	37	45	36					242
Borough	19	28	21	20	18	17	44	19					186
Temporary	1	0	0	0	1	8	2	1					13
Reciprocal	0	0	3	1	4	2	6	6					22
VOLUNTEER HOURS													
# of people	71	75	76	90	87	84	93	81					657
# of hours	248	217	243	251	360	293	308	264					2184
MATERIALS ADDED													
Books	287	219	155	248	337	192	209	186					1833
Audio	9	9	11	25	12	9	0	5					80
Video	41	34	33	29	32	26	32	38					265
Serials	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Electronic Resources	50	41	60	28	106	167	84	90					626
MATERIALS REMOVED													
Books	73	25	57	106	116	223	282	306					1188
Audio	21	74	4	8	0	1	1	0					109
Video	0	101	1	34	0	37	31	41					245
Serials	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1					3
Electronic Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
REVENUES DEPOSITED													
Fines/Fees/Copies	1000.00	791.00	1453.00	1405.60	932.06	1100.20	1422.15	869.31	519.70				9,493.02
Building Fund (151-)													0.00
Library Gifts (803-)													0.00
Endowment													0.00
Grants	725.00												725.00
TOTALS	1,725.00	791.00	1,453.00	1,405.60	932.06	1,100.20	1,422.15	869.31	519.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$10,218.02

Data not available yet or incomplete

Note 1: Program attendance includes all programs sponsored by the library or the Friends of the Library. It does not include meetings of community groups. Programs are sorted by the age of the target audience, but totals include all attendees (i.e. parents as well as toddlers, etc.)

Note 2: Other physical items includes electronic devices, kits, toys, board games, sports equipment and videogames.



# MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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## Library Strategic Plan

**Item Type:** Action memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Library Advisory Board  
**Date:** Sept. 13, 2024  
**From:** Dave Berry, Library Director  
**Through:**

---

The LAB reviewed the draft strategic plan at the August meeting and recommended a few minor changes, which have been incorporated into this draft. I think this is ready for final voting.

### Recommendation:

Pass the strategic plan as written.

### Attachments:

Draft Library Strategic Plan for 2025-2029  
Circulation Statistics  
Endowment Over Time

# Homer Public Library

## Strategic Plan 2025-2029

AUGUST 2024

## Contents

Executive Summary .....	2
Mission Statement.....	2
Interpretation of the Mission Statement .....	2
Major Efforts, 2020-2024.....	3
Current Challenges .....	4
Proposed Efforts, 2025-2029 .....	4
Grounds.....	4
Technology .....	5
Funding .....	5
Programs.....	6
Collections .....	6
Building Repairs.....	6
Building Improvements.....	7
Timeline .....	8
References .....	9
Appendices.....	9

## Executive Summary

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Over the past five years, Homer Public Library has made great progress on upgrading and modernizing its operations, despite interference from a global pandemic. We've streamlined the library's organizational structure, upgraded numerous pieces of technology, and taken steps to improve the financial, cultural and physical sustainability of the institution.

As the local population grows and the building ages, we expect an increasing need for repairs and improvements to the library's infrastructure. Besides the building itself, we will need to adapt to shifts in the public's demands for services by continuously reviewing our collections, technology offerings, programs and usage statistics.

The overall goal for the next five years is to expand the library's capabilities and improve its flexibility while also keeping costs as low as possible. Sustainability will continue to be a major consideration.

## Mission Statement

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The Homer Public Library serves the diverse needs of our community members by providing access to information, promoting literacy, and facilitating lifelong learning. We foster education, personal well-being, cultural creativity, community engagement, and economic development. Our resources are offered without charge to people of all ages and abilities within our service area.

## Interpretation of the Mission Statement

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The library is a general-purpose facility that provides basic, introductory-level assistance with many social and educational needs. The library is:

- A community center
- A gathering space
- An information resource
- A resource for local history and culture
- A place for entertainment, private study and personal growth

The library is not a specialized facility which provides in-depth, long-term services or unique materials. The library is not:



- A museum
- An archive
- A school
- A residential shelter
- A therapy center
- A daycare facility

## Major Efforts, 2020-2024

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The major thrust of the past five years has been modernizing the library's operations and positioning it to handle increasing demands from a growing population.

**Administratively**, we overhauled the library's structure, cross-trained staff and streamlined some processes. We automated or simplified some behind-the-scenes tasks, such as managing money, ordering materials and analyzing circulation stats. We created a Deputy Director's position and promoted the library from a division to a department. During 2023, we completely overhauled all the library's policies and procedures to formalize and clarify our operations. The City abolished library fines in 2020 and instituted automatic renewals in 2023. We expanded operations by partnering with the City parks division and community recreation to install little free libraries in five parks and offer a variety of sports equipment for checkout.

We upgraded numerous **technology** systems. Zoom programming and outdoor wi-fi began in 2020. In 2021 we installed self-checkout machines and replaced the library's copper data cable with a fiber line, which massively increased service speeds. In 2023, we moved the library catalog into the cloud and upgraded from version 3.1 to version 3.11 of the Evergreen software. We added various gadgets to the items available for checkout, including laptops, wireless hotspots, sun lamps, digital projectors, video games, a DVD/Blu-ray player and a phonograph. From 2021 through 2023 the library director also supervised the City IT department, now reorganized and expanded.

We are taking ongoing steps to make the library more **sustainable** over the long term. The City launched a library endowment fund with the Homer Foundation in April 2020, and as of June 2024 the principal exceeds \$60,000. In partnership with the parks division, we're reducing maintenance on the library grounds by replacing ornamental gardens with grass beds. The Friends of the Library's ongoing western lot project aims to resurface the trail, add informational signage and benches, and create

play spaces for children. We replaced or upgraded various furnishings, building components and essential equipment, including the lights, chairs, boiler components, alarm system, security cameras, microform reader, front-door switch, interior wi-fi nodes, servers, photocopier, pay-station machines, book magnifier, videophone, staff phones and public phone. We also installed a sound system in the fireplace lounge and replaced the television in the meeting room. Public works fixed the drainage from the staff parking lot, though there are still issues with the public lot.

All this took place against a background of upheaval as the City found ways to operate despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Covid severely disrupted library circulation and cancelled nearly all programs for two years. The nationwide political tension over library materials reached Homer in 2022, as citizens started a petition to remove all LGBT materials from the children's and young adult collections, and the Library Advisory Board responded by conducting two public hearings and reading 55 challenged titles before voting to keep them in their existing locations.

## Current Challenges

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The current library building opened in 2006. The structure has aged well but shows some signs of deterioration, as demonstrated by the long list of equipment replacements over the last five years. Ongoing efforts take care of smaller repairs and replacements, but we anticipate a need for large **renovations** in the near future.

The library faces the same overriding issue that affects all City operations: **population growth**. We saw steady increases in demand up through 2019. The Covid pandemic paused that growth, but after we returned to normal operations demand roared back with a vengeance. The library was designed around 20-year estimates for growth, and those numbers have proven remarkably accurate, but we are now approaching the end of the projected period and clearly anticipate further increases.

## Proposed Efforts, 2025-2029

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### Grounds

Historically, numerous bodies shared the responsibility for maintaining the library grounds, including the City parks division, the Friends of the Library, the Rotary Club, the Pate family and various private citizens. The work of keeping up with it repeatedly overwhelmed volunteer groups, so

in summer 2023 the City assumed responsibility for everything except the Peter Larson garden, which Rotary maintains.

In an effort to **reduce maintenance**, we removed the ornamental beds in front of the building, beside the plaza and at the start of the Story Walk Trail, and replaced the ornamental plants with grass. Further efforts may include covering the beds along the south wall of the building.

The parks division limbed trees and cleared underbrush all over the library lot to improve sightlines. An ongoing project revolves around clearing invasive species, such as the reed canary grass near Heath Street.

The public parking lot still sees standing water and sheet ice in the handicapped spaces. Fixing this may require installing an underground drain.

Work continues on the **western lot project**. In 2024 we expect to resurface the trail, install benches and botanical signs, and replace the Story Walk posts. Larger signs on cultural history will follow. Finally, a play space with local artwork will be constructed near the western end of the trail.

## Technology

For several years, we've searched for a way to implement **wireless printing**, but no available solution met all our requirements. Following suggestions from the City IT department, council allocated funding for equipment to offer this service in the FY 2025 capital budget.

The **library website** still features too many unnecessary, out-of-date or deeply-buried pages. Future improvements include cutting down the size of the site, streamlining navigation, ensuring accessibility and implementing single-sign-on for patrons accessing subscription databases from outside the library, so they don't have to enter their login credentials for each database individually.

## Funding

We launched an **endowment fund** in April 2020, and the principal has grown from zero to over \$60,000 in four years. In 2024 the Library Advisory Board set a goal of boosting it to \$100,000 within the next five years. The LAB also set itself the challenge of developing a sustainable, low-maintenance system for soliciting donations.

## Programs

We partnered with community recreation to make sports equipment and sun lamps available for checkout, with potential for further collaboration on programming.

Formally, the library employs one children's professional, the Youth Services Librarian. For the past three years, we've benefitted enormously from having a Library Tech I with children's experience. Putting 1.5 employees on **children's services** opened up all kinds of opportunities for expanded programs and provided more consistency during staff absences. We should consider either formalizing one of the Tech I positions as a youth specialist or else create a Tech II position consisting of half children's and half front-desk service.

## Collections

Demand for library materials has shifted over time. Demand for DVDs and physical audiobooks fell sharply after Covid, but demand for online audiobooks and streaming video slowly rose. Print resources are more popular than ever, but many print magazines are closing down or going electronic-only, and patrons show no great interest in online magazines. Future goals include adding more **subscription databases**.

The **Alaska Library Catalog (ALC)** offers extensive benefits to its member libraries, but there are three main impediments to joining:

1. adopting the enormously-expensive Sirsi catalog software,
2. increased postage costs, and
3. unlike the Alaska Digital Library, the ALC offers no "local preference" rule that allows patrons of a given library first choice on materials owned by that library.

Without local preference, smaller libraries end up subsidizing demand for materials in larger communities. If the ALC considered moving to a different software platform and adopting the local preference rule, it would make the case for joining much stronger.

## Building Repairs

The **siding** on the outside of the library building needs replacement, and we inserted this request into the Capital Improvements Plan for the City in 2023. On a more cosmetic level, the countertops and carpeting inside show signs of wear and tear.

## Building Improvements

Aside from the siding replacement, the Capital Improvements Plan identified two other building-related projects for consideration: an **engineering study** to analyze the facility's needs and recommend improvements, and a **security grille** at the front entrance. The lack of a grille reduces the value of the meeting room, since it can only be used during working hours unless staff stay late to keep the building open. Council allocated \$30,000 in the FY 2025 capital budget for the purpose.

Staff and the general public identified several other features that would enhance the building's utility. A larger **meeting room** would greatly expand the range of groups that could meet in the library. The children's room fills its task admirably, but a similar space for **teens** would also be helpful.

Staff need more storage space and work space, and we should consider a front desk with a direct view of the entrance (we currently have a mirror and security cameras that cover the door, but anyone with retail experience knows how the psychology changes when staff have line-of-sight).

Other enhancements fall into the "desirable but not essential" category. A professional-grade **sound system** in the fireplace lounge would make events easier, particularly for online broadcasts. A designated **display/gallery space** would expand the library's ability to host rotating exhibits and serve local interests.

