



Agenda

Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 5:30 PM

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

Homer City Hall

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

Zoom Webinar ID: 990 6701 0473 Password: 295088

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

CALL TO ORDER 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10 minute time limit)

- A. Pier One Theatre

RECONSIDERATION

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

- A. Unapproved Meeting Minutes- February 20th Regular Meeting Page 3

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

- A. Parks Monthly Report Page 6
- B. PARCAC Staff Report Page 7
- C. Community Recreation Report Page 8

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

- A. Comprehensive Plan- Review Comments

NEW BUSINESS (15-20 minute time limit)

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

- A. City Manager's Report
February 24, 2025 City Council Meeting Page 12
March 10, 2025 City Council Meeting Page 15

- [B.](#) 2025 Calendar Page 71

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is **Thursday, April 17, at 5:30 p.m.** All meetings scheduled to be held in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

CALL TO ORDER

Session 24-09, a Regular Meeting of the Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair David Lewis at 5:30 p.m. on February 20, 2025 from the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska and via Zoom Webinar.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ROEDL, STEFANO, LEWIS, PARSLEY, HARRALD, ARCHIBALD, AND KEISER

STAFF: RECREATION MANAGER ILLG

AGENDA APPROVAL

HARRALD/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED

There was no discussion

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

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

VISITORS/PRESENTATIONS (10 minute time limit)

A. Homer Council of Arts- Potential Art Project Introduction

Scott from Homer Council of Arts, discussed possibilities for a new project emphasizing the importance of having a design concept before proceeding. He spoke on the significance of the project drawing attention to mental health in youth and how it would be a collaboration with the local middle and high schools to bring this art to life.

RECONSIDERATION

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Unapproved December 19, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

HARRALD/ARCHIBALD MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 19 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

There was no discussion

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

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

A. Parks & Trails Report

Chad Felice spoke on projects around the community including brush clearing on trails, campgrounds, and playgrounds, as well as finishing up some electrical work to the little league batting cages. He also spoke on the large amount of trail maintenance that has been done recently.

B. PARCAC Staff Report

Community Recreation Manager Illg spoke about City Council actions that had taken place since the last PARCAC meeting. He also mentioned the City of Homer had followed through with a purchase of 20 acres behind Karen Hornaday campground and what a great opportunity that was.

C. Community Recreation Report

Community Recreation Manager Illg mentioned to the Commission that the Community Recreation Programmer Kathy Vogl has resigned and that he will be receiving applications for her position. He also brought up the many activities on the community calendar including pickleball, new dance classes, and adult basketball league.

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS (15 minute time limit)

NEW BUSINESS (15-20 minute time limit)

A. Comprehensive Plan Review- Update

The commission discussed feedback on the draft comprehensive plan. Commissioner Keiser presented her memo highlighting positive aspects of the plan, including its alignment with community values and strategies from the 2018 plan. The commission agreed to a worksession before their March meeting, inviting Shelly Wade from Agnew Beck to discuss the plan further. The commission agreed to review the plan in more detail and compile recommendations to discuss in the worksession and regular meeting, hoping to submit a uniform and cohesive comment for the Comprehensive plan.

B. Establish Policies and Procedures for City of Homer Parks and Rec Operations

The Commission discussed the need for a systematic approach to the policy and procedure document, with suggestions for simplifying the document and referencing existing policies. The next steps would include examples of what other cities have cited in their policy manual and comparing that to what the City of Homer currently has.

C. Nomar Wall- Silhouette Addition

The commission discussed the process of selecting who would be featured on the wall, with suggestions ranging from involving the community, particularly arts organizations, to having a designated committee review recommendations. There was also discussion about the potential for youth involvement, with some suggesting that the high school's art department could contribute. The commission agreed that the process should involve some input from various organizations and potentially a public vote, with the final decision left to the commission.

D. Gallery and Museum Tour Proposal

The commission agreed to an art gallery and museum walkthrough for the beginning part of their May meeting.

E. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The commission voted unanimously on David Lewis for Chair and Robert Archibald for Vice Chair.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE (3 minute time limit)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR/CITY COUNCIL

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m. The next regular meeting is **Thursday, March 20, 2025 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.

Ashley Appel, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved:_____



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

Memorandum

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
FROM: CHAD FELICE, PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR
DATE: March 20th, 2025
SUBJECT: PARKS REVIEW FOR February

KAREN HORNADAY PARK PLAYGROUND

- Working on cleaning up campsite
- Meet with Port and Harbor to go over how they run camping
- Getting the pay station set up for camping
- Fine tuning the pad for the mobile restroom
- Ordered signs for camping
- Electricians working on running power in the conduit that was put in

JACK GIST PARK

- Replaced the cross culvert on the West side of parking lot 130 foot
- Placed grates on the opening of new culverts
- Made a new viewing area for the high school field
- Put in a new entrance to the park to improve bus drop off
- Major improvements on the west side of the parking lot
- Put in conduit for electric
- Installed the power pole
- A lot of things happening out there
- New trail installed for disk golf

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Put together all the signs for the story trail
- Working on the policies for parks
- Emailed the art community for nominations due date of March 28th
- Attended a Rotary meeting
- Working on a memo for a fee schedule for special events



MEMORANDUM

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: March 3, 2025
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

The following City Council resolutions and ordinances activity relevant to the Park, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission since the last PARCAC regular meeting on February 20, 2025.

February 24, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

Ordinance 25-22, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Authorizing an Expenditure of \$10,000 from the Sister City 40th Anniversary Fund to Create the Sister City Program of Homer Field of Interest Fund with the Homer Foundation. **Introduced.**

Ordinance 25-23, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a Grant from the Homer Foundation Youth Advisory Committee in the Amount of \$3,500 for Community Recreation Activities. **Introduced.**

March 10, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting

Ordinance 25-22, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Authorizing an Expenditure of \$10,000 from the Sister City 40th Anniversary Fund to Create the Sister City Program of Homer Field of Interest Fund with the Homer Foundation. **Approved.**

Ordinance 25-23, An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY25 Capital Budget by Accepting and Appropriating a Grant from the Homer Foundation Youth Advisory Committee in the Amount of \$3,500 for Community Recreation Activities. **Approved.**

RECOMMENDATION: Informational Only.



MEMORANDUM

Item Type: Informational Memorandum Community Recreation
Prepared For: Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission
Date: March 5, 2025
From: Mike Illg, Recreation Manager/Staff Liaison

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

We have hired Rafael de la Uz as the **new Recreation Programmer**. He brings lots of experience and education to the program and has worked with CR as a contracted instructor teaching a popular fitness class at the HERC. Welcome Rafael!

Community Rec will partner with the Homer Pickleball Club to offer some **Pickleball Clinics** with visiting instructors on March 23 & 24.

Community Rec offered another series **Beginning East Coast Swing Dance Lessons** in February and March.


The **CR Adult Basketball League** on February 22-23 was a complete success with 10 games, great sportsmanship and lots of fans. The 2024-25 winning team was the Alaska Salt Co. Tropics!

Public Works Maintenance crew is prepping the HERC gym with some painting as we will soon be installing the **new volleyball net** brackets on to the wall.

There will be another series of **Youth Ballet Classes** starting in March 18 through May 13. Additional separate classes added for kids ages 5-6 and 7-9. These programs take place at the HERC activity room.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, May 17th for the Annual Safe & Healthy Kids Fair** at Homer High lower parking lot. There will be fun, food, games, live music, games and some new additions. Community Rec staff coordinates facility use and set up and will also have a booth with activities if any commissioners are interested in helping out let us know.

City of Homer Community Rec March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Color Key BLACK=Homer High BLUE=Homer Middle PURPLE=HERC RED=Cancellation	DISCLAIMER: ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECTED TO CHANGE OR BEING CANCELLED WITH LIMITED NOTIFICATION				1 9-10am GLACIER FLOW FITNESS CLASS at HERC
2 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	3 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC	4 9-10am ALASKA STRONG FITNESS CLASS at HERC 3:15-5pm YOUTH BALLET at HERC 5-7pm 4.0/4.5 Skill level PICKLEBALL Open Play at HERC 8pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	5 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11AM Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 11am-1pm INTRO TO PICKLEBALL at HERC 2-4pm FLEX PE at HERC 4:30-7PM KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8pm DANCE CLASS at HHS	6 9-10am ALASKA STRONG FITNESS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm 3.0-3.5 Skill level PICKLEBALL Open Play at HERC 8pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	7 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 1-3pm CENTER at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC	8 9-10am GLACIER FLOW FITNESS CLASS at HERC
9 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	10 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 1-3pm CENTER at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE CANCELLED 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC	11 9-10am ALASKA STRONG FITNESS CLASS at HERC 1-3pm CENTER at HERC 3:15-5pm YOUTH BALLET at HERC 5-7pm 4.0/4.5 Skill level PICKLEBALL Open Play at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	12 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11AM Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 11am-1pm INTRO TO PICKLEBALL at HERC 1-3pm CENTER at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE CANCELLED 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8pm DANCE CLASS at HHS	13 9-10am ALASKA STRONG FITNESS CLASS at HERC 1-3pm CENTER at HERC 6:30-8:30pm 3.0-3.5 Skill Level PICKLEBALL Open Play at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	14 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 1-3pm CENTER at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE CANCELLED 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC	15 9-10am GLACIER FLOW FITNESS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8pm POLAR PICKLEBALL 9-11am Drop in HERC
16 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	17 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INLET WINDS BAND at HHS	18 9-10am ALASKA STRONG FITNESS CLASS at HERC 3:15-5pm YOUTH BALLET at HERC 5-7pm 4.0/4.5 Skill level PICKLEBALL Open Play at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS 7-9pm INTRO TO PICKLEBALL SERIES at HERC	19 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11AM Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 11am-1pm INTRO TO PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC	20 9-10am ALASKA STRONG FITNESS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm 3.0-3.5 Skill Level PICKLEBALL Open Play at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	21 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC	22 9-10am GLACIER FLOW FITNESS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8pm POLAR PICKLEBALL 9-11am Drop in HERC
23 6:30-8:30pm PICKLEBALL CLINIC at HERC 9-11am PICKLEBALL CLINIC at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	24 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 11:30-12:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL CLINIC at HERC 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INLET WINDS BAND at HHS	25 9-10am ALASKA STRONG FITNESS CLASS at HERC 3:15-5pm YOUTH BALLET at HERC 5-7pm 4.0/4.5 Skill level PICKLEBALL OPEN PLAY at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS 7-9pm INTRO TO PICKLEBALL SERIES at HERC	26 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11AM Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 11am-1pm INTRO TO PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC	27 9-10am ALASKA STRONG FITNESS CLASS at HERC 6:30-8:30pm 3.0-3.5 Skill Level PICKLEBALL Open Play at HERC 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	28 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC	30 9-10am GLACIER FLOW FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9:30-11:30am INTRO TO PICKLEBALL SERIES at HERC
30 6:30-8:30pm VOLLEYBALL at HHS	31 6-7am MORNING BB at HHS 9-10am POLAR POWER FITNESS CLASS at HERC 9-11am Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 3-4:30pm YOUTH PICKLEBALL at HERC 4:30-7pm KARATE at HERC 4:30-8pm Drop in PICKLEBALL at HERC 6:30-8:30pm INLET WINDS BAND at HHS					

Kids Fair 2025

THEME:

FUN IN THE SUN!

(Costumes encouraged)

Exhibitors

Face Painting

Fun Activities

Hot Dogs

Bike Rodeo

FREE Bike Giveaways

Helmets required & available onsite

Homer High School

Saturday, May 17

11:00am - 2:00pm

Fun for the whole family!

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

Be Safe

Have Fun

Do Good

& Pass it On!

FREE!

**LEAVE
DOGS
AT HOME**





City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
DATE: February 21, 2025
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for February 24, 2025 Council Meeting

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment #2

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has released Amendment #2 to the 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for public review and they are welcoming public comment through Thursday, March 20, 2025. The STIP is a four-year state blueprint for federal surface transportation investments in key infrastructure projects that enhance safety, mobility, and economic growth.

Project # 34708, Sterling Highway Erosion Mitigation Study is a new project in the amended STIP. This planning study will evaluate needed improvements to protect the Sterling Highway from erosion along the Homer Spit. Improvements may include excavation, coastal erosion protection, paving, signing and striping, and utility relocation. The State has programmed \$800,000 for the study. The City has been in discussion with AK DOT about cooperating with them on this erosion mitigation effort on the Homer Spit. We are excited to see this project funding come forward and encourage the public to support this important project.

The STIP Amendment #2 is available at dot.alaska.gov/links/pdp. There are a variety of ways to submit comments directly on the dashboard using the blue comment buttons available throughout the website. For other ways to comment, please go to the City's webpage at www.cityofhomer-ak.gov.

Planning for the Future of the Alaska Marine Highway: Public Comment Invited

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities also recently released a draft of the AMHS 2045 Long-Range Plan for public review. The plan outlines a 20-year vision for the future of Alaska's marine transportation network to meet the evolving needs of Alaska's coastal communities and covers the following key focus areas:

- Safe, reliable service to connect Alaska's communities
- Updating the Marine Highway fleet and terminal assets for resiliency and standardization
- Build and support a skilled, reliable workforce
- Promote financial efficiency and sustainability.

The Department invites the public to a Zoom webinar on Wednesday, March 19, at 12 p.m. to hear an overview of the plan. Information on how to join the webinar is available at <https://publicinput.com/i56446>.