## Timeline

	SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
<b>GROUND</b>	1. Grass-in beds	1. Upgrade trails 2. Install benches 3. Remove invasive species	1. Install signage 2. Build play spaces
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	1. Enable wireless printing	1. Simplify website 2. Enable single sign-on	
<b>FUNDING</b>	1. Sustainable fundraising for library endowment		1. Build endowment to \$100,000
<b>PROGRAMS</b>	1. Partner with community recreation	1. Formalize children's staffing	
<b>COLLECTIONS</b>	1. Expand electronic offerings		1. Join ALC?
<b>BUILDING REPAIRS</b>	1. Siding	1. Carpeting 2. Countertops	
<b>BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS</b>	1. Engineering study 2. Security grille	1. Sound system for fireplace lounge	1. Larger meeting room 2. Teen room 3. More storage space 4. More staff space 5. Front desk view 6. Gallery/display space?



## References

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City of Homer Comprehensive Plan

City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan

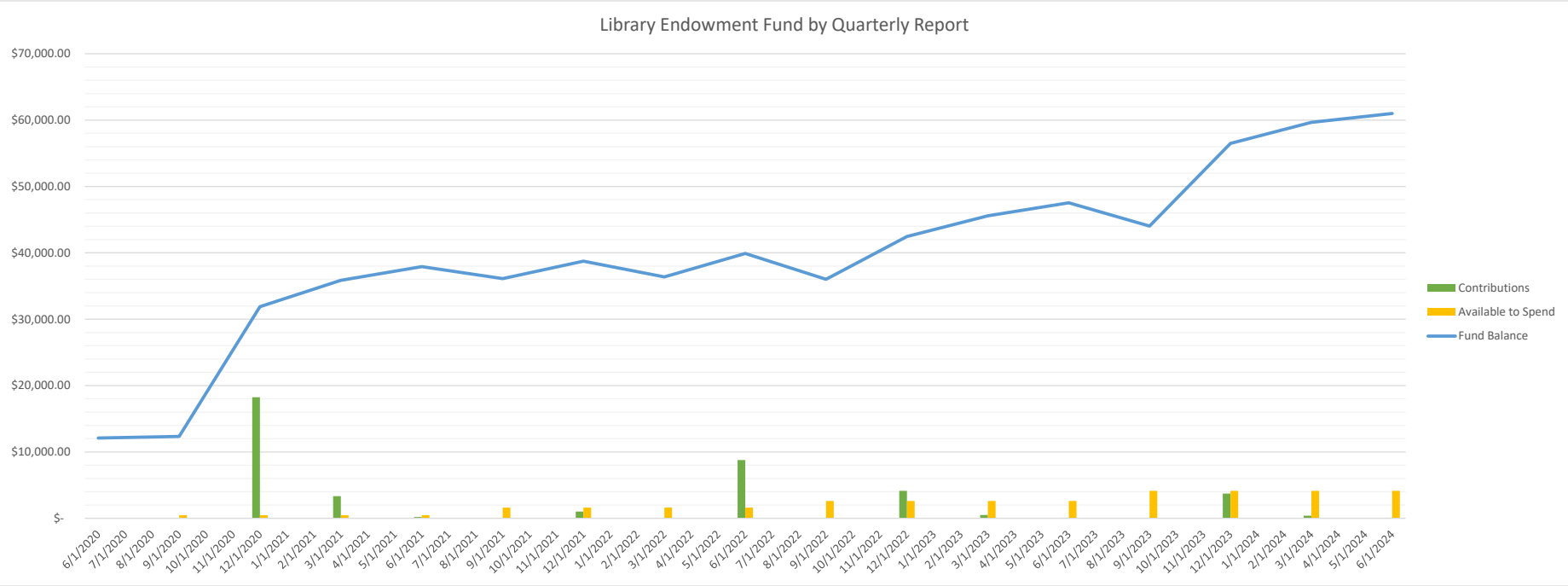
Homer Public Library Policies and Procedures

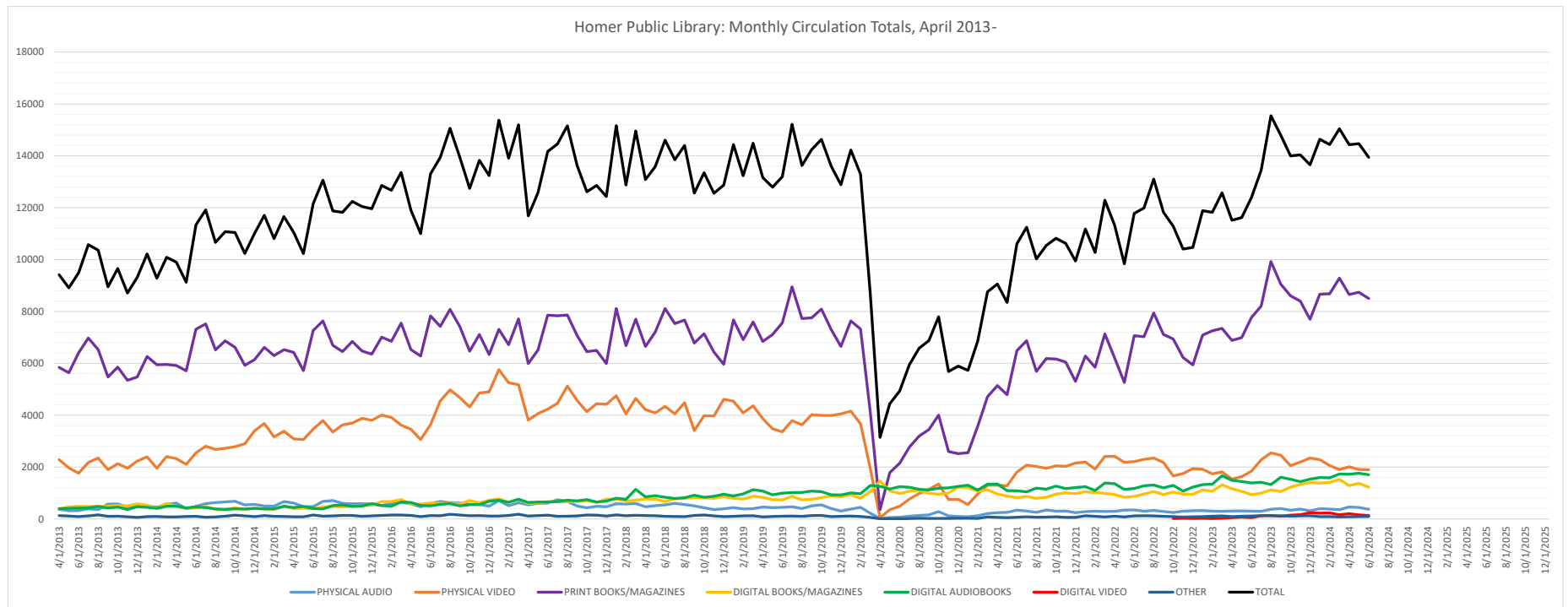
## Appendices

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Circulation statistics

Library endowment fund by fiscal quarter







# MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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## Update on Events Related to PLA Grants

**Item Type:** Informational memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Library Advisory Board  
**Date:** September 9, 2024  
**From:** Dave Berry, Library Director  
**Through:**

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At the August 20 meeting the LAB discussed the 73% cut in the Public Libraries Assistance Grant. The LAB unanimously recommended asking Council for a resolution in support of fully funding those grants. A great deal has happened since then, which I will try to summarize:

- Aug. 16: The Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM) announced the cuts.
- Aug. 16-Present: Massive public outcry, including news coverage from many outlets and questions from the state legislature.
- Aug. 23: We received our award letter from the state, informing us that we would receive a PLA grant in the amount of \$1,829. LAM issued a statement to explain that “the reduced PLA Grant amount for FY25 is not related to a budget veto of the governor.”
- Aug. 26: A representative of the Homer Foundation asked me about coordinating a joint grant application for the volunteer-run libraries in Ninilchik, Anchor Point and Seldovia. After the HF board met and hashed out some logistics, the Foundation extended an invitation to all three libraries to apply for emergency aid.
- Aug. 27: The Director of the Soldotna Public Library contacted me about turning the City Council resolution into a joint resolution with the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

- Aug. 28: I sent a letter to the Department of Education. (The text of the letter is also included in the “Impact of PLA Grant Reduction” document.) The Borough administration decided against doing a joint resolution while Mayor Micciche sought out more information through other channels.
- Sept. 4: LAM announced they will find funding to restore the grants, and “supplemental award letters will be sent out by October 15, 2024.”
- Sept. 6: The Alaska Library Association issued a statement, “Impact of the Reduction to the Public Library Assistance Grant,” included in this packet.
- Sept. 9: The Homer Foundation issued an emergency loan to the Ninilchik Library. An ordinance was introduced at the Homer City Council to accept the award of \$1,829; when the supplemental funding arrives, I expect we will have to introduce another ordinance.

To date, there has been no clear explanation of why the cuts occurred. The annual budget for LAM was essentially flat this year, so the reallocation of money occurred within LAM itself. LAM is still inviting comments, which can be sent to [eed.library.grants@alaska.gov](mailto:eed.library.grants@alaska.gov).

The resolution may be a moot point by now, unless the LAB would like to ask the Council to support the SLED funding as well.

**Recommendation:**

For information.



## **IMPACT OF THE REDUCTION TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSISTANCE GRANT** **Friday, September 6, 2024**

**Contact:** Mike Robinson, Chair, Alaska Library Association Advocacy Committee  
[mrobinson@limxr.org](mailto:mrobinson@limxr.org)

**To:** State of Alaska Department of Education & Early Development  
State of Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums  
State of Alaska Governor's Office

Public Libraries in Alaska were recently blindsided by a cut to a state grant that has been a steady source of income since at least the 1990s. For decades, the Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grant, funded by the State of Alaska under Statute 14.56.300, has been awarded to eligible libraries in the amount of \$6,250 - \$7,000. On August 16, 2024, seven weeks into the fiscal year, the Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAM) Division announced that the PLA Grant had been reduced to \$1,829 per library in FY25, a nearly 75% cut.

The budget for this important grant was reduced within the LAM Division from over \$500,000 in recent years to \$150,000 this year. The LAM Division budget was not significantly cut in FY25.

On September 4, 2024, after receiving numerous questions and concerns from libraries and legislators, LAM announced that they were working to restore the FY25 grant to the standard \$7,000.

The Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) has encouraged Alaskans to comment on the importance of the PLA Grant to their libraries. At this point, end library users are not generally aware of this proposed cut and its effects. Libraries are currently working in their communities to raise awareness about the importance of the PLA Grant and educate their users on which services could be impacted as a result of a future grant cut.

The attached impact statements provide a picture of the devastating effects to small, rural communities that a potential cut to PLA Grant funding would create. Many of these libraries operate with volunteer labor for budgets less than \$50,000 per year, some less than \$10,000 per year. These beloved community institutions provide vital services to Alaskans. The best way to support these libraries is to continue to fully fund the PLA Grant each year.