The Department invites residents, business owners, public officials, and stakeholders to review [the plan](#) and submit comments at <https://publicinput.com/i56446> through Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Staff Submits FY26 Congressionally Designated Spending Requests

Congressionally designated funding, also known as appropriations, allows individual members of Congress to request specific spending allocations for local projects in their states from a handful of appropriation committees' bills. The City's requests were based on (1) guidance from Senator Lisa Murkowski's office to resubmit any committee-approved requests from FY25 that are not yet funded and any additional projects for FY26 for a total of up to five requests; (2) meeting eligibility requirements of the various appropriation committees; and (3) priority projects in the City's Capital Improvement Plan with a developed budget. They include:

1. A-Frame Water Transmission Line Replacement (a project approved in FY25, but not yet funded through the Federal FY25 budget process).
2. Design and Permitting funds for the Homer Harbor Critical Float Systems 4 & 1 Replacement Project (a project approved in FY25, but not yet funded through the Federal FY25 budget process).
3. Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation to fund the first fiscal year of US Army Corps of Engineers' work on a reauthorized 1987 US Army Corps of Engineers Homer Spit Road Revetment General Investigation which has been listed for several years, but unfunded, in the Alaska District work plan.
4. Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation for funds to undertake a Homer Spit Storm Damage Reduction Feasibility Study under WRDA Section 203, which allows local entities to advance studies without waiting for federal funding or prioritization to expedite project timelines.
5. Homer Fire Department Fleet Management for funds to procure Wildland Urban Interface Fire Response Vehicles: A Type-3 Wildland-Urban Interface Pumper truck and a Type-6 Brush / Attack Unit. These complementary apparatuses enable a tiered response system where the Type-6 serves as a rapid scout and initial attack vehicle, while the Type-3 follows with additional water, equipment and personnel when/for escalating incidents or direct structure protection.

The Senator will review submissions and advance a selection to Appropriations Committees for thorough review, project scoring and prioritization based on merit and community impact. Successful projects will be included in the overall appropriations bill and will require approval by both House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Final funding is dependent on the overall federal budget process.

City of Homer Hosting Public Meeting on Homer Harbor Expansion Study

Join us and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to learn more about the work accomplished to date on the Homer Harbor Expansion Study and how that work is informing refined alternative designs. There will be a Study update, Study team members will be there to take questions and share feedback. The public meeting will be held Saturday, March 15th from 10:00 am to noon at the Kachemak Bay Campus, Room 201, 533 Pioneer Avenue, Homer, AK. Visit www.homerharborexansion.com for more information.

Diamond Creek Recreation Area Trails Study

In January 2024 Council authorized \$25,000 of HART Trails funds to contract engineering services for preliminary design of non-motorized trails and trail head connecting City property to the AKDOT proposed highway underpass and later that year, a contract was awarded to Kinney Engineering to complete the work. Attached to this report you'll find a memo from City Engineer Galbraith updating Council on the work and anticipated next steps. Attached to his memo are the completed, with preliminary design, studies for the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA) Trails and a Sterling Highway Pedestrian Underpass.

High Speed Alerts on West Fairview Radar Shield speed sign

In response to public complaints about speeding on West Fairview the City purchased and installed a traffic monitoring device on the road to help remind drivers to slow down and to capture speed data for daily traffic

on the road. There have been reports of folks flying RC planes and/or drones at the sign which create high speed alerts. The Radar Shield recently snapped the following image. It's possible that a number of the 40 mph and above "high speed alerts" are these RC devices being flown at the speed sign. It's disappointing that all this effort on one road for the benefit of Public Safety is getting skewed data used for traffic control.



City Manager Meetings and Events:

- February 26 – KPB Tourism Working Group meeting
- Ongoing weekly meetings with Departments, Mayor and Councilmembers, and City Attorney

Attachments:

- Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update
- Homer Harbor Expansion Study Charter Document
- Homer Harbor Expansion Study Public Meeting Flyer
- Memorandum from City Engineer Re: DCRA Trails Study
- DCRA Trail Design Final Study Consultant Memo
- DCRA Trails Study
- Employee Anniversaries for March
- Homer Spit Erosion Update



MEMORANDUM

City Managers Report
City Council
March 10, 2025

Homer Harbor Expansion Study Monthly Written Update

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: March 5, 2025
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 General Investigation is in full swing and gearing up for a busy spring and early summer in preparation for the USACE Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) Milestone Meeting planned for 6/24/2025. A potential government shutdown is not expected to impact the study being able to reach the TSP Milestone.

The study's third Public Meeting, hosted by the City, will be held Saturday, March 15, in Homer at the Kachemak Bay Campus from 10:00 am to noon; a presentation will start at 10:30 a.m. We invite the public to join City Staff, HDR and members of the US Army Corps of Engineers Project Development Team to learn more about the work accomplished to date, how the study's findings are shaping design alternatives and share your comments. A flier for the meeting and the Homer Harbor Expansion Charter Document is attached.

For those unable to make the meeting, presentation materials will be posted on March 15th and a report on the public meeting will be available in late March to early April on the Study website <https://homerharborexansion.com/get-involved-replace/>.

Below is a summary of the study's recent activities – be sure to attend the public meeting for full details and to provide your input.

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

Continuing study activities:

- The USACE Environmental Resources team:
 - Visited Homer in February to continue their environmental fieldwork series of beach seining and bottom trawls. They will conclude their fieldwork in mid-March 2025.
 - Continued consultation with other agencies
 - Plans to re-engage the Environmental Stakeholders Working Group after the March 15th public meeting and the Environmental Resources team has completed their fieldwork for the study.
- The USACE Economics and Hydrology/Hydraulics teams:
 - Are developing a features/measures list for each alternative, for both federal General Navigation Features and Local Services Facilities features included in the alternatives.

- Cost Engineering team:
 - Is working with USACE project Planning team to consider probable dredge materials plans in consultation with the USACE Homer Spit Dredge Materials Management Plan.
 - Collecting recent bid data from area quarries with acceptable source rock.
- Geotechnical team reviewed geophysical fieldwork results (sub-bottom profiling, hydrographic and topographic survey data) and are recommending collection of eight core samples immediately after selection of the tentatively selected plan.
- Economic Analysis team:
 - Analyzed moorage demand data and compiled information gathered from user groups to refine and develop four alternative harbor designs for comparison to determine the TSP.
 - Is developing the USACE economic analysis model for USACE approval

HDR – Owner Representative:

- Responding to USACE comments and questions on the modelling report.
- Worked on harbor design memo and recommendations for USACE Hydrology/Hydraulics team.
- Refined basin alternatives to incorporate float systems and travel/turning lanes and delivered to the USACE for further refinement.
- Helped develop General Investigation informational materials for Juneau visit.
- Helped develop outreach plan and advertisements as well as presentation plan and materials for the March 15, 2025 Public Meeting
- Attended twice-monthly USACE Project Development Team meetings and twice-monthly meetings with City.
- Provides communications support as-needed; keeps [Homer Harbor Expansion website](#) updated.

City of Homer staff:

- Attended twice-monthly USACE Project Development Team meeting and twice-monthly meetings with HDR.
- Met in person with USACE hydrology/hydraulics and economic team members to consult on development of alternatives.
- While in Juneau, gave Alaska legislators an update on the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation and thanked them for their support; met with the United States Coast Guard Admiral Dean and leasing staff to let them know design alternatives were nearing 35% for tentative plan selection.
- Helped disseminate information about the March 15, 2025 Public Meeting.
- 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.

Ship Simulation and geotechnical core sampling will happen in June and July, shortly after TSP and the rough basin size, configuration and location are determined but will continue to be refined. It is ideal to conduct these activities after the USACE has a TSP. Results from these activities could modify the TSP design (which will be to a 35% design level), but they would not change the selected alternative.

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational Only.



Vision

Recognizing Homer's unique environmental setting and our common desire to live, work, and play here, we will enhance Homer's maritime opportunities in a fiscally, environmentally, and socially responsible manner for the benefit of all.

Mission

Work collaboratively with all segments of the community to explore opportunities to expand necessary infrastructure while ensuring Homer's maritime future, navigational safety, environmental integrity, and regional connectivity. Align the development of any opportunities with the City of Homer Port and Harbor Department Mission Statement.

Goals and Objectives

- Relieve transportation congestion
- Improve safety and efficiency within the harbor(s)
- Reduce potential for environmental impacts within the harbor(s)
- Foster a collaborative partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Expand the community's economic base
- Foster the maritime trades industry and other year-round economic opportunities
- Enhance navigational safety and regional connectivity
- To the extent feasible, prioritize incorporation of:
 - » Green energy (e.g., solar, wind, tidal)
 - » Green infrastructure (e.g., adding vegetation, capturing runoff)
 - » Food security (e.g., support reliable delivery of food and supplies needed in regional communities)
 - » Polar security (e.g., provide support for federal security measures related to arctic navigation)
- Deliver a balanced harbor design that:
 - » Performs necessary port and harbor functions
 - » Has pleasing aesthetics
 - » Is within a sustainable construction, operations, and maintenance budget
 - » Maintains environmental integrity and quality of life
 - » Minimizes adverse impacts to the community
 - » Provides for flexibility that promotes smart growth and a blue economy
 - » Supports services for large vessels
 - » Supports the U.S. Coast Guard's mission at land and at sea

Success Factors

- Proactively collaborate with the community and port and harbor stakeholders to provide meaningful community and stakeholder engagement opportunities
- Provide transparency of the decision-making process and design development
- Align with national priorities for investing in future infrastructure
- Engage scientific agencies through study advancement
- Promote educational, research, and scientific opportunities
- Foster collaborative relationships with Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and other key stakeholder agencies
- Provide applicable utility providers (e.g., water, sewer, electric) with the necessary input to deliver required support infrastructure
- Promote strong, sustained support and leadership from the City Staff, City Council, and associated Commissions
- Identify risks early and manage them appropriately
- Consistently consider community-wide socioeconomic effects that may result from harbor expansion and align with the current community-wide planning policy
- Create and sustain a safe, respectful, collaborative, and enjoyable work environment for all City, consultant, and contractor staff
- Complete construction activities on time, to specification, and within target costs
- Encourage innovation with a focus on reducing costs, enhancing the environment, and fostering thoughtful community growth



Homer Harbor Expansion Study Update Public Meeting March 15, 2025

Join the City of Homer and US Army
Corps of Engineers for a study update:

- Learn more about work accomplished to date
- See how Study findings are shaping design alternatives

Saturday, March 15, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Presentation at 10:30 a.m.

Kachemak Bay Campus Room 201

533 E Pioneer Ave

Homer, AK 99603



For more details, visit:

www.homerharboorexansion.com





MEMORANDUM

City Council update on preliminary design studies for the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA) Trails and a Sterling Highway Pedestrian Underpass

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: City Council
Date: February 28, 2025
From: Leon Galbraith, P.E., City Engineer
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

The purpose of this Memorandum is to update the City Council and present the attached two documents recently completed with preliminary design studies for the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA) Trails and a Sterling Highway Pedestrian Underpass.

Through Ordinance 24-06(A), the FY24/25 Capital Budget included \$25,000 from the HART Trails Fund to complete these preliminary design studies.

Resolution 24-090(A) authorized issuance of a task order to Kinney Engineering, LLC to provide the professional services as the consultant tasked with completing these preliminary design studies.

The Kinney Engineering study has developed an option for a trail extension linking the city-owned DCRA property and the DCRA trail to the west side of the Sterling Highway leading to the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site (DCSRS). A pedestrian underpass used to cross the Sterling Highway would also be part of the trail extension. The study is intended to demonstrate the feasibility of the construction of a pedestrian trail, including right of way analysis. This is intended to be a preliminary study, not a final design. Assessing the feasibility of a proposed route is an important first step.

As a subcontractor to Kinney Engineering, Happy Trails also completed a preliminary design study of potential trail routes and costs for the area east of the Sterling Highway on the City owned parcel labeled as the DCRA. This includes a new parking lot at the area labeled as "Green Timbers TH".

Staff has reached out to Alaska DOT&PF (DOT) to discuss these final studies. Staff with the DOT appear to still be supportive of the trail project and Sterling Hwy underpass alternative locations that are proposed in the Kinney Engineering study. The proposed trail presented to the DOT shows the trail crossing three (and possibly four) privately owned properties as well as Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Lands before reaching the State of Alaska DNR lands. A Homer Electric Association overhead power easement would also be crossed. The DOT expressed that they would like to see something definitive such as established trail easements between the City and the private land owners as well as with the KPB before the DOT commits to constructing a pedestrian tunnel.

Securing these proposed easements is estimated to take as long as one to two years, and the DOT's highway project construction is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2027. Therefore, we would need these easement agreements to be in place as soon as possible (less than one year) for the pedestrian tunnel to be included in the DOT's highway project design prior to their bidding and construction.

ANTICIPATED NEXT STEPS

If the Council wishes to pursue this project further, the following steps are anticipated:

- A Council sponsor would need to bring forward a resolution of support and future funding ordinance for easement acquisition.
- The City will need to reach out to all of the private property owners and KPB to see if they are willing to grant trail easements to support the proposed project.
- If any private property owner denies easement, the project is either dead, or the City would have to reach out to Kinney Engineering to investigate alternative routes to avoid the individual private property owner's lot, with the understanding that the DOT has expressed they are not willing to allow the trail to parallel the Sterling Highway within their right-of-way.
- If all property owners are interested in granting the trail easements, the City will need to fund further survey and design work as well as swiftly draft up the easement drawings and agreements for routing through the KPB's platting process as well as negotiate any potential payments associated with granting said easements.

When considering whether or not to pursue this trail further, the Council should also remember that the timeline is very short to get the DOT any easement agreements. There is the possibility that the DOT would accept something short of an established easement (if the process is underway), however that is risky. The City could invest substantial resources towards this effort and not make the deadline, or the partial process may not be sufficient to convince the DOT to construct the pedestrian tunnel. The DOT has expressed that they support the concept of the pedestrian tunnel, however they cannot construct the pedestrian tunnel on good intentions, only to have constructed a tunnel that doesn't get used because the City cannot secure the needed trail easements, or doesn't have the money to construct the trails themselves.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Homer Diamond Creek Trail Design Study-Final
2. DCRA Trails Study

TO: City of Homer Public Works Department

FROM: Brian Lamson, PE
Jan Keiser, PE
Margaret Devlin, Engineering Technician
Randy Kinney, PE, PTOE

DATE: 2/14/2025

SUBJECT: Task Order #24-01 – Proposed Diamond Creek Trail Route Memorandum

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum is to identify the design criteria and proposed trail route connecting the Diamond Creek Recreational Area (“DCRA”) to the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, including a crossing under the Sterling Highway.

2. Background

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (“DOT&PF”) is planning to improve the Sterling Highway from MP 157-169, which includes a new fish passage culvert under the Sterling Highway for Diamond Creek flowing from the north side of the highway to the south. The Sterling Highway project lies within the vicinity of the DCRA on the northern side of the highway to and the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site (“DCSRC”), on the southern side of the highway. These areas are regularly, and frequently, used by local residents and visitors for hiking, mountain biking and skiing. Local residents have long desired an undercrossing that would allow these non-motorized users to safely cross under the highway. DOT&PF expressed concern that they are reluctant to develop an undercrossing in a location where there are no trails directly connecting to it.

City of Homer (“COH”), Kinney Engineering LLC (“Kinney”), DOT&PF, and Kenai Peninsula Bureau staff held a kick-off/scoping meeting on September 18, 2024 followed by a field review of the trail corridor, including the existing Diamond Creek crossing of Sterling Highway.

The COH City Council adopted Ordinance 24-06(A) supporting the undercrossing project and appropriating funds to conduct a design study that would investigate the feasibility of *“the construction of a pedestrian trail in the DCRA and connecting the new trail to the DCSR, including right of way analysis.”* The City Council also adopted Resolution 24-090 authorizing staff to issue Task Order 24-01 to Kinney to conduct this study. Kinney will focus on the areas in the immediate vicinity of the Sterling Highway.

The City also issued Task Order 24-02 to Kinney, which authorizes Kinney to commission Happy Trails, Inc., (“Happy Trails”), as a subcontractor, to identify a trail route in the “backcountry”; that is, areas away from the Sterling Highway. Kinney will focus its efforts on trails from the proposed Green Timbers Trailhead south to the DCSR. Happy Trails will focus its efforts on trails from the proposed Green Timbers Trailhead north to the existing trail system in the northeast portion of the DCRA.

3. Design Criteria

3.1. Design Standards and Guidelines

These design standards and guidelines apply to the DCRA trails and connections, including:

- Alaska Highway Preconstruction Manual, DOT&PF, 2025
- Alaska State Parks Trail Management Handbook, Section 3: Trail Design Parameters, Alaska Division of Natural Resources, 2015.
- Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design, Department of Justice, 2010
- City of Homer Trail Manual Design Criteria, COH, 2009
- Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 4th Edition, American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, 2012
- Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, 2nd Edition, American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, 2021.

3.2. Selected Design Criteria

Design Criteria was chosen by location and ownership of the property surrounding the proposed trail as well as surrounding slope conditions. Table 1 (next page) shows the three trail classes and their chosen design criteria.

3.2.1. Portions in the DOT&PF ROW

Sections of the trail within the DOT&PF right-of-way (ROW) would need to meet the requirements of a Low ADT Shared Use Path as outlined in the Alaska Highway Preconstruction Manual. These sections would follow the DOT&PF Standard Trail seen in Attachment A.

3.2.2. Portions outside of DOT&PF ROW

Happy Trails elected to use the Alaska State Park Standards for a Bicycle Terra Trail Class 5 for the portion of the trail system from the proposed Green Timbers Trailhead to an existing trail in the DCRA. The goal was to create a trail that was as accessible for all ages and all abilities as possible. We will apply the same standards to the portions of the trail located outside of DOT&PF ROW where possible. Due to the steep slopes located on the bluffs, a Class 5 trail will not be suitable everywhere. Geotechnical investigations would be required to confirm the suitability of the soils to support at Class 5 standard trail on the bluffs. The existing ground cross slopes were analyzed to evaluate which class trail would be suitable for construction in the bluff sections of the trail.

The portions of the trail that cannot support the Class 5 Alaska Trail Standards will follow the Alaska State Parks Standards for a Class 1 Single Lane Trail. This is due to the steep bluffs and cross sections of the switchbacks. Alaska Trails Standard Class 1 and Alaska Trails Standard Class 5 typical sections can be seen in Attachment A. A profile of both bluff sections can be seen in Attachment B.

Table 1: Trail Standards

Design Criteria		Alaska Trails Standard: Bicycle Terra Trail Class 1	Alaska Trails Standard: Bicycle Terra Trail Class 5	Alaska Preconstruction Manual
Tread Width		6"-12" single lane 36" - 48" double lane	36"-60" single lane 72"-120" double lane	8 feet
Separation from Roadway		N/A	N/A	Min 5', 10' for year- round
Surface	Material	native, ungraded. May be continuously rough Sections of soft or unstable tread on grades <5% may be common	Imported Material, routine grading Uniform, firm, stable	2 inches of asphalt overlying 4 in crushed aggregate base on top of 2 ft selected material
	Obstacles	24"	None	N/A
Structures		18" minimum width	60" min width	varies
Clearance	Vertical	6'	8' - 9'	8 feet (undercrossings)
	Horizontal	24"-36"	72" - 96"	8 feet (undercrossings)
	Shoulders	0'-12'	8'-12'	
Grade	Target	5%-20%	2% - 5%	N/A
	Maximum	30% short pitch max 50% on downhill segments only	8% short pitch max for 0-5% of trail	5% or adjacent road grade *
Cross Slope	Target	5%-10%	2% - 3%	1% *
	Maximum	10%	5%	2% *
Design Turn Radius		2'-3'	8'-12'	Based on Design Speed *

*from AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities

4. Route Alternatives

4.1.Process

The geospatial data used for this analysis were collected from the Kenai Peninsula Borough's GIS online data portal, including contour lines, parcel boundaries, and basemap information. These datasets were integrated with the design criteria, which considered factors such as terrain grade, right-of-way constraints, public land availability, proximity to Diamond Creek, and connectivity to the existing Diamond Creek Recreation Site Trailhead. The proposed path was then generated using ArcGIS, evaluated with the design criteria, and adjusted accordingly where necessary. DOT&PF provided Civil 3D files from the Sterling Highway MP 157-169 Rehabilitation project with survey and the proposed highway design that was used to take a closer look at things within the DOT&PF ROW.

4.2. Trail in DOT&PF ROW

At the September 18, 2024 meeting, DOT&PF stated that they prefer the trail be outside of their ROW except for trail crossings under the highway which should be more or less perpendicular to the roadway and ROW.

In addition to their stated preferences, as a practical matter, the ROW on Sterling Highway on both sides near the proposed trail underpass is constrained, making it difficult to construct a trail that would be within the DOT&PF ROW as well as meeting DOT&PF design standards. Keeping the trail within the ROW involves more than just being able to fit a trail and the proposed highway embankment within the ROW. Diamond Creek is at a low point in the highway with the proposed highway profile going down at a 6% grade on both sides of the creek and existing bluffs outside of the highway embankment. Portions of the trail within the DOT&PF ROW would be subject to ADA guidelines, these allow the trail profile to match but not exceed the 6% highway grade. The trail needs to be lowered in comparison to the highway to go under the highway. Since the trail cannot be steeper than the highway, this requires the proposed trail be longer than the adjacent highway. This length would typically be added with a loop in the trail alignment going down to the undercrossing, but there is not room for one within the ROW.

In addition to direct ROW constraints, the trail alignment will need to cross Diamond Creek at least once. Having this crossing within DOT&PF ROW would involve either a fish passage culvert or a bridge that meets DOT&PF standards, which would not work with the projects schedule or budget. However, the connecting trail has simple structures for stream crossings outside of DOT&PF ROW property and similar crossings could be used if creek crossings are outside of DOT&PF ROW.

In addition to ROW constraints, snow maintenance operations on the highway may render a trail within the ROW unusable at times when plows cast snow off the roadway. These factors have guided the corridor development which, except for the immediate undercrossing of Sterling Highway, has the trail traversing private and public lands. As such, the corridor allows other design criteria to be used instead of the more restrictive criteria required within DOT&PF ROW.

4.3. Proposed Diamond Creek Trail Alignment

This route was developed using a comprehensive spatial analysis performed by assessing existing geographic information layers and incorporating design criteria as key parameters to shape the proposed path. This corridor and general alignment are depicted in Figure 1 on page 5. Figure 2 on page 5 shows the trail profile and grades. Additionally, the conceptual path was designed to limit disturbances to private properties wherever possible.

A primary objective of the design was to minimize areas with grades exceeding 5% to enhance accessibility and safety. There are two bluffs where this will not be practical. For Bluff 1 (north of Diamond Creek) we recommend constructing this segment of trail as a single lane Class 1 trail. For Bluff 2 a series of switchbacks on a Class 5 trail with a 5% profile grade is feasible without adding significant earthwork to the project, alternatively this section could be constructed as a Class 1 trail with less switch backs to reduce project cost. Bluff profiles are included in attachment B.

The trail undercrossing of Sterling Highway can be on the north or south side of the proposed Diamond Creek culvert. Crossing north of the culvert would require an easement from a private property with multiple owners. Crossing south of the creek can eliminate this property impact but requires a short section of trail parallel to the highway to avoid impacting this property. The following figures and discussion are based the trail crossing south of the proposed creek culvert. Attachment C shows both crossings overlaid on the highway design plans.

The proposed alignment for a trail connection located outside of DOT&PF ROW would connect the Green Timbers Trailhead with the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site via City of Homer, Borough, Department of Natural Resources, and private properties as seen in Figure 1 below. The trail would meet DOT ROW near the proposed fish passage and connect to the west side of Sterling Highway via a pedestrian underpass. This assumes trail easements in private property can be achieved