### **Attachments:**

- Map of severely affected libraries
- Graph of PLA Grant over time
- Impact Statements from Public Libraries



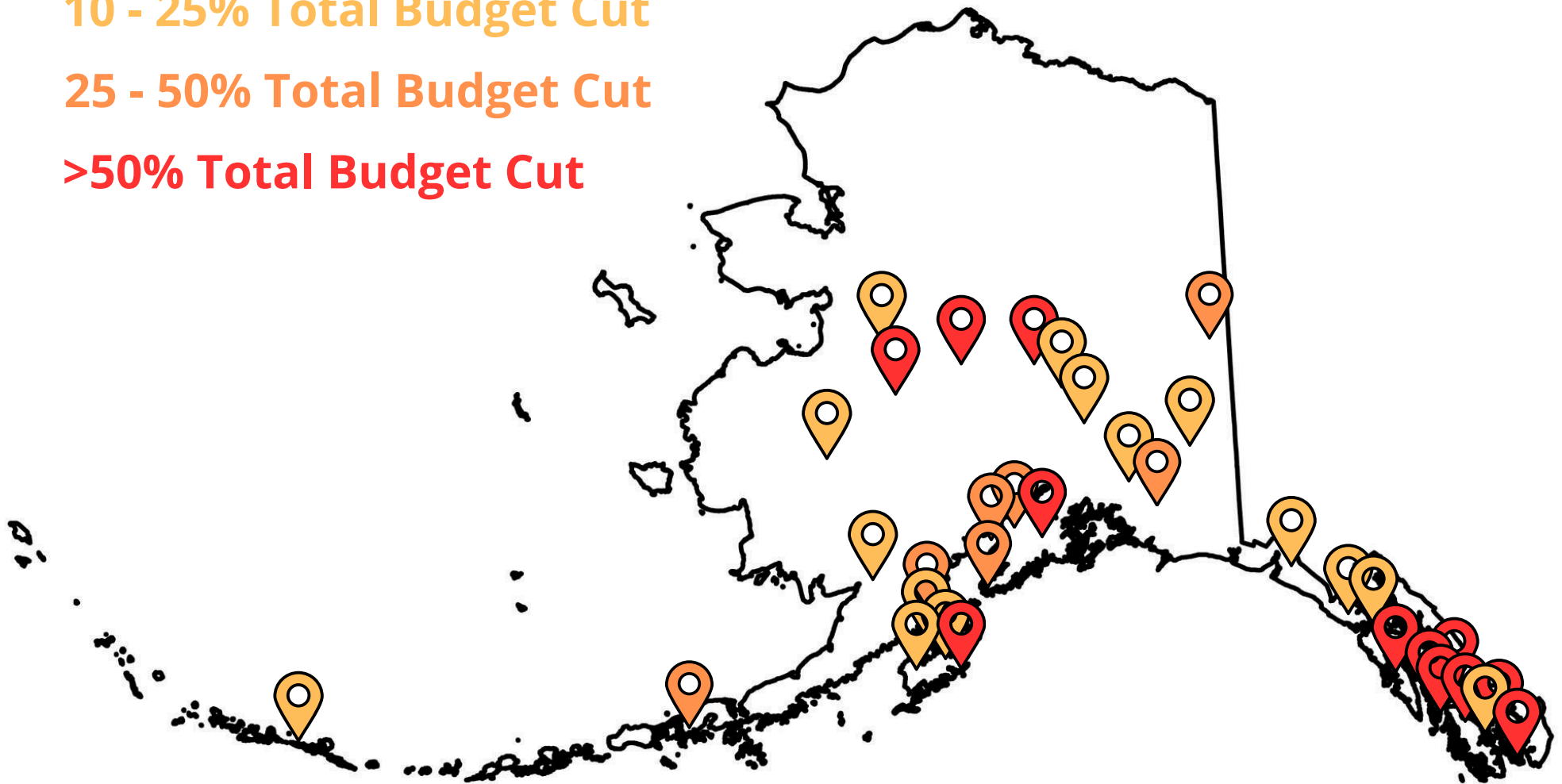
# Alaska Libraries Most Affected by Proposed FY25 PLA Grant Cut

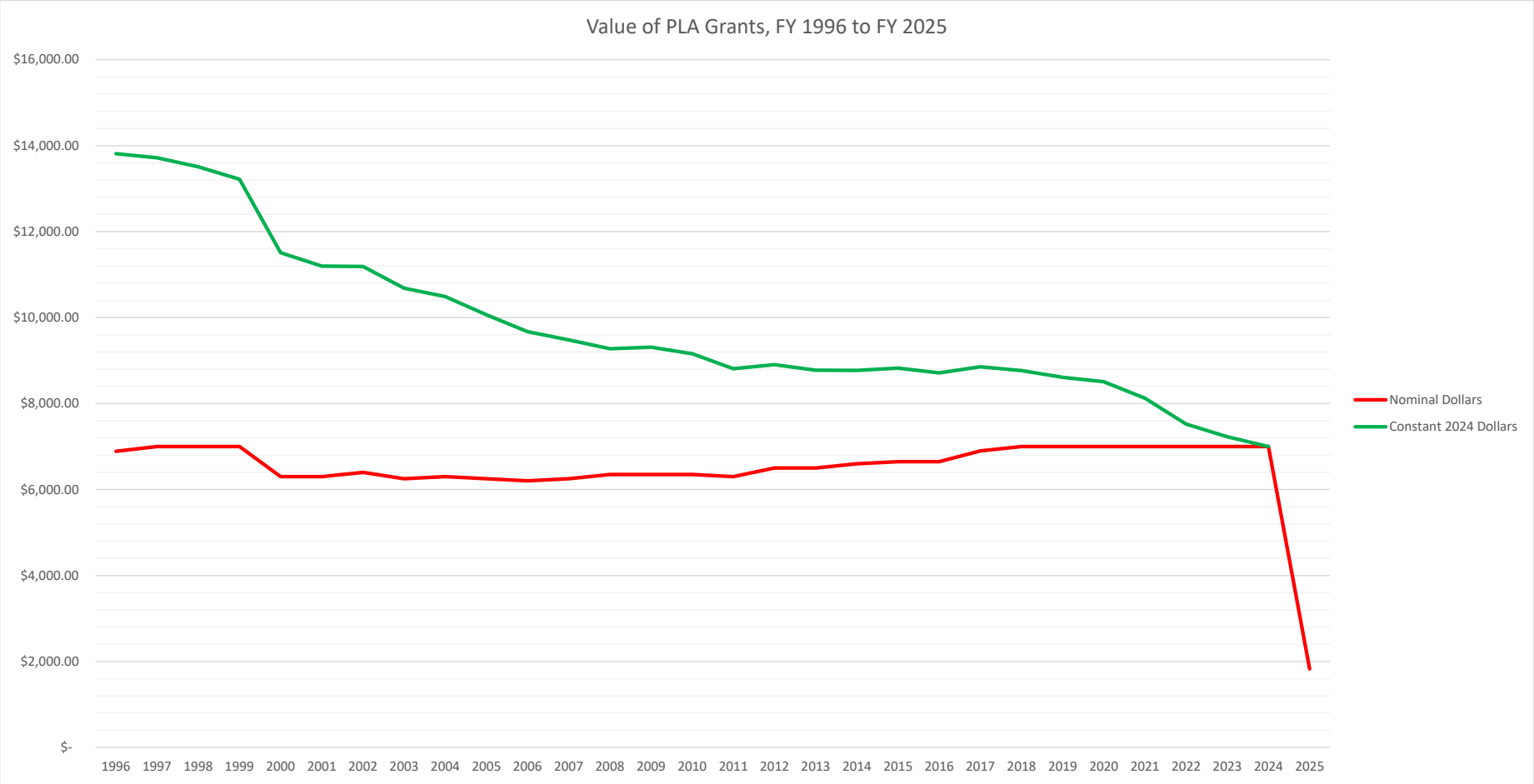
Map shows 34 out of 82 libraries/outlets receiving the PLA Grant in FY25

**10 - 25% Total Budget Cut**

**25 - 50% Total Budget Cut**

**>50% Total Budget Cut**





**Library providing impact statement**

Adak - City of Adak Public Library
Anchor Point Public Library
Bethel - Kuskokwim Consortium Library
Chiniak Public Library
Chiniak Public Library
Cooper Landing Community Library
Craig Public Library
Glennallen - Copper Valley Community Library
Healy - Tri-Valley Community Library
Homer Public Library
Igiugig Tribal Library
Klukwan Community/School Library
Ninilchik Community Library
Nome - Kegoayah Kozga Library
Palmer Public Library
Seldovia Public Library
Tok Community Library
Utgiagvik - Tuzzy Consortium Library
Whale Pass Public Library
Wrangell - Irene Ingle Public Library

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## Comments from Adak

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Hi Pat – I just talked on the phone with the Adak Library, and here is a summary of what they told me:

They are a newer library, just in their first years of getting started. Most of their funding comes from the PLA Grant and OWL funding. This cut will cause an “icing effect” on developing new services and materials as they are just trying to learn how best to serve their community and move forward. They did not indicate that they’d be shutting down or reducing hours due to the cut, but they will find it hard to add new materials to their collection. They also noted that they were caught off guard with the news and didn’t know that this cut was on the horizon until it was announced on August 16.

They said it’s okay to say that their comments come from the Adak Library.













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99556-0129

Phone & Fax: 907/235-5692

[anchorpointlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:anchorpointlibrary@gmail.com)



To Whom It May Concern,

When we received the Public Library Assistance grant letter, we were shocked to see that libraries have not been fully funded. This is a sad day for us since our library counts on this money to be able to provide the services and materials that our patrons need.

We serve a small community that relies on us to help them access the internet. We have many people who can't afford the equipment and cost for internet at home and don't even have an online presence. They depend on us to help them navigate the cyberworld. They also come to us when they need things printed, scanned or faxed. There is nowhere else to get these services in our town.

In addition to helping people who are not computer savvy, we circulate a large number of items each month. Both children and adults look forward to coming and choosing the books to take home. We do several children's reading programs: story time, summer reading, book club for teens, and a winter program we call Idit-a-Read.

We have adult reading programs as well. We help with computer and other reference questions. We will not be able to provide these services if we are closed.

The small grant amount will only keep us open for one month. We really need the DEED to reconsider the grant funding.

Thank you,

[Redacted signature]



## Chiniak Public Library

P.O. Box 5610

Chiniak, AK 99615

[chiniaklibrary@gmail.com](mailto:chiniaklibrary@gmail.com)

To Whom It May Concern,

September 3, 2024

We are writing this letter in an effort to create an understanding of what the Chiniak Public Library (CPL) provides to our rural community, how we operate, and express the importance of the State Public Library Assistance Grant to our Library.

The CPL is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing information, education, and positive recreational services to the community of Chiniak, Pasagshak, and Kalsin Bay. We document an average of 750-800 uses a year. In addition to the literary and multimedia resources we provide, the library acts as a Tsunami Shelter and Community Center. CPL hosts various group activities to unite and educate our community. Some examples include: plant walks, astronomy nights, all ages game nights, yoga, early childhood group activities, art workshops, CPR/First Aid Class. These activities are especially valuable to our community because there are no extracurricular activities offered through the school and children don't often have the opportunity to go to town. CPL also hosts the presidential elections.

CPL provides high speed internet for patrons to be able to continue their education and attain college degrees. We offer easily accessible resources for homeschoolers and the Chiniak School staff and students. In the past 5 years, we have had two students obtain college degrees through use of the library. We have one currently attending college. Arwen Botz earned her masters degree in early childhood special education and Gabe Edwards earned his bachelors in history, both through UAA. Renee Truitt is currently attending the Midwife's College of Utah for her bachelor's in science and midwifery. CPL hosts virtual field trips that the school attends. High school students frequently use the library after school hours to catch up on homework and study. Homeschooler's also frequent the library for activities and references. We host local organizations such as Kodiak Area Native Association who come and have early childhood intervention activities.

Chiniak Public Library Association was established in 1984 and has been operated by volunteers since establishment. CPL is funded by an annual Public Library Association (PLA) as well as donations and fundraiser funds. CPL is completely operated by all volunteer staff including maintenance and janitorial services. We are unsure how we would continue to operate with the drastic cut in our budget due to the much smaller PLA Grant that was announced last week. We were blindsided by this news six weeks into the fiscal year and hope that the funds can be reinstated back to the previous year's funding allocation so we can continue to offer these positive services to our community.

Respectfully,

Chiniak Public Library Board of Directors

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]





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## Chiniak Library Funding Cut

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[REDACTED]

To Pat Tully, Library Director in Ketchikan

We are permanent residents of Chiniak and [REDACTED] is on the Chiniak Public Library Board of Directors.

We are very involved in our library and are regular volunteers.

Our last library burned in a wildfire 9 years ago, and we have worked very hard to restock make our library an important part of Chiniak again.

Our little library is located in the KIB owned building and is multi-functional as a Community Center and Tsunami Shelter.

We are strictly run by community members that volunteer their time and energy, we have no paid employees.

We rely heavily on the \$7,000.00 from the State each year for our expenses, we have depended on this for years and were blindsided by the budget being cut to \$1,800.00 without any warning!

This is devastating to our small community.

Our library offers not only reading materials, but much needed reliable internet for our patrons.

Over the past years we have had residents earn college credit and degrees, doing online classes in the Chiniak Public Library, many residents in Chiniak do not have any other access to internet.

In addition, we have hosted First Aid/CPR training, a variety of arts and crafts, marine debris recycling, celestial class, community game nights all by volunteers sharing their expertise. Our library in Chiniak is very active and well used, please reconsider our full funding.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chiniak, Alaska 99615

[REDACTED]

---

## [AkLA-L] FY25 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT: Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums

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Cooper Landing Community Library <cooperlandinglibrary@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 22, 2024 at 2:15 PM

[Redacted]

Good afternoon [Redacted]

I tried calling your office phone, and received the following message: "You have reached a State of Alaska number that is not in service." I did not get an answer on your cell phone, so I am sending an email.

This message is regarding the Public Library Assistance Grant. Your email arrived late Friday afternoon and was overlooked until last night. At first glance, it seemed to be a general update about museum and library grants. This morning I read the message more carefully and realized that our Public Library Assistance Grant is being reduced by nearly 74% almost two months into the fiscal year. I feel like the bottom has dropped out from under us. I am the director of a small, volunteer-run library in the state. We have no paid staff and no revenue source beyond the PLAG, donations, and any grants our volunteers apply for. Our small rural library cannot operate without the support of this grant from the state. We have recently made monetary commitments to services such as the Alaska Digital Library, our Integrated Library System, and internet services for FY25, all of which we cannot afford without this grant, let alone new books for our library patrons to check out. Today I am trying to figure out how to break this news to our community. I'm wondering which bills we can stop paying and if it is possible to cancel any FY25 services we have already paid for. Today I will inform our volunteer staff that all media purchases must cease immediately.

I have so many questions. How did this happen? Why, after years of being able to depend on this grant, are we being informed about this reduction in funding so late? Why was this message emailed to the AkLA list, and not directly to each library's director? Why is excitement shared in the first paragraph of the email, rather than sadness and apologies at such shocking news? Do the decision-makers at the state level understand that many of Alaska's small rural libraries exist outside of municipalities, and have no other sources of revenue?

For the first time since our library was founded in 1983, we are faced with the possibility of closing our doors to the community. I am devastated!

I look forward to hearing back from you and hope I misunderstood the message below.

[Redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]



[Redacted]

---

## Sample impact statement; email address for DEED

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Sat, Aug 31, 2024 at 3:29 PM

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Hi Pat,

Here is our impact statement:

Craig Public Library, located on Prince of Wales Island, serves 12 rural communities both on and off the island road system. While we are not the only library on the island, we are the largest and most accessible. The PLA funds play a vital role in ensuring our collection stays up-to-date, reliable, and relevant to patrons. We also depend on this award to supplement our programming budget, to prevent summer learning loss through our annual reading program, to promote early literacy with our lap-sit bags for check out, and to facilitate life-long learning through requested workshops for our community. The sudden and unexpected loss in funding has left us scrambling and disappointed. In addition to supporting our materials and programming budget, we had planned to roll out hoopla, a new digital collection service that would have allowed us to improve library access for our homebound senior patrons and off-road communities. Our communities- small, rural, and semi-isolated – rely on a strong public library system. The loss of this funding will deny our community the library services they deserve.

Thank you for all your work on this.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Hope you have a good weekend!

Best,

[Redacted signature]

Craig Public Library

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[Redacted quoted text]

[Quoted text hidden]

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**PLA Grant cuts - THIS IS A PROBLEM**

---

Copper Valley Community Library Association <cvcla@cvinternet.net>

Fri, Aug 30, 2024 at 12:50 PM

Good morning Pat -

Three board members met this morning to write a short paragraph about the PLA grant cut. Never, since I have been affiliated with the library, have I had to deal with such a drastic reduction in a grant AFTER the amount was initially quoted and I have been with the library since 1996.

**THIS IS A PROBLEM**

The Copper Valley Community Library agrees with comments from the other libraries and we are deeply concerned about the cut in the PLA grant amount.

This will have a devastating impact on library services in rural and remote Alaskan communities. CVCLA will now need to redo the budget to accommodate these changes. This will require us to make cuts to programs such as but not limited to; the ILL returns, new book purchases and our pre-school story hour. This will leave the Glennallen, Slana, Chistochina, Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina and Copper Center communities underserved.

We know that the Kenny Lake library also serves Copper Center, Chitina, Upper and Lower Tonsina, and the McCarthy communities with this grant. These two libraries cover the whole Copper River basin – 24,000 sq miles the size of West Virginia.

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## PLA grant impact on Homer Public Library

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Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 10:30 AM

Here's the letter I sent to DEED yesterday:

Good evening!

By now, you've likely received a great deal of feedback about the cuts to the PLA grants. I'll add some input from the perspective of Homer Public Library (and forgive me if it repeats much of what you've already heard!).

We use the PLA funds to supplement our materials budget. In a typical year, we spend about a third of the PLA money on picture books and juvenile fiction, with the remainder mainly going to adult nonfiction. The loss of over \$5,000 in expected funding means we will cut back on purchasing new releases, slow down replacement of damaged materials, and shift the focus of collection development. Updates to our medical collection and foreign-language section will be put on hold. When we have to pick and choose our purchases, we inevitably trend towards ordering more broad, high-demand titles and fewer specialized or cutting-edge materials.

Our library is taxpayer-supported, which gives us the wherewithal to survive a single year of significant funding cuts. The small libraries around us are not so fortunate. I've been working with the volunteer staff in Ninilchik, Anchor Point and Seldovia to find supplementary funding to see them through the year. All three are considering reductions to service hours, and it goes without saying that their materials budgets have been wiped out.

The importance of the PLA grants can't be overstated. I sincerely hope there's a way to repair the damage before it's too late for the many small, volunteer-operated libraries across Alaska.

Cheers!



, Homer Public Library









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## Regarding the reduction in this year's PLA

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Igiugig Library <igiugiglibrary@gmail.com>  


Fri, Aug 30, 2024 at 3:08 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a small, rural tribal library, we are so grateful for the funding we have received over the years through the Public Library Assistance grant. The PLA funding has allowed us to improve our collection and address community needs year after year--it is the main source of funding for collections and programming. We rely heavily on the funding from two sources to keep our library going, the State PLA and the IMLS Native American Basic grant. The IMLS covers wages for our part-time staff of two people, as well as travel money for a trained library consultant to visit us onsite for training and improvements. The PLA covers everything else, namely Collections, Technology, and Programming--all the good stuff! Books and other materials for the children and adults in our community. Unlimited internet access for our community (the library is the only place community members have free internet access). Our budget for the upcoming year was based on the usual \$7,000 we have received in the past, so the drastic reduction in funding will require a major shift for our collections and programming plan for this year. The loss of \$5,000 from the PLA amounts to a 29% reduction for us, essentially a third of our entire budget. We hope this reduction is only temporary and that the Alaska State Legislature and other organizations involved will find a way to return the PLA to the full \$7,000 award in coming years.

Quyana, thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.  
  


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## Impact of FY25 PLA Grant Reductions on Irene Ingle Public Library

2 messages

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Mon, Aug 26, 2024 at 12:19 PM

Hi Pat,

My heart is with you and Ketchikan today as you deal with the devastating landslide that has affected your community. We know all too well in Wrangell what you are going through, and I am so sorry for what your community is facing. Please reach out if there is anything you need, or your community needs.

I am writing to respond to your request for impact statements regarding the PLA Grant reduction. I wrote the EED an email already, but wanted to let you know how these cuts affect our library specifically:

Since 2018 we have received a \$7,000 PLA grant, therefore we reasonably included these funds in our FY25 budget. Without the restoration of this funding, we will face severe budget shortfalls, particularly affecting:

- **OCLC WorldShare Subscription:** These funds cover our OCLC WorldShare subscription, which is essential for providing interlibrary loans both within Alaska and across the country. This service is a critical lifeline, not only for our patrons who rely on it for access to materials beyond our local collection but also for other libraries that depend on us to fulfill their loan requests. - This \$3200 has already been spent.
- **Collection Development:** We also rely on the PLA Grant to purchase large print and children's books. Wrangell has one of the highest median ages in Alaska, and large print titles are essential for our older residents. The reduced funding will severely impact our ability to maintain and expand our collection.

Thank you for your work on compiling this report, and for including Wrangell's information.

You are all in my thoughts,



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**RE: PLA Grant reduction impact statement Klukwan Library**

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[REDACTED]  
to: "eedlibrarygrants, eedlibrarygrants (EED sponsored)" <eed.library.grants@alaska.gov>  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Tue, Aug 27, 2024 at 12:21 PM

Hello –

The Klukwan Community and School Library would like to make the following impact statement regarding the reduced PLA grant amount.

Reducing the amount of the Public Library Assistance (PLA) grant down to \$1,829 will have severe negative impacts to our library and community. This sudden reduction is especially impactful because the late announcement doesn't allow any planning to offset the loss and this is substantial for our small library.

In our remote village with few other resources, people of all ages go to the library for information, learning, and recreational opportunities. Our library is a community hub and offers easy access for patrons of all ages to attend cultural and life skills programs, access to materials, and search the internet.

With the reduction of funds, this will reduce the amount of hours our library will be open, and thereby reducing our ability to provide services and programming to our patrons, teachers, students, and all community members. Our unique position as a school and community library also allows us to provide a lot of support within a small, multi-grade school both during and after school hours. We provide a workspace for students, have helped run reading, writing, and math groups, and serve as a reading space. Students come before and after school for special programs, checking out materials and enjoying the quiet space to read. Reducing our hours would limit our ability to work with the school community effectively and help support our youth in their educational and recreational reading/activities.