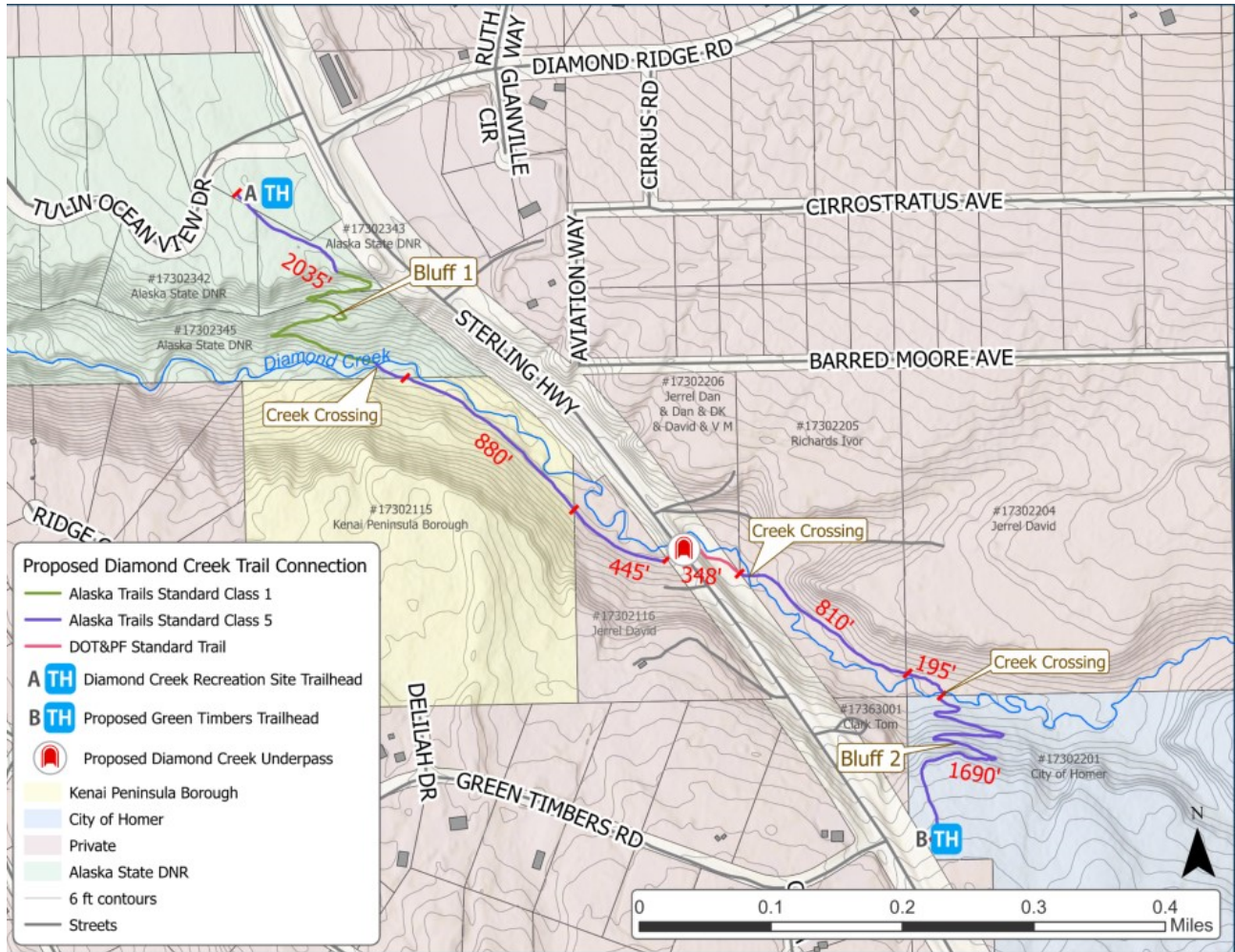


Figure 1: Proposed Diamond Creek Trail Alignment

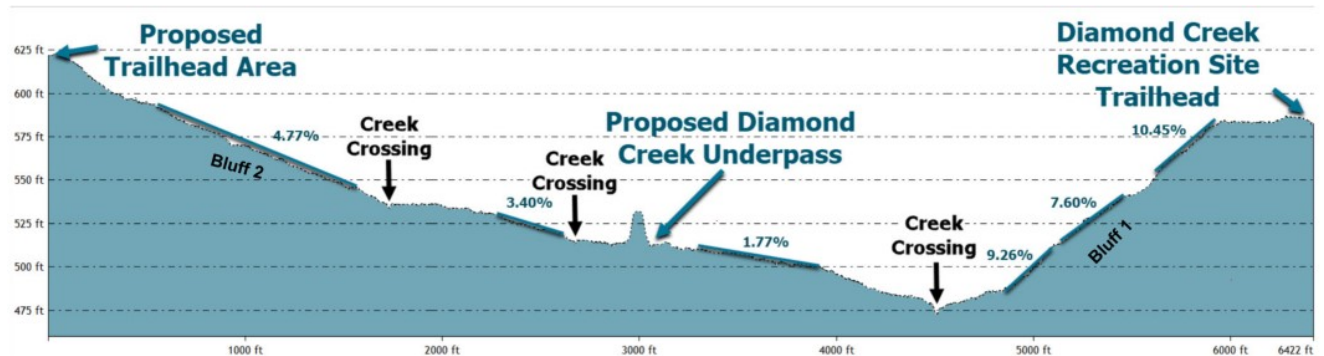


Figure 2: Proposed Diamond Creek Profile

Properties Impacted

The proposed conceptual trail impacts several properties. Each property ownership type, trail length, and design criteria used can be seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Property Ownership and Trail Type

Ownership	Length of Class 1 Trail (feet)	Length of Class 5 Trail (feet)	Length of DOT&PF Standard Trail (feet)	Total Length of Trail in Property (feet)
Alaska State DNR	1,370	665		2,035
Kenai Peninsula Borough		880		880
Private		445		445
AK DOT&PF			348	348
Private		810		810
Private		195		195
City of Homer		1690		1,690
Total Lengths	1,370	2,695	348	6,403

Private property owners will need to be contacted to acquire trail easements through their properties. In addition to the properties listed above, the trail will cross a 20-foot Homer Electric Association for their overhead lines.

5. Attachments:

Attachment A Typical Sections

Attachment B Bluff Profiles

Attachment C Crossing Overlay

PLANS PREPARED BY: KINNEY ENGINEERING, LLC 3909 ARCTIC BLVD. SUITE 400 ANCHORAGE, AK 99503 : COA# AECL 1102 : PROJECT LOCATION: HOMER, AK

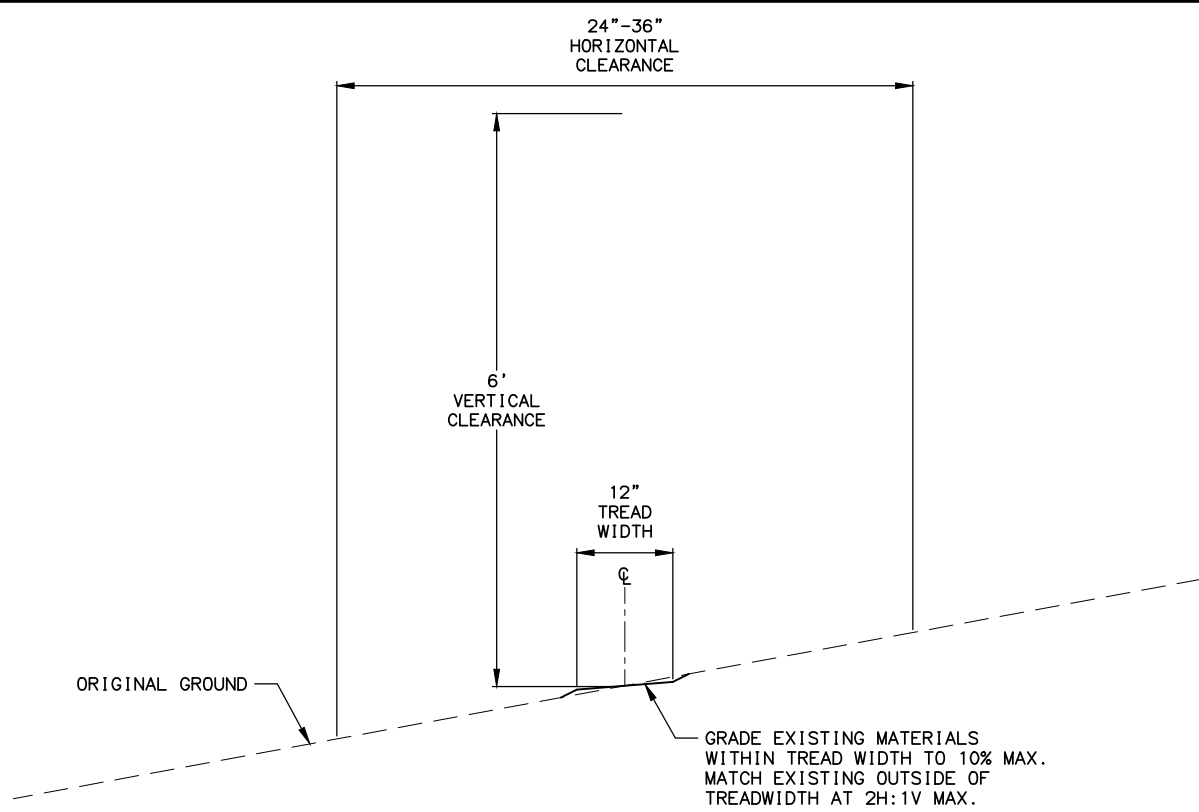
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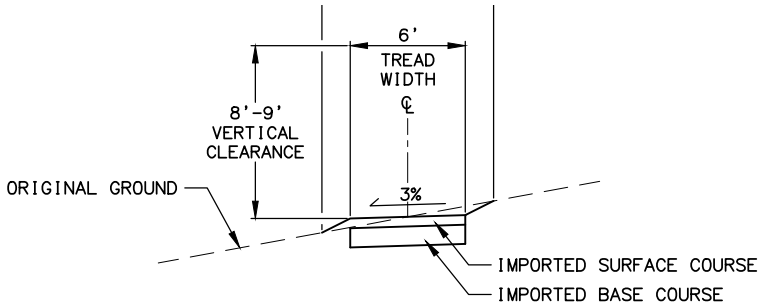
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SCALE

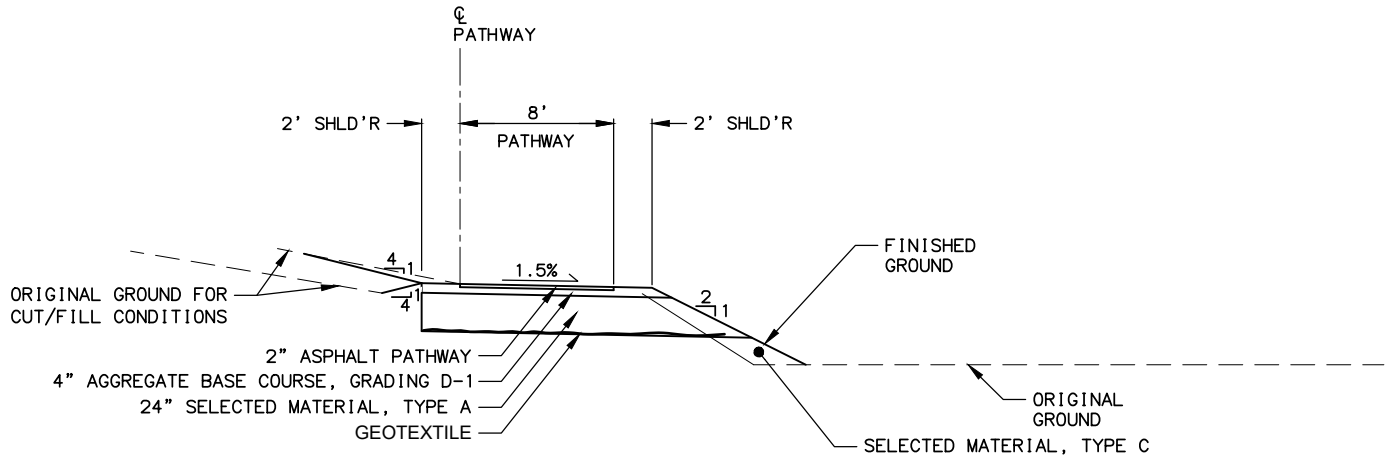
LAYOUT B1



ALASKA TRAILS STANDARD CLASS 1

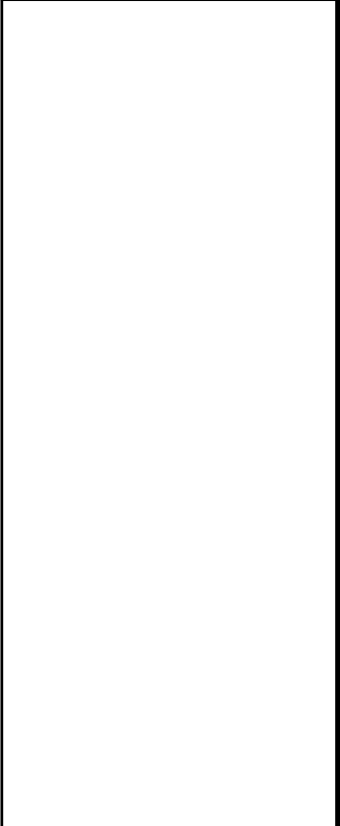


ALASKA TRAILS STANDARD CLASS 5



DOT&PF STANDARD TRAIL

SHEET NO.		TOTAL SHEETS
B1		B2
ADDENDUM NO.		
ATTACHMENT NO.		
REVISIONS		
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION



PLANS DEVELOPED BY:
KINNEY ENGINEERING, LLC
FOR
CITY OF HOMER, ALASKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



PHONE: (907) 235-3170
FAX: (907) 235-3145



CITY OF HOMER
DIAMOND CREEK TRAIL &
UNDERPASS STUDY

TYPICAL SECTIONS

PLANS PREPARED BY: KINNEY ENGINEERING, LLC 3909 ARCTIC BLVD. SUITE 400 ANCHORAGE, AK 99503 : COA# AECL 1102 : PROJECT LOCATION: HOMER, AK

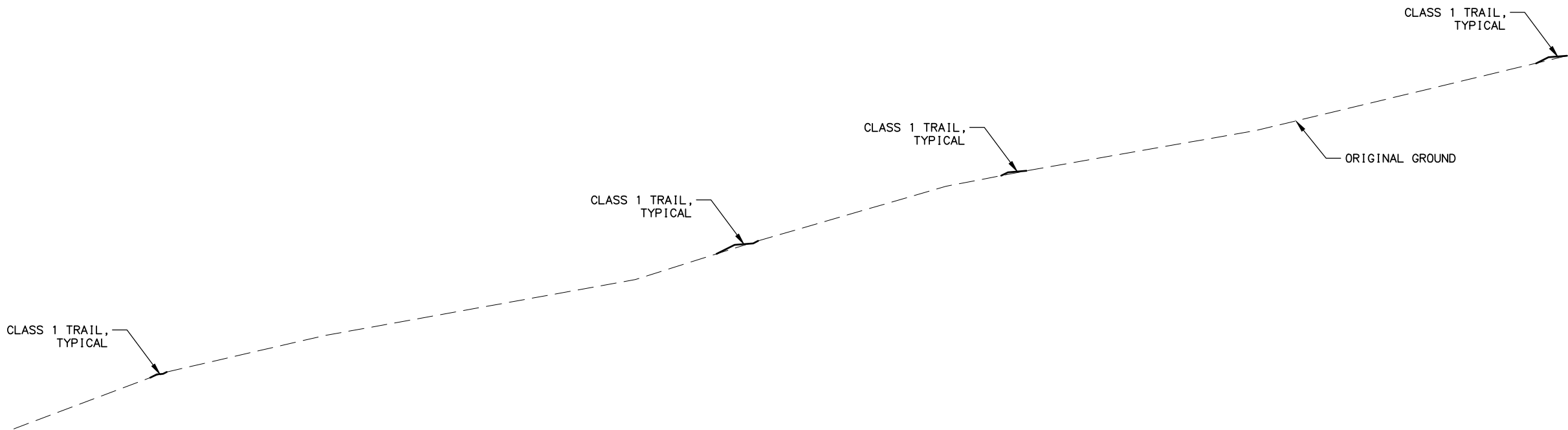
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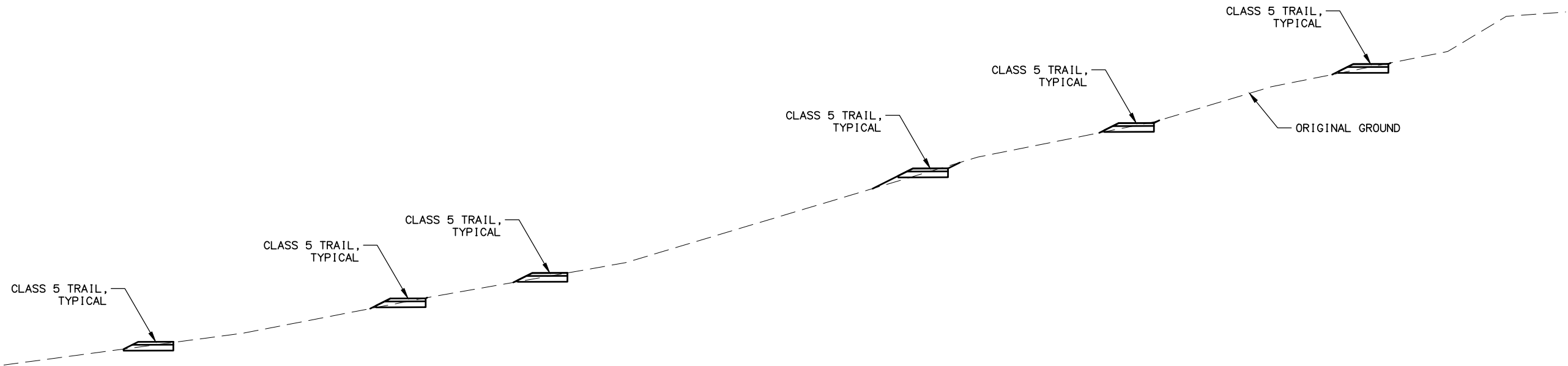
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SCALE