The PLA grant provides our main source of funding to add new materials to our collection in order to keep them relevant and useful to our patrons. This past year alone we were able to add over 300 items consisting of books, movies, and audio. Without this funding, we will not be able to add as many new materials, and our collections will become stagnant and less useful to our patrons. Being able to add newer materials is a big draw to our community and even encourages other patrons from the surrounding area to use our library services.

Our library uses PLA funds to cover the yearly cost of having an online catalog. Now, we will only be able to cover the cost of the online catalog, spend the required 50% on library materials, and that leaves us very little to cover any other expenses. This will impact our general library work by severely limiting the time we have to work on library tasks as well as reducing our ability to provide programming and collaboration with our community and school. We will no longer have supply funds which we use to cover purchasing general library supplies, as well as supplies for programming. We will no longer have a travel budget which will impact our ability to attend the annual AkLA Conference which is extremely important for our staff's continued education and peer networking.

Thank you for listening,

Klukwan Library Staff



Impact statement from your library?



Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 11:06 AM


This is what I sent to Amy!  
Thanks for doing this.

For my library and a lot of small, rural libraries the PLA grant is our only source of funding to buy books. I am going to have to cancel our subscription to the Alaska Library Catalog, stop buying bestsellers, cancel our magazine subscriptions and more for the entire year without this funding. This is a huge loss to us. What can we do to advocate for this funding to be restored?



Kuskokwim Consortium Library | UAF Kuskokwim Campus



 Kuskokwim Campus (KuC), University of Alaska Fairbanks occupies the Indigenous and traditional lands of the Yup'ik and Cup'ik peoples in the Southwest region of Alaska. We at KuC honor, recognize, and respect the Indigenous communities and the land of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region and throughout the state of Alaska.

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## [AkLA-L] FY25 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT: Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums

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nincomlib@alaska.net <nincomlib@alaska.net>

Fri, Aug 23, 2024 at 12:32 PM

Reply-To: nincomlib@alaska.net

Cc: aklalist@lists.akla.org, ak museums@list.state.ak.us

As a small library in Ninilchik, AK this hit will most likely cause us to close in the near future. We are already only available 4 days a week, we are starting 3 days a week. We will not be able to afford staying open in the winter months with the cost of plow services and heating the library.

Ninilchik Community Library

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/a/lists.akla.org/d/msgid/aklalist/1724445126.291xi7exsk4gs8k4%40mymail.acsalaska.net>.



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**RE: External Email FY 2025 PLA Grant Agreement**

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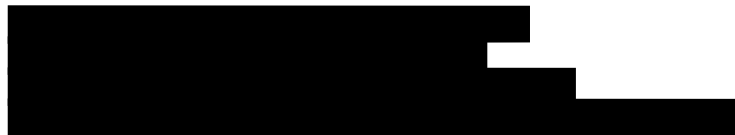
Mon, Aug 26, 2024 at 11:57 AM

Pat,



It is not an ideal situation and the cost of my catalog, OCLC, McNaughton, ALN and software already cost so much that I would have very little money to purchase library materials if I don't take this small amount of money. So in the best interest of our public library patrons, I am forced to get it signed before September 1. It will be a bleak year for the library. I can't make it bleaker.

Warm regards,



August 27, 2024

Dear Dr. Amy Chan,

I am at a loss as to how to respond to the Public Library Assistance Grant reduction. You have received the same emails I have, expressing concern that this is going to cause devastating consequences to small libraries across Alaska.

- Alaskan Public Libraries with FY23 operating budgets below \$50,000? **34**
- Alaskan Public Libraries with FY23 operating budgets below \$14,000? **13**

That is **34** libraries that may have to close or shorten hours out of the **82** funded?

As the [REDACTED] of Palmer Public Library, trying desperately to have a replacement library built, we are on a tight budget. With the continued attacks by the book banners, and the anti-library crowd, the size of the potential new library has shrunk. We do not know when it will be funded or how much or when. I use this PLA grant money to purchase things that are needed but not necessarily in the planned budget. Just today I went to a thrift store to purchase patron tables at a sizable cost difference than anywhere else to keep our costs down.

Alaska Public Libraries serve 95% of the Alaska population.

Reaching people is so much more than books or dvds or internet access. We are helping patrons, from every walk of life, navigate information. We are touching and changing people's lives daily. And with the Public Library Assistance Grant reduced by so much, our ability to help our patrons is reduced as well.

How has this happened? Where was the \$424,000 money reallocated?

I look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Palmer Public Library [REDACTED]

*"State Grant Funding Through the Alaska Statutes and Alaska Administrative Code*

*Each year, the State Legislature appropriates funds for library grants to the State Library. The State Library uses 75% of this appropriation to fund the public library assistance grants. These funds are simply divided up by the number of public library outlets that are eligible for the public library grant. In recent years, the amount of the public library assistance grant for each outlet has ranged from \$6,200 to \$6,350. The remaining 25% of this appropriation is used to fund netlender reimbursement and interlibrary cooperation grants." <https://lam.alaska.gov/library-grants/funding>*



## FY25 PLA Funding Cut report - Seldovia

Seldovia Public Library <seldovia.library@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 30, 2024 at 9:56 AM

The Seldovia Public Library depends upon the Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grant program for the vast majority of our funding - approximately 85%. Our only other income is from Pick.Click.Give., our annual Fourth of July Book Sale, and other small donations. All of these together add up to an (unpredictable) approximate \$1000 per year.

Our budget for Fiscal Year 2025 is counting on \$7,000 from PLA, as we have for many years past. We use this money to purchase new books and DVDs, pay for our magazine subscriptions, internet service, furniture, equipment, and other materials, software, supplies and services, including keeping our electronic catalog up and running. We already operate on a shoestring budget, and 100% of our labor is provided free by volunteers.

We are very fortunate to have our building and utilities costs covered by the City of Seldovia, and our faithful volunteers will keep showing up to keep our doors open and run programs. But, we will likely have to spend money out of our savings to pay for copy paper, software, internet and so on. Perhaps our most vital service to the community and to visitors is our free WiFi and our copier/printer. These services are in jeopardy. In addition, we won't be able to add any new materials to our collection, so our circulation will go down and patron numbers will probably go down.

The Seldovia Public Library is an important hub in the community. This funding cut has not only been devastating and stressful to our all-volunteer staff, our community has also expressed concern.

  
Seldovia Public Library

Seldovia Public Library  
PO Drawer H  
Seldovia, AK 99663  
907-234-7662  
<<http://seldovialibrary.wordpress.com/>>

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## [AkLA-L] FY25 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT: Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums

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**Tok Library** <library@tokak.us>

Fri, Aug 23, 2024 at 2:26 PM

To: "aklalist@lists.akla.org" <aklalist@lists.akla.org>

[Redacted]

I agree with everything others have said about the impact of this cut and seriously question why the PLA funds were cut by \$411,605 when the overall cut was only \$30,700. The PLA funds amounted to 43% of our budget for FY24 so a cut of this magnitude is devastating.

[Redacted]  
Tok Community Library  
[Redacted]

[Quoted text hidden]

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/a/lists.akla.org/d/msgid/aklalist/C9F09638-51F0-42C0-9D0B-CE26D423D965%40tokak.us>.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 10:12 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: [AkLA-L] FY25 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT: Alaska State Libraries, Archives and Museums

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm shocked to see that this funding has been drastically reduced! As my library receives funding for all 7 of my village libraries, as well as Tuzzy Library, this is a massive hit! I rely on this grant to pay for a portion of my village staff's wages as well as books, subscriptions, and online services that support all of my rural communities of the North Slope. I do receive other grant funds, but it supports the remainder of my staff's wages. At this rate, I don't know if I can maintain the open hour requirements to keep these libraries open. If that's the case, then I assume I would be ineligible for this grant.

Quyanaq (Thank you),

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Tuzzy Consortium Library | Ilisagvik College  
PO Box 2130 | Utqiagvik, AK 99723  
P: (907) 852-4050 | [REDACTED]

## **RE: State of Alaska Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grant 70% Cut**

The successful functionality of any library relies on a dedicated and trained staff to be efficient and available to the public. This proposed cut in state funding will negatively impact our ability to staff our libraries and to keep our internet connections available as a resource to the public. Because our libraries offer public services, we tend to rely on public funding in the form of patron donations, local grants from borough government assemblies, sponsorships via local businesses, and importantly, the state funding that we budget for and apply for annually.

Like many libraries in Alaska, our local Tri-Valley Community Library in Healy, and our sister Community Libraries in Anderson and Cantwell in the Denali Borough, often operate as important hubs of our small rural communities. We offer not only books, magazines, and other media; we also offer many useful resources such as computers, printers, other electronic devices, and of course the all important public wi-fi connection to the internet. For residents living off the grid or in a home far from the main transportation artery of highways and roads, this usually means the traditional internet networks are only available sporadically and often not at all. The library is one of the only places many patrons are able to complete certain functions that our current technologically advanced society requires from its citizens.

As an extension of the local public schools, all three of our Community Libraries also offer much needed programs to incoming and continuing students. These programs include, but are not limited to, winter Story Hour sessions, and Summer Reading programs that help children and their parents stay connected to what is happening in the School District and to keep reading skills honed during times outside of the school season or outside of regular school hours. The multitude of homeschool families in the borough also use the resources available at their local libraries on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

The libraries in our borough have recently suffered a setback because of the worldwide effects of the pandemic that our nation endured in 2020-2021. We are still struggling to return from those days when we were required to close our doors and to adhere to public safety mandates. While we continue to operate via the donations, sponsorships, and state funding mentioned previously, we typically also coordinate major fundraising events to remain as self-sufficient as possible. However, because of the nature of a major fundraising event – large crowds, buffets of food, crews of volunteers – the atypical pandemic years put a damper on those previously significant events. Pre-pandemic events could pull in tens of thousands of dollars, money that

has been non-existent during recent years. Due to this, our Tri-Valley Library is operating at a deficit. We have also not been immune to the economic and employment crisis created by the pandemic. To keep a consistent staff we need to stay relevant in the employment market and be able to offer our employees a competitive wage and consistent schedule.

We are currently surviving within an era of crisis, and most likely many rural Alaska libraries are in a similar situation. This is the worst time for the State of Alaska to be removing previously consistent funding that has been relied upon. It is during these times of national crisis that the state should be bolstering existing public infrastructure such as public libraries, not removing helpful resources. This is a devastating cut to our local libraries, and will perpetuate the problem of trying to bring back our major fundraising events to be more self-sufficient. With less funding to guarantee a library staff, there will be no one to coordinate these efforts. There will be more days that the library doors will be forced to remain closed. There will be less access to the public services we have offered for decades. We sincerely hope this cut in funding for Alaska libraries will be reconsidered.

***The Tri-Valley Community Library Board and the School & Community Library Staff***

**Library Staff:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Library Board of Directors**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



TRI-VALLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

*Serving the Communities of Healy, Denali Park & Ferry, Alaska*

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**Impact Statement - Whale Pass Public Library**

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Wed, Sep 4, 2024 at 6:57 PM

  
  
Cc: Library Whale Pass <whalepasspubliclibrary@gmail.com>

Hi Pat,

Tyra forwarded your email, I'm the new library director for the Whale Pass Public Library. Please see below for the impact statement. Hopefully we will all receive supplemental funding in October per Dr. Phillips-Chan's recent email.