LAYOUT B2



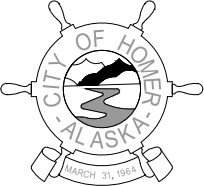
BLUFF 1 SWITCHBACK PROFILE



BLUFF 2 SWITCHBACK PROFILE

SHEET NO.		TOTAL SHEETS	
B2		B2	
ADDENDUM NO.			
ATTACHMENT NO.			
REVISIONS			
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	

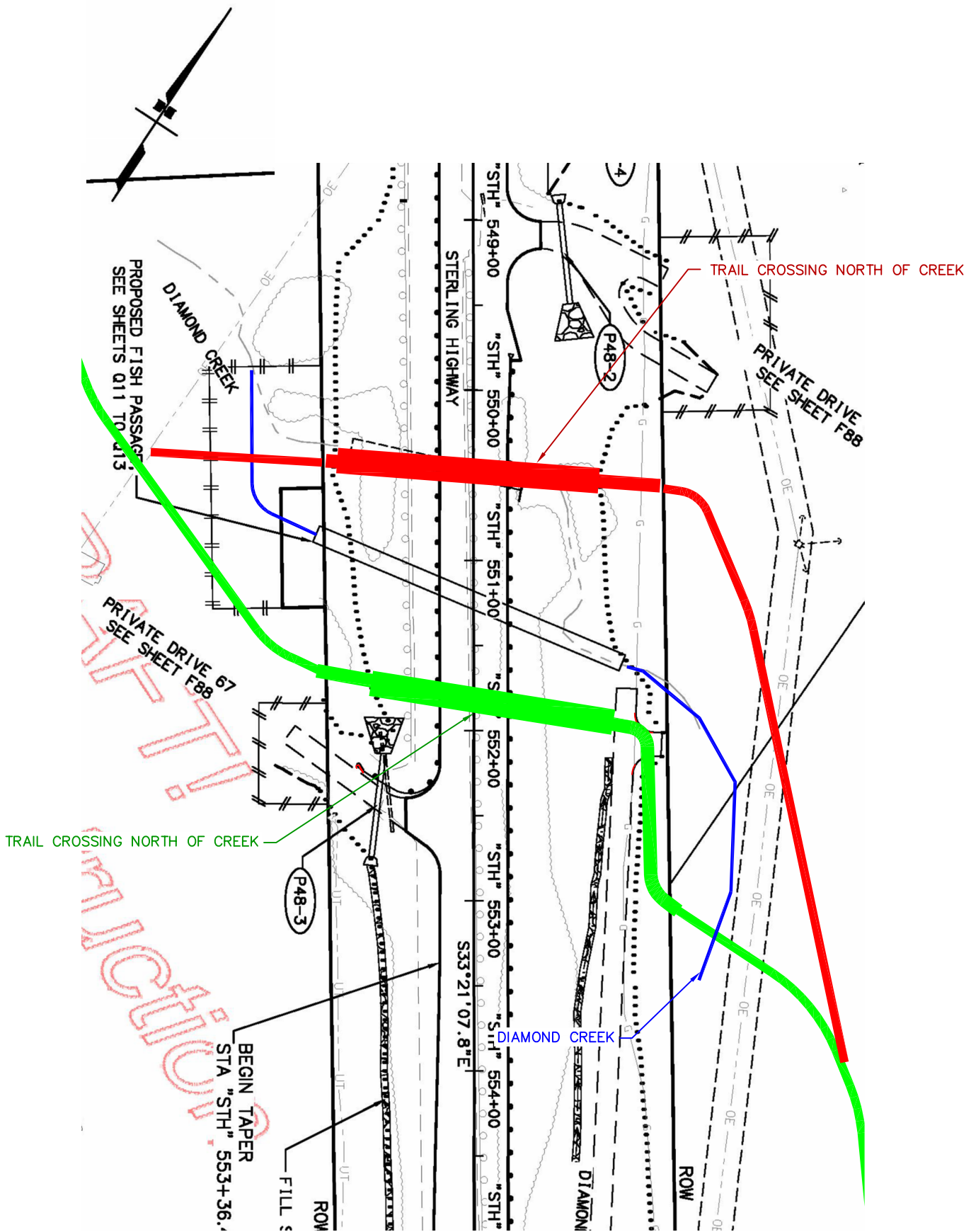
PLANS DEVELOPED BY:
KINNEY ENGINEERING, LLC
FOR
CITY OF HOMER, ALASKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



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FAX: (907) 235-3145

CITY OF HOMER
DIAMOND CREEK TRAIL &
UNDERPASS STUDY

TYPICAL SECTIONS



ATTACHMENT C:
CROSSING OVERLAY



Diamond Creek Recreation Area

Concept Trail Plan



Purpose

The Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA), located on land managed by the City of Homer, Alaska, is a popular and well-used trail recreation area in winter. The low-lying, treeless bogs provide an easy path for groomers and skiers alike to traverse the Baycrest Ski Trails without damage to the vegetation or wildlife. In summer, however, these trails cannot support any kind of recreation.



The Diamond Creek Recreation Area Multi-Resource Management Plan, adopted by the City of Homer in 2013, outlines two Recreational Objectives.

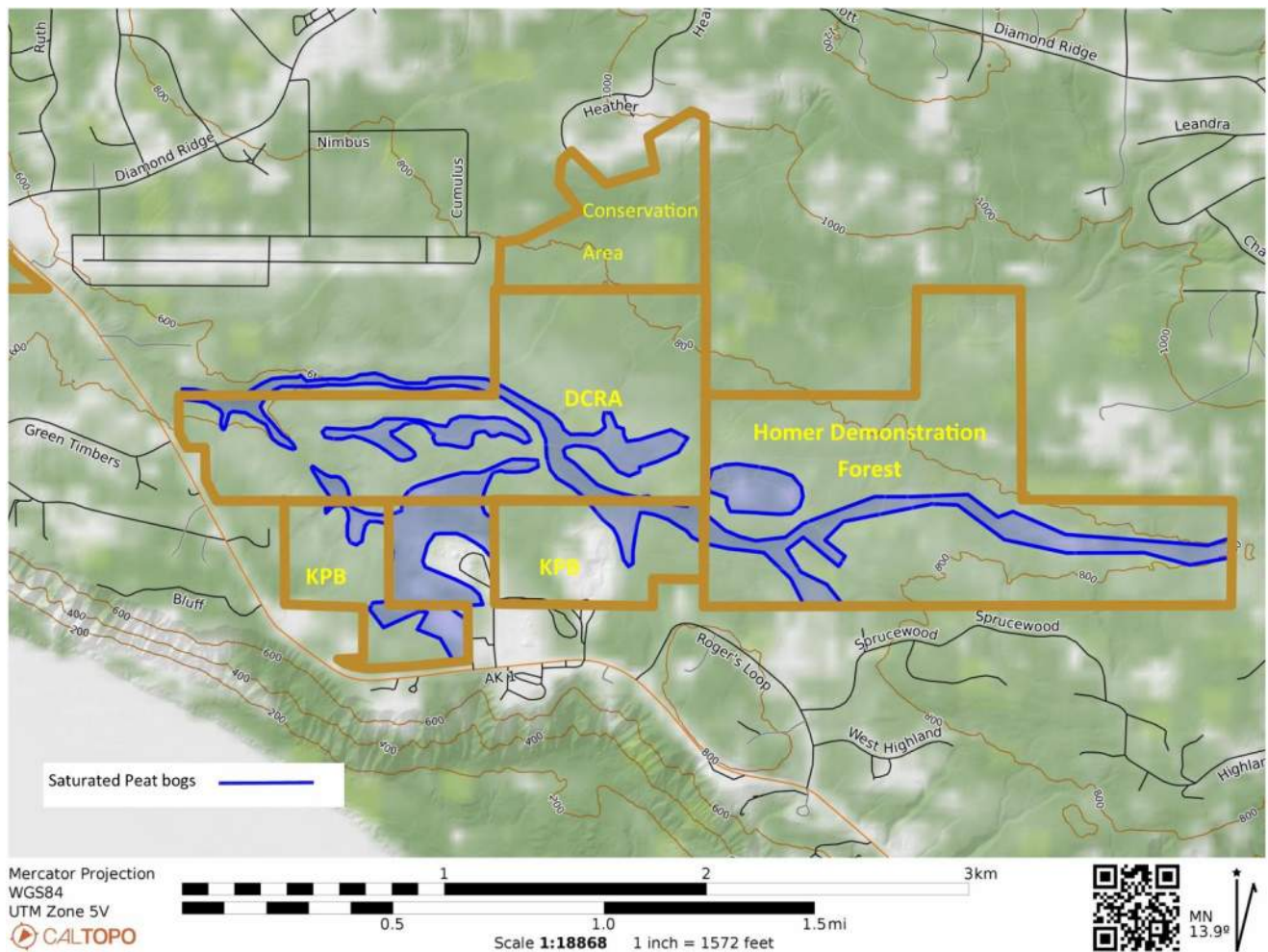
Recreational Objective 1: Improve controlled, non-motorized recreational access to the DCRA. The Plan outlines specific ideas for parking lots and a pedestrian underpass across the Sterling Highway to connect the DCRA to the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site.

Recreational Objective 2: Construct summer-use trails within the DCRA. Specifically, trail loops and connectors in the upland “forest islands” and across the Sterling Highway via an underpass, hardened to create sustainable use by non-motorized recreationists.

This Concept Trail Plan provides a preliminary plan to achieve these objectives. Field work was conducted in October 2024 by Jon Underwood of Happy Trails, Inc. and Billy Day and Sandra Cronland of the Homer Trails Alliance. The concept routes were explored, collecting GPS information and making notes of soil conditions and water and wetland crossings. Work was limited to route-finding, with limited amounts of measurement. No trail lines were flagged or specified. The technical work of engineering, layout and flagging for construction remains to be done. *This preliminary plan represents a 15% design and should not be used for planning construction or soliciting bids.*

Soils

To understand what soil quality means for trails, we can divide trails into two categories: natural surface or hardened trails. Natural surface trails are composed of the dirt, gravel or rock found on the trail, which is the preferred surface for most trails. Some soils cannot withstand the wear and tear of any kind of sustained traffic, so they must be fortified by gravel, geofabric, grid, or boardwalk.



According to the National Resources Conservation Service, the dominant soil types in the DCRA are Spenard peat and Starichkoff peat. Any kind of peat retains water and drains poorly- utterly insufficient for a trail tread surface. The map above delineates areas of saturated peat soil in DCRA and surrounding public areas. This soil is so unstable, only moss and grass can grow there. (See photo example on left). Simply walking across it causes noticeable surface movement.

Saturated peat cannot support a heavy gravel structure without collapsing or being displaced. So much gravel is required to create a durable tread surface that the trail disrupts water flow and alters natural vegetation. We recommend boardwalk in these areas to preserve the natural soil and ecosystem.



The other type of soil found in DCRA is wet silt (see photo on left). This soil must be hardened with gravel, or a combination of gravel, geofabric, or grid to withstand non-motorized trail traffic.

Gravel construction on trails entails difficult logistics. It must be hauled from the pit and then hauled out on the trail. If hauled by a machine, the trail must be constructed at every point to withstand the ground pressure of the loaded machine. This typically increases the amount of gravel that must be hauled. To haul more in a load, a stronger, wider trail bed must be built. So the amount that can be hauled in one trip is limited by the fact that you want a small, narrow trail in most cases. At some point it can become economically more feasible to haul gravel in super-sacks with a helicopter.

Both gravel and boardwalk construction methods are

costly, but boardwalk is much more costly. For this reason, the trails should remain in the “tree island” areas and only cross the peat soils when necessary and in the shortest possible distance. Please note that the map only depicts the most obvious areas based on aerial photographs. Our recon team observed several areas within the “tree islands” that featured standing water and may not be suitable for gravel construction. Better routes may be discovered in later design iterations.