Thank you for putting this together,

  
Library Director

"Reducing grant funding will negatively impact our summer reading program, reduce the relevance of keeping updated collection materials, and make it challenging to keep our lights on. The PLAG covers all our summer reading materials and new collection items and pays for our heating, electricity, and phone expenses. -Whale Pass Public Library"



# MEMORANDUM /AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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## Funding for PLA Grants and SLED

**Item Type:** Action memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor and City Council  
**Date:** Sept. 11, 2024  
**From:** Library Advisory Board  
**Through:** Dave Berry, Library Director

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For decades, libraries across Alaska have received an annual grant of \$6,000 to \$7,000 from the State for purchasing materials. The Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grants are critical for many small libraries, which rely on them to function.

Many libraries, including in Homer, rely on the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) to provide online resources that local institutions cannot fund themselves. SLED provides 60 out of the 68 online subscription databases that patrons can access through the website of the Homer Public Library.

The Library, Archives and Museums (LAM) Division under the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is responsible for distributing the PLA grants and overseeing SLED. On August 16, LAM announced major cuts to the PLA grants, reducing the amounts for each institution from \$7,000 to \$1,829. Separately, the budget for SLED was reduced by 26%, from \$500,000 to \$369,514. While the funding for the PLA grants was later restored, the cuts to SLED have not been addressed and affect all Alaskans.

The Library Advisory Board discussed these cuts at its meetings on August 20 and September 17, and strongly urges the City Council to pass a resolution asking the State to restore funding for these resources at its prior level.

### Recommendation:

Pass a resolution urging the State of Alaska to restore funding for the PLA grants and SLED to FY 2024 levels.



**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

City Manager/  
Library Director

**RESOLUTION 24-1xx**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,  
URGING THE STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO MAINTAIN  
FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ASSISTANCE (PLA) GRANTS  
AND THE STATEWIDE LIBRARY ELECTRONIC DOORWAY (SLED) AT  
FY 2024 LEVELS.

WHEREAS, For decades the Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grants have supported libraries across Alaska with \$6,000 to \$7,000 in annual funding, and the Homer Public Library has received many such grants; and

WHEREAS, The Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) has provided Alaskans with access to online resources that would otherwise be unaffordable for their local libraries, including 60 of the 68 subscription databases currently offered to patrons of the Homer Public Library; and

WHEREAS, The budget for the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums reduced all PLA grants to \$1,829 before reversing those cuts, while SLED funding has been reduced from \$500,000 to \$369,514; and

WHEREAS, Cuts to the PLA grants would force the Homer Public Library to reduce its purchases of new materials, particularly picture books, foreign languages and medical texts; and

WHEREAS, The Seldovia Library would have to decrease materials purchases and service hours; and

WHEREAS, The Ninilchik Community Library would be forced to close over winter; and

WHEREAS, The reduced PLA grant would only support Anchor Point Public Library's operations for one month; and

WHEREAS, Loss of SLED funding means all public libraries in the state will have to eliminate significant online resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, hereby urges the State of Alaska Legislature to maintain funding for the Public Libraries Assistance grants and the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway at FY 2024 levels.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 23rd day of September, 2024.

CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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RENEE KRAUSE, MMC, CITY CLERK

## Complaints

The library strives to provide the best services and collections possible, but complaints will inevitably arise. The process for handling complaints varies depending on the nature of the complaint.

### COMPLAINTS REGARDING LIBRARY PROGRAMS OR MATERIALS

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The library recognizes that within the Homer area there are groups and individuals with widely separate and diverse interests, backgrounds, cultural heritage, social values, and needs, and that some patrons may find some of the library's materials and/or programs offensive.

Library decisions are guided by an array of professional documents, including the Library Bill of Rights and the Code of Ethics. Selection of materials is not made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval of their contents and no library material is sequestered except to protect it from damage or theft. Concurrently, library programs are designed to serve a wide array of patron interests and a given program is neither included nor excluded on the grounds of controversial content. Upcoming events are advertised through routine channels and patrons are responsible for keeping up with their interests. **See the sections on Collection Development, Programs and the Appendices for further details.**

Individuals may request that the library reconsider materials or programs, following the process below. Questioned materials will not be removed or restricted at any point in this process until a final decision has been rendered, except as needed for review by library staff or the Library Advisory Board. Programs currently scheduled, including series, will go ahead as planned and will not be cancelled or delayed while the reconsideration process is underway; the outcome of the reconsideration process applies only to programs or series that are not yet scheduled.

The outcome of the process is considered final when the individual chooses not to appeal or when all appeals have been exhausted.

#### 1. Oral Complaint to the Library Director

Any individual who has concerns about materials or programs may bring those concerns to the library director. The director will listen to the concerns, explain the policies on collection development and/or programs and determine what action, if any, to take. The director will also provide the patron with a written copy of the policies, if requested.

## **2. Written Complaint to the Library Director**

A patron who resides within the library's service area may initiate a written request for reconsideration if the oral discussion does not resolve the issue. A complaint about a program must be filed no more than five working days after the scheduled date of the event.

1. The patron must submit a Request for Reconsideration form to the library director. A separate form must be completed for each individual work or program subject to complaint. Incomplete forms will not be considered.
2. Upon receiving the completed form, the library director shall:
  - a. Read, view or listen to the material in its entirety, or review available information about the program. If the work is currently checked out, this step will be suspended until the work is returned.
  - b. Consult reviews and recommended reading lists to assess the general opinion of the work in question. The director may choose to consult with other library staff.
  - c. Evaluate the work for its strengths and value as a whole and not in part, and apply all appropriate selection criteria.
3. Having thoroughly considered the complaint, the director may:
  - a. Retain the challenged work (or keep the program in mind for future scheduling),
  - b. Move the work to another location (or make changes to the program's format, audience, timing, etc. for future scheduling)
  - c. Remove the work from the collection (or remove the program from consideration for future scheduling).
4. In all cases, the director shall:
  - a. Provide a written response to the patron within 30 days, including a full explanation of the decision and information concerning the process to appeal. If more time is needed for reviewing materials, the written response shall notify the patron of that fact.
  - b. Advise the Library Advisory Board of the decision, either through a formal memo or as part of the monthly Director's Report at its next scheduled meeting.

## **3. Appeal to Library Advisory Board (LAB)**

1. If the patron disagrees with the library director's decision, the patron may appeal to the Library Advisory Board by notifying the City Clerk's Office. The patron must provide a written

statement giving the basis for disagreeing with the library director's decision. The City Clerk's Office will include the statement, the director's written response, and the Request for Reconsideration form(s) in the packet for the next scheduled LAB meeting.

2. The LAB will review the packet materials and hear testimony from the patron and all interested members of the public. Testimony may be presented at the meeting or in writing.
3. The LAB shall entertain a motion on whether to consider the matter further.
4. If the LAB does not vote to proceed, the matter is closed. The LAB Chair will provide the patron with written notice of the outcome within 30 days.
5. If the LAB votes to proceed, the LAB shall schedule a public hearing at a special or regular meeting to address the request for reconsideration. The date for this meeting is at the LAB's discretion, but should allow sufficient time for members to review the work(s) or program(s) in full.
6. Prior to the meeting, all members of the LAB will read, view or listen to the work(s) in full. Where the complaint concerns programming, LAB members will review the same information available to the library director regarding the program(s).
7. At the meeting, the LAB will again accept public testimony and then vote on whether to uphold or overturn the library director's decision. Where multiple works or programs are at issue, a separate motion is required for every individual work or program. For materials complaints, members may vote on any work which the member has read, viewed or listened to in full, but must abstain from voting on works which the member has not read, viewed or listened to in full.
8. Once the LAB has voted, the LAB Chair will provide the patron with written notice of the outcome within 30 days.
9. **Any decision made by the LAB—whether to uphold or overturn the library director's decision—shall remain in effect for three full years from the date of the final LAB vote. No further appeals will be heard. No other reconsideration of this material or program will be addressed during that time period unless the grounds for complaint are substantially different from the previous reconsideration.**
10. At the expiration of the three-year period, all actions regarding the work(s) or program(s) become available:
  - a. A patron may initiate a new request for reconsideration

- b. The library director may place the work(s) back in the collection (if previously removed)
- c. The library director may place the work(s) in a new location, including the original location (if previously shifted to a different part of the collection)
- d. The library director may schedule the program(s) for future dates (if previously declined)
- e. The director shall notify the LAB in writing after taking any of the actions listed above.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto: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: August 21, 2024  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for August 26, 2024 Council Meeting

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#### What's been happening in the parks over the summer?

Karen Hornaday Park road was cleaned up and new diggers were installed at the playground.

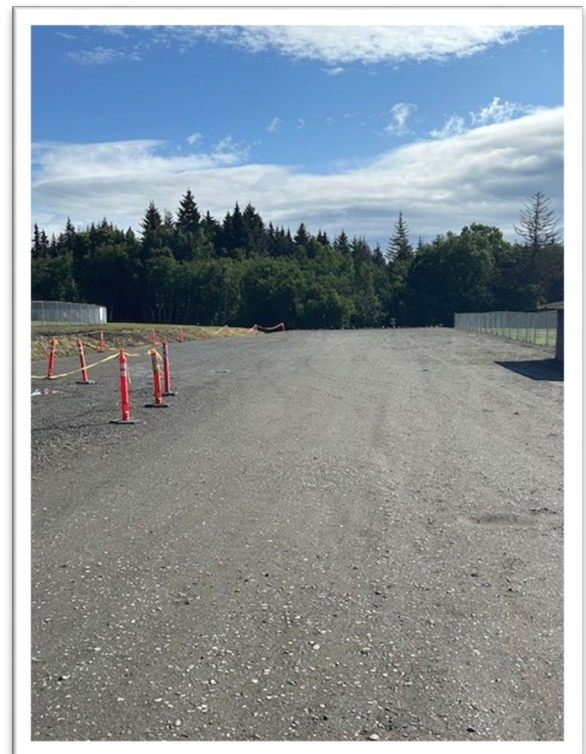




A new swing set was installed at Ben Walters Park and the area around the Bartlett St. restroom was cleaned up and hydro-seeded.



And, Jack Gist Park had a drainage and parking lot overhaul.





This is just a sampling of what our Public Works and Park crews have been doing to improve parks over the summer. In addition to these highlights, there are always the ongoing responsibilities of equipment maintenance, lawn care, beautification projects, working with partners in coordinating their events, along with a variety of other behind the scenes needs to keep the City going.

### **Alaska Municipal Managers Association and AML Summer Conferences**

I had the great pleasure of travelling to the City of Kodiak to attend the AMMA and AML Summer Legislative Conferences last week. I enjoyed making connections with the Managers from other municipalities, learning about their struggles and successes, and sharing about Homer's. We discussed strategic planning, retention challenges, and had a great presentation by the City and Borough of Sitka's Administrator on a program he's implemented with their employees to improve the culture of their organization. AML staff also presented about current and potential new resources they have available to municipalities.

At the AML conference one of their lobbyists shared an overview of big policy issues at the legislative level including energy issues i.e.: focus on the rail belt and gas lines and shortages in Cook Inlet; also, education funding, PERS, and health care. A team from King Cove presented on the impacts to their community with the Peter Pan fish processing facility closing. Other presentations were about outmigration in Alaska communities, employee retention, public education, and AML resources for community development and public works. The last day we had a breakout session where attendees could gather at various tables to discuss a variety of topics that impact municipalities to provide to AML to consider. I made a stop at the table discussing Title 29 and added public notice to the list of topics related to that title. During discussion of the topics with the entire group as we closed the day, I shared the challenges Homer has encountered with public notice over the last few months and the need to have web-based notice included in the statute. I received a few applause and head nods from others who are struggling with the same limitations.