Proposed All-Season Trails

There are some clear routes to connect existing trails and trailheads to the proposed underpass crossing the Sterling Highway. Adding a few connectors between these trails will create loops, which are always

preferred by trail users. These trails are conceived and specified to conform to Alaska State Parks Pedestrian Trail Class 5. *See Appendix II.*

Construction Phases

Phase I: Connect Baycrest ski trails to proposed Green Timbers trailhead. Construct GT Trailhead. A trail similar in concept to the one proposed in the Kinney Engineering memorandum would connect to the underpass and Diamond Creek State Recreation Site.

Phase II: Construct trail to connect Green Timbers trail and Baycrest Ski Trails to KPB trailhead; construct KPB trailhead.

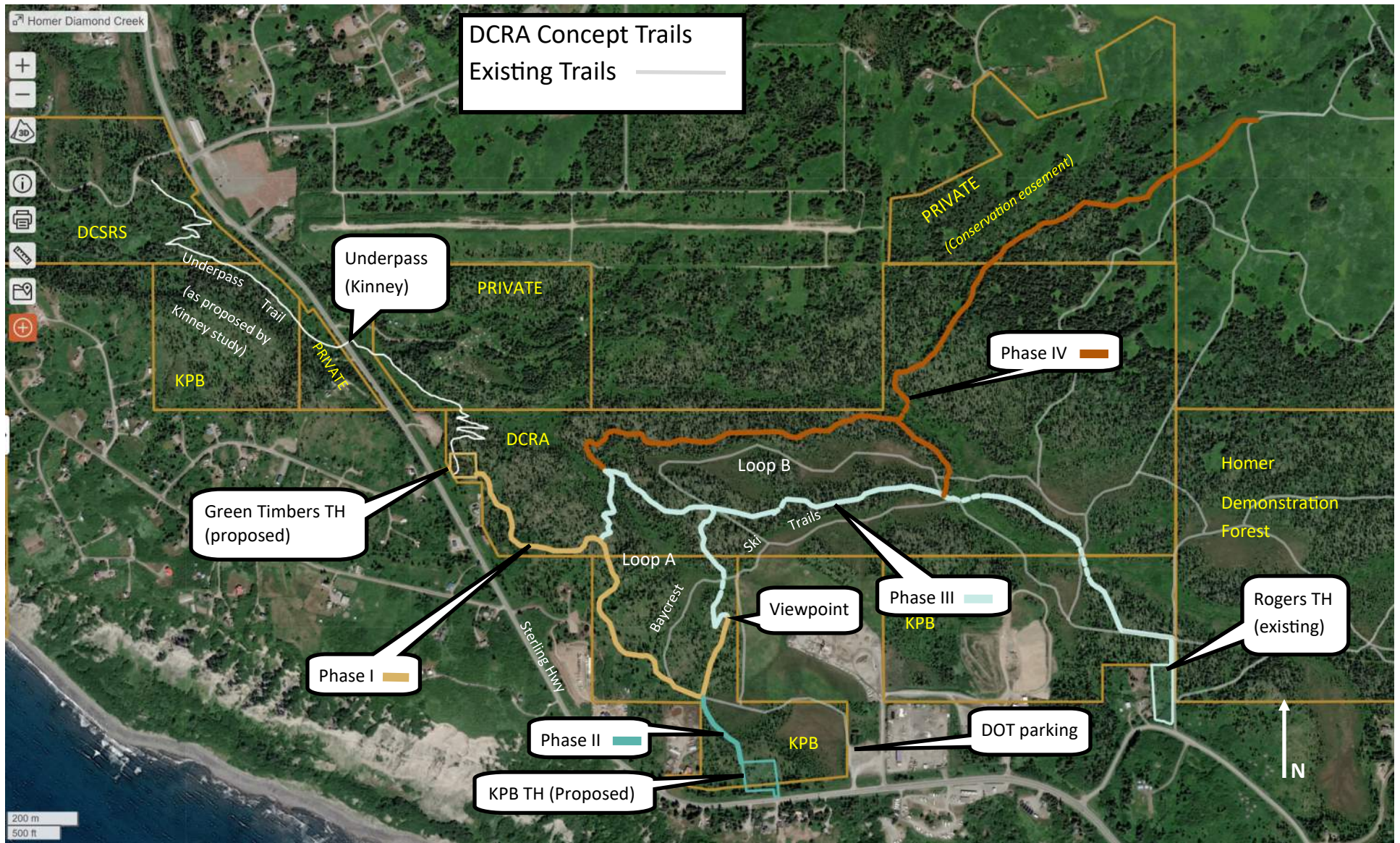
Phase III: Construct trail to complete Loop A and connect to Rogers trailhead.

Phase IV: Construct trail to complete Loop B and Homestead Connector.

Trail Inventory (Concept Trails Only)

Boardwalk and bridges are treated as the same for this level of planning, since they are proposed to have almost identical construction and load capacity.

Name	Length, ft	Gravel, ft	Boardwalk, ft	Width, in.	Clearing ft
Phase I, Green Timbers to Viewpoint, GT TH	4470	4470	0	72	10
Phase II, KPB connector, KPB TH	709	709	0	72	10
Phase III, GT/KPB to Rogers	8504	7489	1015	72	10
Phase IV, Homestead Connector	8999	8849	150	72	10
Underpass Trail	6392				



Trailheads and Parking

Rogers Trailhead is one of the most heavily used trailheads for the winter trail system, and also provides access to recently upgraded boardwalk trails in the HDF. An area was cleared in 2024 for parking.

KPB and Green Timbers Trailheads are proposed and conceptual only. See Construction and Costs-Phase I below for more information.

AK DOT/PF parking area. The AK DOT/PF owns property that provides access to a portion of the trail system and has been used for parking in the past. However, this area is currently occupied by an asphalt plant and associated piles of gravel to support Homer's Airport Project and has not been available for parking. The AK DOT/PF will likely use this area for construction support of the Sterling Highway projects that are planned in the near future. Thus, this area is not reliably available for parking.

DOT vs KPB parking

In the past the DOT parking lot has provided convenient, free parking for winter trail users of the Baycrest Ski Trails. However, if a boardwalk is constructed across the saturated peat soils directly west of the DOT lot (see map below), it will cost \$8-900,000, much more than simply constructing a parking lot on KPB land. Moreover, the trail system will gain a convenient year-round parking area not shared with DOT. Negotiation with KPB will be required to obtain permission.

Phase I: Green Timbers to Baycrest Ski Trails

Phase I: Connect Baycrest ski trails to proposed Green Timbers trailhead. Construct GT Trailhead. A trail similar in concept to the one proposed in the Kinney Engineering memorandum would connect to the underpass and Diamond Creek State Recreation Site.

Winter construction

Money, time and the natural environment may be saved by hauling materials and completing construction of these trails in winter. The open bog areas that are a barrier in summer become clear, smooth access paths when frozen and covered with snow.

Estimated Costs Phase I

Trails

Clearing and stumping, 4470 ft @\$6 per foot	\$26820
Layout, measurement, specs, permitting	\$25000
Gravel, 12" pit run 8' wide, 2:1 fill slopes, 4470 ft @\$13 per foot	\$58110
Gravel, 6" type II, 6' wide, 4470 ft @ \$7.13 per foot	\$31871
TOTAL Trail	\$141801

Green Timbers Parking lot

Clearing & Grubbing	\$5000
2400 cu. yds. Classified Fill X \$35 / yd.	\$84000
660 cu. yds. Type IIA X \$55 / yd	\$36000
1350 sq. yds. geotextile fabric X \$1.00 / sq. yd	\$1350
TOTAL parking lot	\$126350

TOTAL Phase I \$268151

Costs based on estimates from local contractors and proposals from boardwalk component suppliers supplied by Homer Trails Alliance, and calculations by Happy Trails Inc. Calculations include October 2024 prevailing wage rates as published by the State of Alaska.

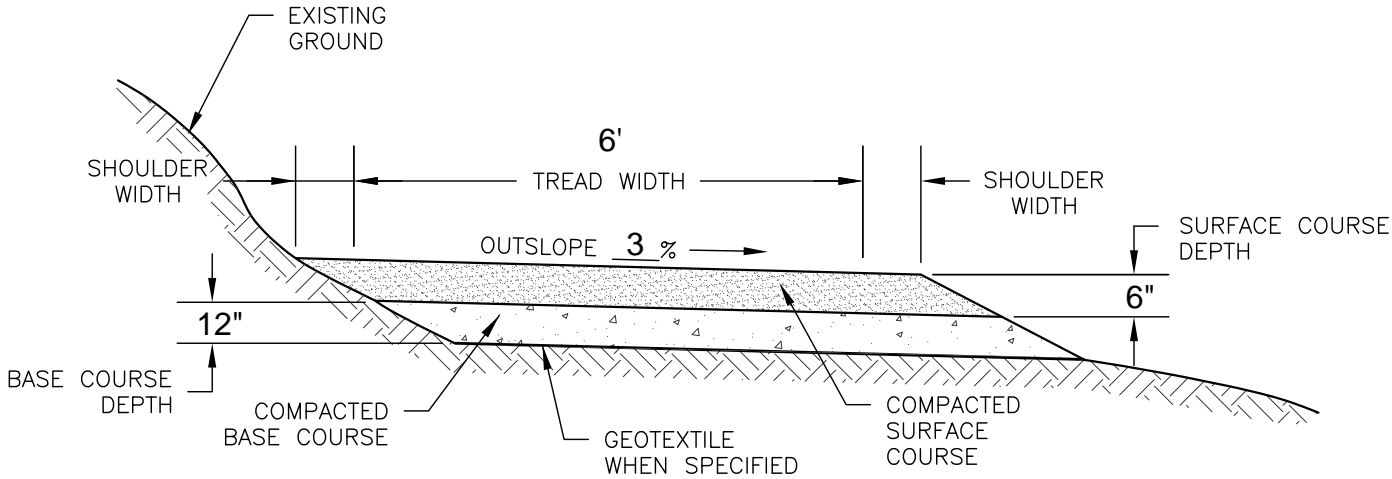
Gravel Hardening

12" of pit run gravel or 3" or higher graded cobble as a base, topped by 6" of D-1 or E-1 for a smooth top surface. See diagram.

SURFACING SECTIONS

TYPICAL ID	SECTION TYPE	TREAD WIDTH	SHOULDER WIDTH		GEOTEXTILE TYPE	BASE COURSE		SURFACE COURSE		COMMENTS
			UPHILL	DOWNHILL		TYPE	DEPTH	TYPE	DEPTH	
		6'				Pit Run	12"	D-1	6"	Compacted, 2:1 fill slopes

N/A WHEN NOT APPLICABLE



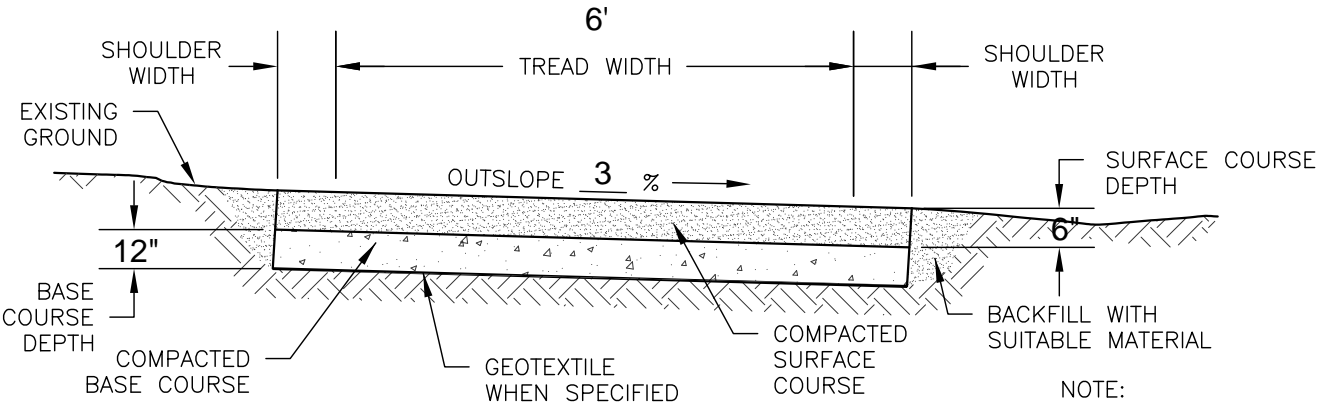
A OUTSLOPED SECTION

BASE COURSE MATERIAL TYPE

TYPE	MATERIAL	GRADATION	COMMENTS
B1	PITRUN		
B2	D-1		
B3			

SURFACE COURSE MATERIAL TYPE

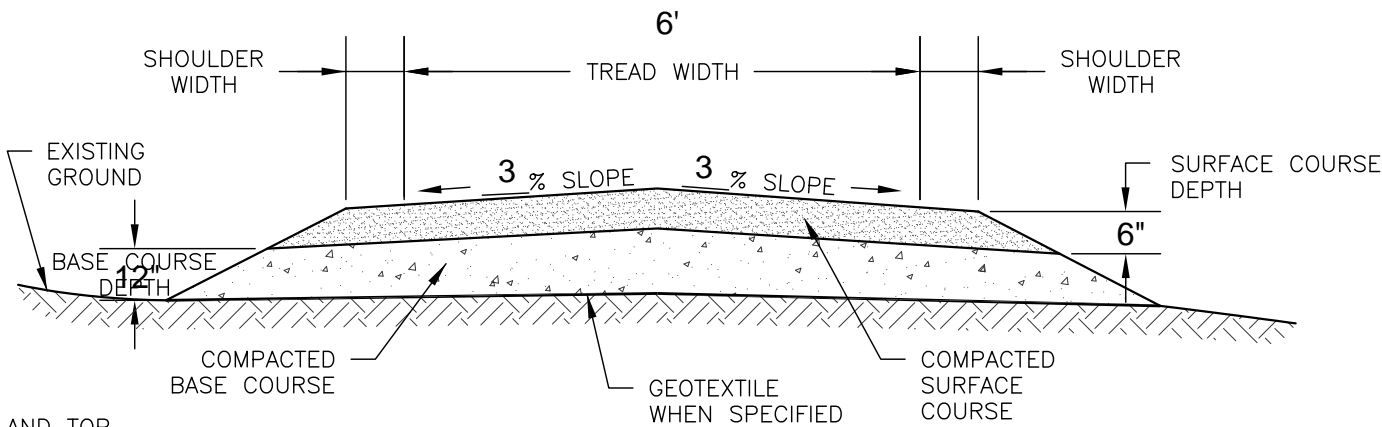
TYPE	MATERIAL	GRADATION	COMMENTS
S1	PITRUN		
S2	D-1		
S3			
S4			
S5			



B EXCAVATED SECTION

NOTE:

1. REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF DUFF AND TOP ORGANIC LAYERS DOWN TO MINERAL SOIL.
2. COMPACT BACKFILL IN 6 INCH LIFTS UNTIL NO VISUAL DISPLACEMENT.



C RAISED SECTION

NOT TO SCALE

DCRA Concept Trail Plan

PROJECT NAME & LOCATION

DCRA Trails, Homer, Alaska

Pa 38 17

DRAWING NAME

Typical Gravel Surfacing

SECTION

TYPICAL ID

REVISION DATE

11/20/2024

NO SCALE

DRAWING NO.

SHEET

February 2025 OF



Mirror Lake Trails, Chugiak



Mirror Lake Trails, Chugiak



Shoup Bay Trail, Valdez



Riverwalk Park, Delta Jct.

Typical gravel surfacing projects in Alaska

Boardwalk

Trail sections across saturated peat soils should be constructed as boardwalks. These boardwalks would be constructed by drilling helical piles into the soil to a sufficient depth that they encounter firm soil. The piles are cross-braced and a frame attached to support Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) decking. This boardwalk construction technique provides a long-lasting structure with minimal disturbance of fragile soils and vegetation.

Foundation: 3" diameter helical piles, cross-braced. Helical piles can be driven in winter.

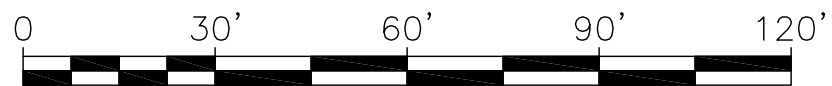
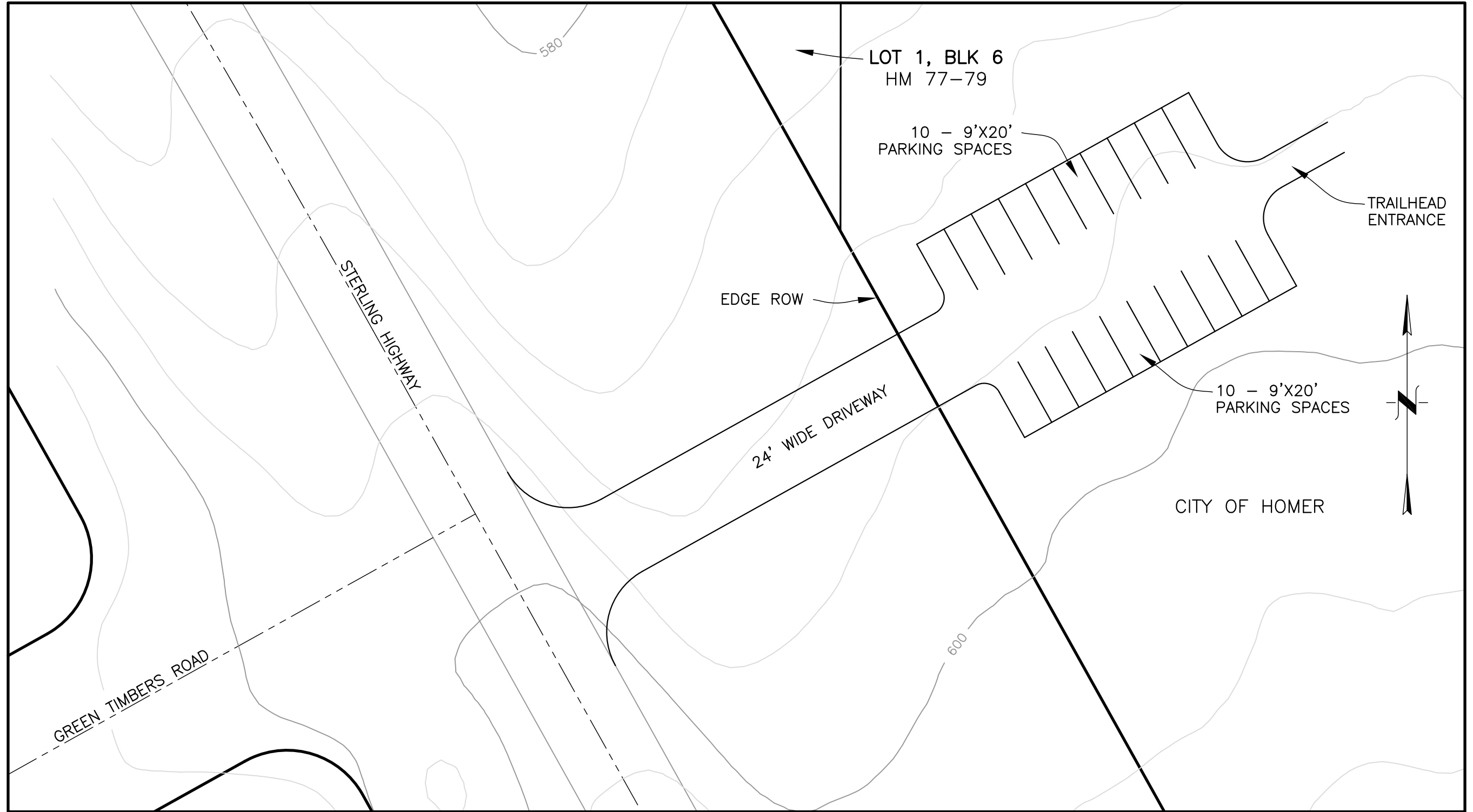
Structure: FRP (Fiber Reinforced Polymer) girders and decking. See photo below.

This method of construction yields a structure that is very long-lasting- up to 100 years as opposed to typical wood-decked trail boardwalk built on wooden sills laid into swampy ground, which last 10-20 years.

Boardwalk built with FRP structure and deck



Union Valley Reservoir Boardwalk, El Dorado National Forest, California



GRAPHIC SCALE

JANUARY 2023

REVISION NO.	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION

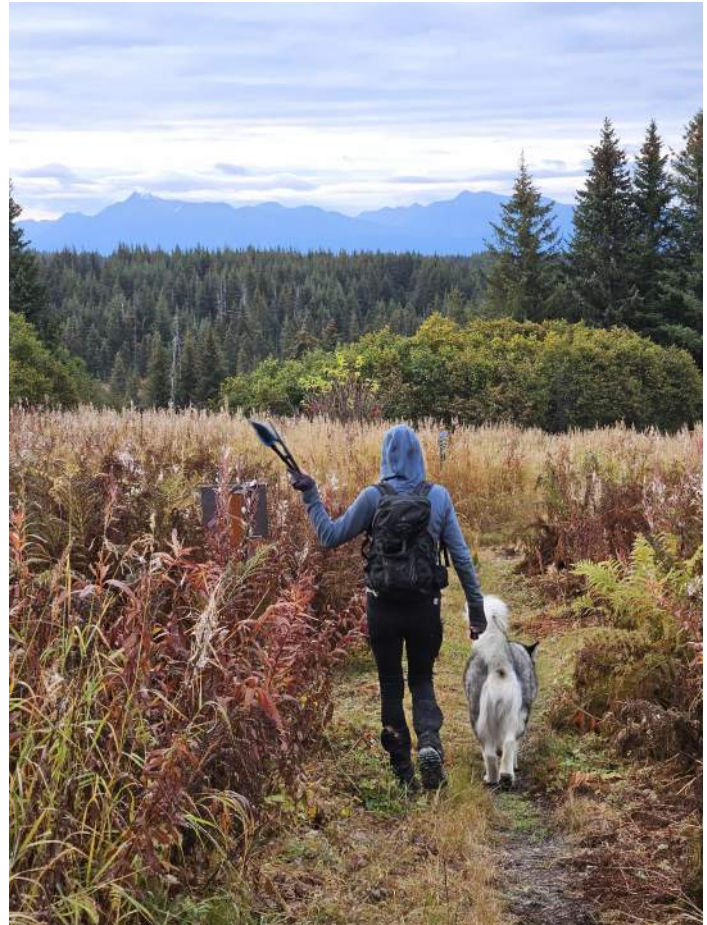
HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE
PO BOX 2215
HOMER, ALASKA 99603
www.homertrailsalliance.org

GREEN TIMBERS TRAILHEAD
PROPOSED OFF-ROAD PARKING
AND DRIVEWAY ACCESS
CITY OF HOMER, ALASKA

SHEET NO.
2 OF 3



Boardwalk near Rogers Trailhead



Homestead Trail NE of DCRA



Muktuk Marston Trail, Chugach State Park

Acknowledgements and Thanks

Diamond Creek Recreation Area Multi-Resource Management Plan, May 2013, Homer Soil & Water Conservation District. Officially adopted by the City of Homer in May 2013.

Billy Day and Sandra Cronland, Homer Trails Alliance for their warm hospitality and passion for trails. Billy supplied most of the construction cost estimates based on quotes from local contractors.

Jan Keiser, Kinney Engineering, for her skill at bringing ideas and people together.

Appendix I

Nine Elements of a Sustainable trail

A **Sustainable Trail** is a trail that conforms to its terrain and environment, is capable of handling its intended use without serious resource degradation, requires minimal maintenance, and focuses on maximizing the user's experience.

New trail construction projects should strive to meet all nine elements. For existing/social trails, these elements can be used as a template for identifying problems, and prescribing or implementing improvements.

- 1. Planned & Designed:** Guided by design documents & specifications; public comment; EA/EIS and other permitting; field recon; and professional design & layout.
- 2. Contour Curvilinear Alignment:** Layout for sidehill construction following topography. Avoids straight lines, matches the curves of existing topography. Enables full bench construction, which promotes sheet flow drainage. Avoids the fall line. Conforms to, not imposed on, terrain.
- 3. Controlled Grade:** Grade choices designed and deliberate, not just responding to terrain as encountered. Follows “half-rule” regarding side-slope: trail grade generally not more than half the steepness of side-slope it crosses (Eg: on a measured slope of 20%, a traversing trail should not be steeper than 10%). In Alaska, because of poor soils and often unpredictable hydrology, we have found a “one-third rule” to be a more reliable predictor of sustainability.
- 4. Integrated Water Control:** Drainage designed and constructed into initial alignment (via grade reversals). Reduces dependence on drainage structures, which can fail. Post-construction drainage incorporates rolling grade dips, topo-mods, etc. All tread is either out-sloped (toward drainage point) or crowned (on flat ground). Avoids reliance on culverts and “waterbar” style drains.
- 5. Full Bench Construction:** 100% of tread surface excavated from sloping terrain to native undisturbed ground. Avoids $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ bench, with trail tread on cut & fill sections.
- 6. Durable Tread Surface:** When bench cut isn't possible because of low side-slopes, or soils are fragile, use other trail hardening methods. On-site material, imported material, structures, geo-textiles, etc. Implement the simplest solution first. Always begin with drainage structures before tread structures.
- 7. Regular Maintenance:** Even the most sustainable trail needs maintenance. This should be accounted for in trail planning and funding.

8. Integrates Well into the Environment: Trail does not destroy the feel, aesthetics or ecological integrity of the surrounding environment. Rather, the trail enhances natural features & draws users into surroundings. Trail is an interpreter of landscape.

9. Satisfies the Intended User: If a user's needs are not met, they won't use the trail or they'll use it in a way that degrades it. A good trail makes a user happy!

A trail that incorporates the nine Sustainable Elements has a dramatic reduction in life-cycle maintenance costs when compared to an unplanned, undesigned trail, which more than compensates for a higher initial cost. Additionally, a sustainable trail offers significantly improved public safety and transportation alternatives, higher user-satisfaction, more stringent resource protection, better environmental aesthetics, and increased adjacent property values.

Adapted from IMBA guidelines by Interior Trails LLC and Happy Trails Inc.