### **Attachments:**

- Homer Harbor Expansion Monthly Report
- City of Homer Job listings at <https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/>
- City Council Worksession Schedule



# MEMORANDUM

City Managers Report  
City Council  
August 26, 2024

## Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

**Item Type:** Informational Memorandum  
**Prepared For:** Mayor and City Council  
**Date:** August 21 , 2024  
**From:** Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator  
**Through:** Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

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

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

Continuing study activities:

- Transmitted an updated 1002 notification letter to the City identifying the current schedule of feasibility study milestones (attached).
  - a. Release of draft feasibility study for public comment and concurrent review: 29 August 2025.
  - b. USACE submits final feasibility report: 19 October 2026.
  - c. Signed Chief's Report: 22 February 2027.

The milestone dates are pending alignment with the Regional Integration Team and USACE Headquarters, so dates could slightly change. An updated 1002 letter will be transmitted to the City after the study schedule waiver is signed.

- The USACE Environmental team will complete their fieldwork over the next month, with visits scheduled for August 20 and September 20. They have been conducting beach seining and bottom trawls and will be collecting water samples for eDNA analysis. eDNA analysis is a technique used to assess the biodiversity of a habitat by detecting genetic material shed by organisms into water, allowing researchers to identify the presence and types of species.
- The USACE Geotech/Geophysical team is preparing to review geophysical, hydrographic, and topographic survey data collected by subcontractors this month, after which they will discuss a plan for supplemental geotechnical drilling. Drilling data will be used for settlement predictions and other geotechnical information that will inform preliminary design of alternatives.
- Building upon previous community input on Local Service Facility (LSF) needs, the USACE Economics and Hydrology/Hydraulics teams are collecting and analyzing moorage demand data and arranging focus groups with harbor users to help determine the appropriate basin size and local service facilities (LSF) as they pertain to the regional and national economic benefits.

**HDR – Owner Representative:**

- Subcontractor wrapping up geophysical, hydrographic and topographic survey work-in-kind. The work included using a multi-beam sonar to collect information about the seafloor terrain to (a) detail water depths and map underwater topography, and (b) illustrate the depth, density and shapes of the terrain up to 100' below the seafloor.
- Supporting USACE with an analysis of moorage demand to help inform basin size.
- Coordinated with two periodicals to secure placement of feature articles about Homer Port & Harbor this fall (*Alaska Business Monthly* and *Alaska Contractor*); one written by the publication and one written by the HDR team featuring Harbor users.
- Provides communications support as-needed; keeps [Homer Harbor Expansion website](#) updated. Recently identified and are working to deliver tactics targeted at raising awareness about the importance of the Homer Harbor in general, and additionally the expansion specifically. Social media and additional story placement are a focus of the efforts.
- Attended monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and weekly meetings with City.

**City of Homer staff:**

- Attended monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and weekly meetings with HDR.
- Participated in three discussions with USACE to review and discuss Local Service Facilities (LSF) USACE may include in the designs and cost benefit analysis. USACE works with the minimum LSFs required to meet the objectives of the study.
- Staff interviewed by Alaska Contractor magazine for story about how Port and harbor projects support economic vitality in Alaska.
- Ongoing communications/outreach: Information and updates about the study are being disseminated through the [Homer Harbor Expansion website](#), the City's quarterly newsletter, the [City of Homer Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and through HHE email subscriber list as needed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Informational Only.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 6898  
JBER, AK 99506-0898

14 August, 2024

Melissa Jacobsen  
City Manager, City of Homer  
491 E. Pioneer Ave  
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Ms. Jacobsen:

Thank you for your sponsorship. I appreciate the support and continuing cooperation that you have given to the Homer Navigation Improvements, AK Study. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (USACE) team values the close working relationship that has been established and looks forward to producing a high-quality product through our partnership in this study. In accordance with Section 1002 of WRRDA 2014, I am updating you on the status and proposed schedule of the following milestones for the project.

- a. Release of draft feasibility study for public comment and concurrent review: 29 August 2025.
- b. USACE submits final feasibility report: 19 October 2026.
- c. Signed Chief's Report: 22 February 2027.

The milestone dates are pending alignment with our Regional Integration Team and USACE Headquarters. Once our vertical team has aligned on the proposed dates above, I will send a follow up letter confirming the dates. If I can be further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. For specific information about the project, please contact the project manager Mr. Curtis Lee at (907) 753-2539 or via email at [Curtis.D.Lee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Curtis.D.Lee@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey S. Palazzini".

Jeffrey S. Palazzini  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commanding

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

## Current Job Listings

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

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

### Search Jobs

[Hide Filters](#) [Clear All](#)

<input type="text" value="Search Jobs"/>	City <input type="text"/>	State <input type="text"/>
Employment Type <input type="text"/>	Department <input type="text"/>	Sort By <input type="text"/>

Number of Jobs: 3

#### ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN – GRANTS COMPLIANCE & PROCUREMENT OFFICER (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3449310>)

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3449310>)

Finance | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$30.05 - \$39.07 per hour  
Posted: Aug 02, 2024 Closing Date: Aug 31, 2024

#### Building Maintenance Tech I or II (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3470589>)

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3470589>)

Building Maintenance | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$22.26 - \$28.63 per hour  
Posted: Aug 20, 2024 Closing Date: Sep 17, 2024

#### Deputy City Clerk I (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3448505>)

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3448505>)

City Clerk | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$22.38 - \$23.94 per hour  
Posted: Aug 01, 2024 Closing Date: Aug 23, 2024

### Sign Up For Job Alerts!

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

Send Me Jobs

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# WORK SESSION

## AGENDA CALENDAR 2024

<b>Council Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Work Session Topic</b>
<b>Monday, January 8</b>	<i>Exempt Employee Wage Scale</i>
<b>Monday, January 15 Off-cycle</b>	<i>Joint Session with Parks Art Recreation &amp; Culture Advisory Commission</i>
<b>Monday, January 22</b>	<i>Homer Harbor Expansion Baseline Conditions Report Overview – Ronny McPherson &amp; KC Kent HDR</i>
<b>Monday, February 12</b>	
<b>Monday, February 26</b>	<i>Ord 23-61 Amending HCC Title 5 to add Chapter 5.48 Short Term Rentals</i>
<b>Monday, March 11</b>	
<b>Monday, March 18 Off-cycle</b>	<i><del>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</del> Rescheduled to August</i>
<b>Tuesday, March 26</b>	<i>3:00 start Comp Plan Meeting with Agnew:Beck and Planning Commission (tentative)</i>
<b>Monday, April 8</b>	<i>Longevity Pay/City Manager Transition</i>
<b>Monday, April 15 Off-cycle</b>	<i>Joint Session with Port &amp; Harbor Advisory Commission</i>
<b>Monday, April 22</b>	<i>Water &amp; Sewer Rate Model</i>
<b>Monday, May 13</b>	<i>Health Care Renewal Mid-Biennium Budget Adjustments (if time allows)</i>
<b>Monday, May 20 Off-cycle</b>	<i>Joint session with Library Advisory Board</i>
<b>Tuesday, May 28</b>	<i>Mid Biennium Budget Amendments Water Sewer Rates</i>
<b>Monday, June 10</b>	<i>HCC Chapter 11, vegetation in the ROW</i>
<b>Monday, June 17 Off-cycle</b>	<i><del>Joint session with Economic Development Advisory Commission</del> Rescheduled to October</i>
<b>Monday, June 24</b>	
<b>Monday, July 22</b>	<i>Tentative e-session @4pm</i>

<b>Council Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Work Session Topic</b>
<b>Monday, August 12</b>	<i>E-session: Cyber Security Risk Assessment Review</i>
<b>Monday, August 19 Off-Cycle</b>	<i>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</i>
<b>Monday, August 26</b>	<i>Capital Improvement Plan &amp; Legislative Requests</i>
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<b>Monday, September 16 Off-cycle</b>	<i><del>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission</del> Rescheduled</i>
<b>Monday, September 23</b>	<i>End of Year Financial Worksession</i>
<b>Monday, October 14</b>	
<b>Monday, October 21</b>	<i>Joint Worksession with Planning Commission</i>
<b>Monday, October 28</b>	
<b>Tuesday, November 12</b>	
<b>Monday, November 18</b>	<i>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
<b>Monday, November 25</b>	



# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto: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: September 4, 2024  
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for September 9, 2024 Council Meeting

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#### Meetings with the State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Team

On September 5, Kim Barenburg, the State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Manager and Rick Dembroski, the State Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program Manager were in Homer for a site visit primarily related to the Raw Water Transmission Line replacement project. They were joined by the FEMA Region 10 HMGP project manager as well. As a reminder, the project utilizes \$2.1M of State and Federal HMGP funds to replace the pipeline that conveys water from the pump house near the Bridge Creek Reservoir to the water treatment plant. The existing transmission line is old cast iron pipe, which has cracked numerous times and is vulnerable to earthquake damage.

During the visit, the HMGP team met with Finance, Administration and Public Works staff to:

- review the City's first round of grant reporting documents (which were rated 'awesome') and answer questions about the next phase of the project, issuing bid documents and contracting for construction services;
- visit the project site, spending time at the reservoir, the pump house and water treatment plant learning about the City's drinking water supply system; and
- invite the City to submit a Change of Scope request to possibly include funding for the fiber optic line installation in the project



The HMGP team also informed staff that they are tracking the Building Code project grant application through the FEMA review process and spent time reviewing projects in the City's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan to identify FEMA funding opportunities. We greatly appreciate the positive relationship the City has had with the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and with FEMA to help the City mitigate hazards and be more prepared for managing disasters. Thank you!



### **The Douglas Denman makes a port call to Homer**

We want to extend a warm welcome to the *USCG Douglas Denman*! The *Douglas Denman*, moored next to the *USCG Cutter Aspen*, is part of the fleet of Sentinel class cutters built to replace the 110' island class cutters and are being phased in across the state as they come out of the ship yard.

Currently home ported in Ketchikan, the *Douglas Denman* will eventually find her home in Sitka. The *Douglas Denman* has 22 crew on board and is only here for three days for provisioning and shore leave. Port & Harbor staff looked at several mooring options for the ship which included having them come into the harbor and raft out from the *Naushon*, moor at the Deep Water Dock or raft out from the *Cutter Aspen*. The crew choose to first use the deep water dock for refueling then to shift over to the *Aspen* so that they could use the *Aspen's* gangway to get on and off the dock for shore leave.



### **Cuts in State Programs Funding Libraries**

On August 16, the State Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums announced major cuts to the Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grants. The FY24 grants came to \$7,000 per library, while the FY25 amount is set at \$1,829. Homer Public Library will have to cut back on ordering new materials and delay updates to certain sections, but we'll survive. The smaller libraries around us are in serious trouble. Separately, the amount allocated to the State Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) was cut from \$500,000 to \$369,514. SLED provides 60 of the 68 databases available to patrons through our library website, so the cuts will have significant impacts on our patrons. Several small databases (LearningExpress, Auto Repair Source, Hobbies and Crafts Source, Home Improvement Source and Small Engine Repair Source) will disappear shortly. If no further funds can be obtained, the next resources on the chopping block are BrainPOP and HeritageQuest.

### **Hickerson Memorial Cemetery**

The City has recently received public comments from residents regarding maintenance conditions at the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery. Generally, the cemetery is maintained, however challenges arise from gravesites that families and friends have decorated with oversized monuments, rocks, benches, small fences, and other materials that impede the mowing and upkeep. An informational memo with photos from the Public Works Director is attached to this report. Homer City Code 19.04.090 Monuments, allows for flat light memorial markers on cemetery plots, but no other monuments or plantings are allowed without permission from the City. The Cemetery Policy Manual addresses the

City's right to remove decorations from cemetery sites and dispose of them as deemed appropriate, however with limited staffing, this type of enforcement and cleanup is difficult to accomplish, and has the potential to result in other types of complaints. Conversations will continue at the staff level on how to address the concerns that have been raised.

### **Election Information**

City and Borough elections are right around the corner! Election day is Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Absentee Voting opens on September 16<sup>th</sup> and will be available Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Cowles Council Chambers through Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The State and Federal General Election is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. As of this report the voter registration deadline has passed for the local elections, and there is still time to update your information for the General Election in November. Voter registration is available online at <https://elections.alaska.gov> or at the City Clerk's office and the Homer Public Library. Please contact the Division of Elections at 866-948-8683 or email at [electionsr1@alaska.gov](mailto:electionsr1@alaska.gov) if you have questions about voter registration.

### **A new employee has joined the City Manager's office!**

Susie Inglis stepped into the role of Special Projects Assistant in early September. Working part-time, Susie will be supporting Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Carroll. With her diverse background in the arts, film, and political science, Susie is a valuable addition to our team.

### **Attachments:**

- Memorandum from Public Works Director re: Hickerson Memorial Cemetery
- City of Homer Job listings at <https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/>
- September Anniversaries
- Job Listings
- Worksession, Visitor Calendars



# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager  
**From:** Daniel Kort, Public Works Director  
**Date:** May 28, 2024  
**Subject:** Hickerson Memorial Cemetery

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**Background:**

The memorials left at the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery (Cemetery) have been an ongoing and persistent issue that inhibits the City staff and the City's contractor from properly mowing and maintaining the grounds of the Cemetery. On August 17, 2024, the Public Works Department received a letter from a local resident speaking about the lack of maintenance at the Cemetery. And at the August 26, 2024 City Council Meeting, another resident voiced the same concerns.

Public Works Department staff went out to further investigate the claims made and to try to come up with a logical solution to the issue.

**Discussion:**

The Public Works Department has a long history surrounding difficulties surrounding maintenance at the Hickerson Memorial Cemetery. The findings from this investigation are as follows.

**Backfilling Cemetery Plots**

The City has been working with a local person who hand digs and backfills grave sites. This person has no means of carting away the excess soil displaced by the casket, and therefore has been mounding the soil over the grave site for a lack of any other options.

Over time, this grave site will begin to grow grass/weeds and the mounded surface is not maintainable.



### Cemetery Plot Boarders



In many instances, first generation relatives and friends of the deceased create improvements to these grave sites by placing wood boarders or rocks around them as shown in the following photo.



This second example is a complex of 4 grave sites (all with boarders) that has fallen into disrepair or neglect because the family and friends no longer maintain the sites. The City does not have the capacity to maintain these other than to mow around the perimeter.



The last example of a boarder is a combination boarder and homemade headstone that has fallen into neglect and disrepair.



### Cemetery Plot Decorations

Numerous grave sites are adorned with decorations which means the maintenance becomes the responsibility of the descendants of the deceased. The City does their best to mow around these sites. Examples of decorations are presented in the following photo's.











### Cemetery Plot Plantings

There are several locations where flower gardens, alders, or spruce trees have been planted to honor their friends or family. This is another situation where City staff and contractors are challenged to work around these objects. The following are examples of these plantings.





### Cemetery Plot Rock Gardens

There are a number of rock gardens over grave sites. Some are still maintained by family, while others are neglected and barely visible. Below are example photos of these sites.







### Cemetery Memorial Benches

Benches appear to be a recent addition to some grave sites. There were none observed that have fallen into disrepair yet, however these obstacles prevent normal maintenance. The following are photo examples of benches.







**Recommendation:**

The Public Works Department recommends evaluating whether the City Council and administration would like to take a stronger stance towards enforcing existing rules in regards to Cemetery Plot decorations, monuments, etc.

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

## Current Job Listings

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

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

### Search Jobs

[Hide Filters](#) [Clear All](#)

<input type="text" value="Search Jobs"/>	City <input type="text"/>	State <input type="text"/>
Employment Type <input type="text"/>	Department <input type="text"/>	Sort By <input type="text"/>

Number of Jobs: 3

#### **Building Maintenance Tech I or II (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3470589>)**

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3470589>)

Building Maintenance | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$22.26 - \$28.63 per hour  
Posted: Aug 20, 2024 Closing Date: Sep 17, 2024

#### **Part-Time Community Development Associate (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3476585>)**

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3476585>)

Planning | Homer, AK, USA | Part Time | \$27.33 - \$31.41 per hour  
Posted: Aug 26, 2024 Closing Date: Until Filled

#### **Treatment Plant Operator I or II (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3476751>)**

[Apply Now](#) (<https://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs/3476751>)

Water & Sewer | Homer, AK, USA | Full Time | \$22.38 - \$27.53 per hour  
Posted: Aug 26, 2024 Closing Date: Sep 22, 2024

### Sign Up For Job Alerts!

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Send Me Jobs

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# City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

## Office of the City Manager

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

[citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov](mailto:citymanager@cityofhomer-ak.gov)

(p) 907-235-8121 x2222

(f) 907-235-3148

## Memorandum

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: Andrea Browning  
DATE: September 9, 2024  
SUBJECT: September 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.

<b>Aaron Glidden</b>	<b>Port</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Ryan Browning</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Tracie Whitaker</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Lisa Linegar</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Charles Benson</b>	<b>Police</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Jessica McGuire</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Years</b>
<b>Dawn Brooks</b>	<b>Library</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Chad Felice</b>	<b>Public Works</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Year</b>

<b>Council Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Visitor</b>
<b>Monday, August 12</b>	<i>J &amp; H Consulting City Lobbyists Derotha Ferraro/Ryan Smith</i>
<b>Monday, August 26</b>	
<b>Monday, September 9</b>	<i>Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection Head Japanese Consul, Mr. Kiyohiko Hamada</i>
<b>Monday, September 23</b>	<i>1. CARTS Presentation – Jodi Stuart, Board President Jessica Schultz, Executive Director 2. Shelly Wade Agnew Beck Update Comp Plan Rewrite</i>
<b>Monday, October 14</b>	<i>Kenai Peninsula Youth Website Project Update – Ginny Espenshade</i>
<b>Monday, October 28</b>	
<b>Monday, November 12</b>	
<b>Monday, November 25</b>	<i>Brad Anderson, Chamber of Commerce Annual Report</i>

# WORK SESSION

## AGENDA CALENDAR 2024

<b>Council Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Work Session Topic</b>
<b>Monday, January 8</b>	<i>Exempt Employee Wage Scale</i>
<b>Monday, January 15 Off-cycle</b>	<i>Joint Session with Parks Art Recreation &amp; Culture Advisory Commission</i>
<b>Monday, January 22</b>	<i>Homer Harbor Expansion Baseline Conditions Report Overview – Ronny McPherson &amp; KC Kent HDR</i>
<b>Monday, February 12</b>	
<b>Monday, February 26</b>	<i>Ord 23-61 Amending HCC Title 5 to add Chapter 5.48 Short Term Rentals</i>
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<b>Monday, March 18 Off-cycle</b>	<i><del>Joint Session with ADA Advisory Board</del> Rescheduled to August</i>
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<b>Monday, September 16 Off-cycle</b>	<i><del>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission</del> Rescheduled</i>
<b>Monday, September 23</b>	<i>End of Year Financial Worksession</i>
<b>Monday, October 14</b>	
<b>Monday, October 21</b>	<i><del>Joint Worksession with Planning Commission</del> To be Rescheduled in Early 2025</i>
<b>Tuesday, October 21</b>	<i>Comp Plan Event, Islands &amp; Ocean Visitor Center</i>
<b>Monday, October 28</b>	<i>Future Use of Pier One Area Land Allocation Plan</i>
<b>Tuesday, November 12</b>	
<b>Monday, November 18</b>	<i>Joint Worksession with Economic Development Advisory Commission</i>
<b>Monday, November 25</b>	





# Public Workshop 2

The Kenai Peninsula Borough, along with the Cities of Homer, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward, and Soldotna, is developing the first ever Safe Streets and Roads for All Comprehensive Action Plan, funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Feedback from all users of our transportation routes is vital - we want to hear from you!

Please join the team at one of the upcoming public workshops, and visit the plan website at <https://kpb.us/safestreets> to learn more.

- **September 10, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Seward Library, 239 6th Ave, Seward - Community Room
- **September 11, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Challenger Center, 9711 Kenai Spur Hwy, Kenai - North Star Classroom
- **September 12, 2024;** 5-7 PM, Kachemak Bay Campus, 533 E Pioneer Ave, Homer - Pioneer Room 201/202  
Virtual; TBD



<https://kpb.us/safestreets>

# LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

## 2024 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
<b>JANUARY</b>	Wednesday 1/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 1/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 1/22 6:00 p.m. <a href="#">[Carssow]</a>	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Wednesday 2/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 2/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 2/26 6:00 p.m. <a href="#">[Finn]</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Review of Library Fees, Policies, Rules &amp; Regulations</li> <li>• Annual Review of Board's Bylaws</li> <li>• Celebration of Lifelong Learning</li> <li>• Strategic Plan &amp; Goals</li> </ul>
<b>MARCH</b>	Wednesday 3/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 3/19 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 3/26 6:00 p.m. <a href="#">[Kuszmaul]</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reappointment Notices Sent Out</li> </ul>
<b>APRIL</b>	Wednesday 4/10 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 4/16 5:30 p.m.	Monday 4/22 6:00 p.m. <a href="#">[Asselin-Martin]</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms Expire April 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>• Advisory Body Training Worksession</li> <li>• Election of LAB Officers</li> <li>• National Library Week, Library Workers Day, &amp; Library Legislative Day</li> </ul>
<b>MAY</b>	Wednesday 5/15 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 5/21 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 5/28 6:00 p.m.	
<b>JUNE</b>	No Regular Meeting			
<b>JULY</b>	No Regular Meeting			
<b>AUGUST</b>	Wednesday 8/14 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 8/20 5:30 p.m.	Monday 8/26 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Budget Review *may not be applicable during non-budget years</li> <li>• Library Policies Revision</li> <li>• CIP Draft Recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Wednesday 9/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 9/17 5:30 p.m.	Monday 9/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Card Sign-up Month</li> </ul>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	Wednesday 10/09 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 10/15 5:30 p.m.	Monday 10/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve Meeting Schedule for Upcoming Year</li> </ul>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Wednesday 11/13 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 11/19 5:30 p.m.	Monday 11/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Friends of Libraries Week</li> </ul>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Wednesday 12/11 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday 12/17 5:30 p.m.	1/13/2025 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Review of Strategic Plan/LAB Goals</li> </ul>

\*The Board's opportunity to give their report to City Council is scheduled for the Council's regular meeting following the Board's regular meeting, under Agenda Item 8 – Announcements/ Presentations/ Borough Report/Commission Reports.