Appendix II Trail Design Parameters

Table 3.1 - Hiker / Pedestrian Terra Trail Design Parameters

Trail Class 5 Recommended for DCRA

Designed Use Hiker/Pedestrian: Terra Trail		Trail Class 1	Trail Class 2	Trail Class 3	Trail Class 4	Trail Class 5
Design Tread Width	Single Lane	0" – 12"	6" – 18"	18" – 36"	24" – 60"	36" – 72"
	Double Lane	36"	36"	36" – 60"	48" – 72"	72" – 120"
	Structures (Minimum Width)	18"	18"	18"	36"	36"
Design Surface	Type	Native, ungraded May be continuously rough	Native, limited grading May be continuously rough	Native, with some on-site borrow or imported material where needed for stabilization and occasional grading Intermittently rough	Native with improved sections of borrow or imported material, and routine grading Minor roughness	Likely imported material, and routine grading Uniform, firm, and stable
	Protrusions	≤ 24" Likely common and continuous	≤ 6" May be common and continuous	≤ 3" May be common, not continuous	≤ 3" Uncommon, not continuous	No protrusions
	Obstacles (Maximum Height)	24"	14"	10"	8"	No obstacles
Design Grade	Target Grade	5% – 25%	5% – 18%	3% – 12%	2% – 10%	2% – 5%
	Short Pitch Maximum	40%	35%	25%	15%	5% – 12%
	Maximum Pitch Density	20% – 40% of trail	20% – 30% of trail	10% – 20% of trail	5% – 20% of trail	0% – 5% of trail
Design Cross Slope	Target Cross Slope	Natural side slope	5% – 20%	5% – 10%	3% – 7%	2% – 3% (or crowned)
	Maximum Cross Slope	Natural side slope	25%	15%	10%	3%
Design Clearing	Height	6'	6' – 7'	7' – 8'	8' – 10'	8' – 10'
	Width	≥ 24" Some vegetation may encroach into clearing area	24" – 48" Some light vegetation may encroach into clearing area	36" – 60"	48" – 72"	60" – 72"
	Shoulder Clearance	3" – 6"	6" – 12"	12" – 18"	12" – 18"	12" – 24"

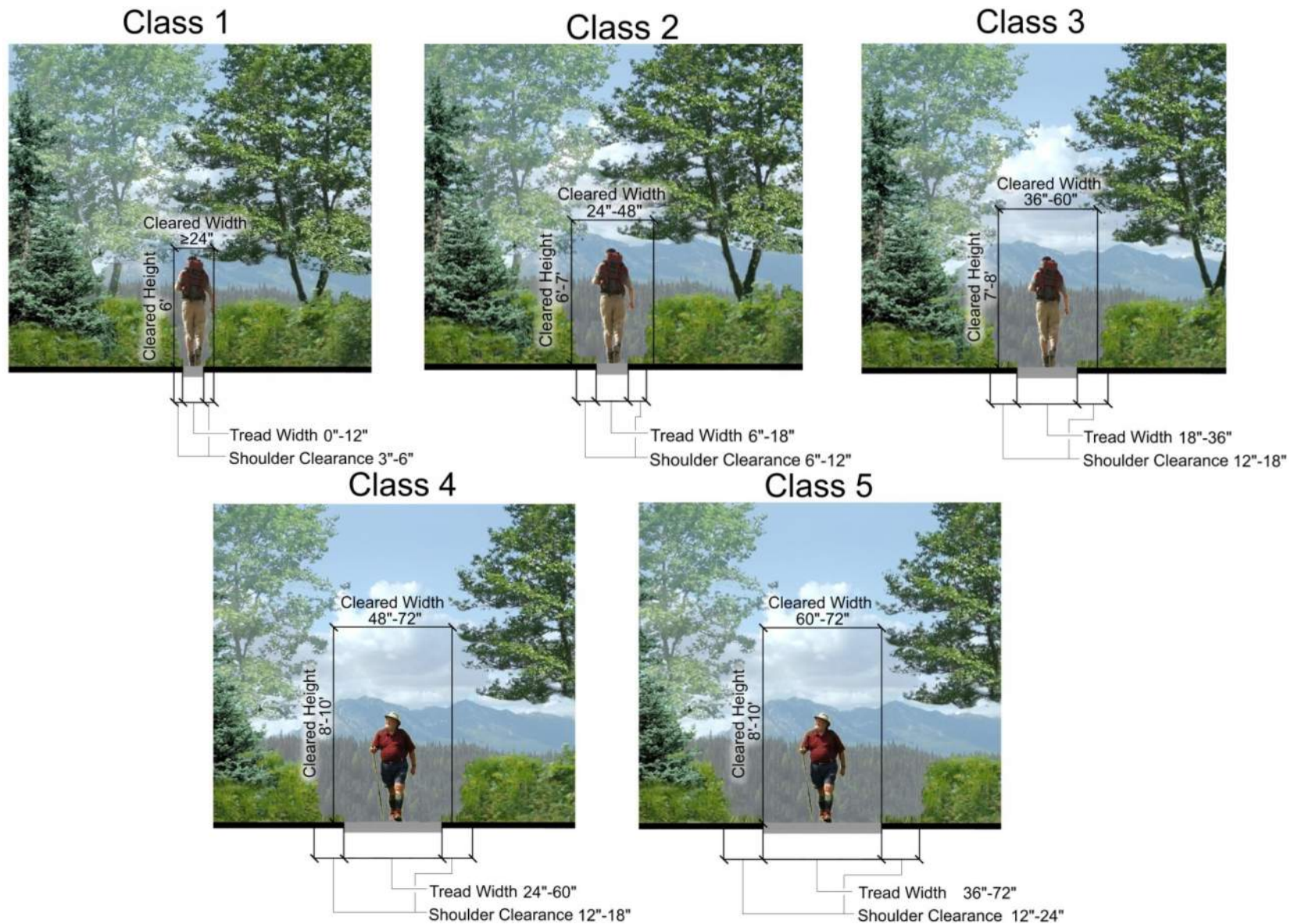


Figure 3.1 - Hiker / Pedestrian Terra Trail Design Parameters



MEMORANDUM

March Employee Anniversaries

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council
Date: March 10, 2025
From: Andrea Browning, HR Director
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

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.

Matt Clarke	Port	24	Years
Elton Anderson	Port	19	Years
Renee Krause	Clerks	18	Years
Mike Parish	Public Works	11	Years
Angie Kalugin	Finance	10	Years
Elizabeth Fischer	Finance	8	Years
Kurt Read	Port	8	Years
Matt Smith	Library	7	Years
Bill Jirsa	IT	2	Years
Michael de la Torre	Police	2	Years
Brad Gullikson	Police	1	Year



MEMORANDUM

City Managers Report
City Council
March 10, 2025

Homer Spit Erosion Update

Item Type: Informational Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor and City Council
Date: March 5, 2025
From: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager and Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Purpose: This memorandum provides an update on conversations with Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities regarding advancing Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation measures.

While in Juneau, Homer representatives Mayor Rachel Lord, Councilmembers Storm Hansen and Donna Aderhold, City Manager Melissa Jacobsen and Port Director Bryan Hawkins and I met with Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Commissioner Ryan Anderson and Deputy Director Katherine Keith. Our lobbyists from J&H Consulting, Christine Hess and Reggie Joule also attended.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss planning and implementation of Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation measures.

- Commissioner Anderson provided an update on temporary road protection measures as a result of the November 16, 2024 emergency event
 - The Alaska Department of Transportation received authorization to extend the emergency revetment wall to connect it to a shoreline hardening structure at the property of the Glacier D building. The State expects contractors to begin work on that new section in mid-March 2025.
- The City provided the Commissioners with City Resolutions urging immediate multi-agency planning to address erosion comprehensively, and explained the potential for long-term benefits of engaging the US Army Corps of Engineers in the process through reauthorization of the 1987 Homer Spit Revetment General Investigation.
- Deputy Commissioner Katherine Keith confirmed that the Department added the Sterling **Highway Erosion Mitigation Study** as a new project in the draft 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment 2. The study, funded at \$800,000 (using FY25 Federal formula planning funds from the PROTECT program) will evaluate needed improvements to protect the Sterling Highway from erosion along the Homer Spit. Improvements and “may include excavation, coastal erosion protection, paving, signing and striping, and utility relocation”.
- A City Resolution to provide comment on the draft STIP amendment is on City Council’s March 10, 2025 agenda for consideration and staff are conducting public outreach about the opportunity to comment.
- The Commissioners were receptive to the idea of scoping the planning study to meet the needs of the General Investigation; they agreed to meet with the US Army Corps of Engineers and Homer

representatives to discuss how best to utilize funding and divide the work. We are encouraged about the developing cooperative approach.

- A study will not commence until after the draft STIP goes through public comment, is amended by the State accordingly and is subsequently approved by the Federal Highway Administration, and possibly a review by the Federal Department of Government Efficiency.
- The Commissioners asked City if we would be willing to draft a scope of work so we would be ready for RFP when funding is available, and floated the possibility of the City managing the study, through a sub-award agreement and in collaboration with ADOT and the US Army Corps of Engineers to meet both road surface preservation needs and more comprehensive measures for shoreline protection.
- No decisions were made, but we see there will likely be a need for a future City Council conversation about the City managing the project.
- The Commissioners reiterated their intent to apply for discretionary FY24-26 PROTECT grant funds in cooperation with the City to further the effort. Presently the FY24-26 PROTECT grant round is on hold while on review for compliance with new Presidential Executive Orders.
- The City shared that we have a State FY26 Capital request in for \$300,000 in shared local sponsor match funding for the Homer Spit Revetment General Investigation and asked for their support. We also told them the City was requesting Federal funds through the FY26 Congressionally Designated Spending process for the Federal share. These requests have been deemed important and reasonable by Legislators and their staff, however the funding environment is highly uncertain due to fiscal gaps constraining the State budget process, and, on the Federal level, a funding freeze and the possibility of the federal government shutting down or operating under a long-term continuing resolution and thus not resolving the Federal FY25 or FY26 budgets.
- City staff continue to advocate and hunt for funding mechanisms to support this important project.

Staff members engaged Central Region Planners in additional talks about Spit Erosion Mitigation on February 24-25, 2025 when they came to Homer for a site visit.

RECOMMENDATION:

Informational Only.



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Manager

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(f) 907-235-3148

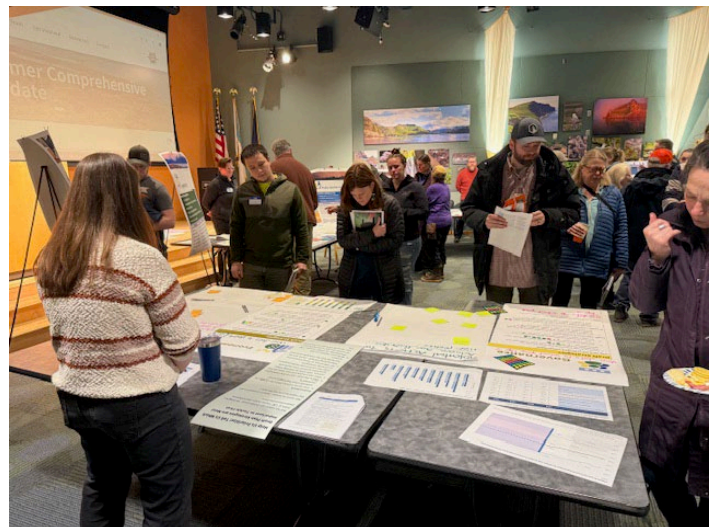
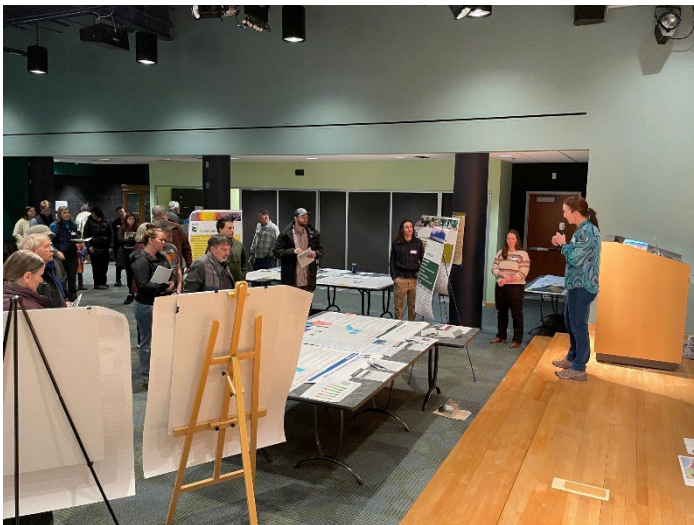
Memorandum

TO: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
DATE: February 20, 2025
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for February 24, 2025 Council Meeting

Comprehensive Plan

The Draft Comprehensive Plan was posted for public review on February 7, 2025. On February 11, City Staff, in collaboration with our consultant firm Agnew Beck, held an Open House at the Islands & Ocean Visitors Center to invite members of the community to review, discuss, and provide their thoughts on the draft plan. Public comments on the Draft Comprehensive Plan will be accepted until March 14th. In February and March, Homer Commission and Committees will be encouraged to review the draft plan and provide comments on their area of expertise. Review the Draft Comprehensive Plan and provide your comments here:

<https://homercompplanupdate.com/>



Library News

The western lot committee is ramping up again. The Friends of the Homer Library placed an order for a wraparound tree bench and Public Works will acquire a standard bench for the western end of the trail, identical with the other benches they're ordering for Pioneer Avenue, and there is a plan for stump seating and storywalk posts. The goal is to have these project elements in place by the end of April. Also renovations in study room 6 have begun. All the built-in furniture has been removed, the carpet repaired and the walls painted. The next step is replacing part of the baseboard, then putting up sound-absorbent panels on the walls. The renovations in study room 5 seem to have paid off, as use of that room more than doubled

afterwards. Attached to this report is a copy of the Library's Annual report that reinforces the importance of the library to our community through their services and programs.

Juneau Visit

As I finish up this brief report, I'm in Juneau with Mayor Lord, Councilmembers Aderhold and Hansen, Port Director Hawkins and Special Projects & Communications Coordinator Carroll wrapping up meetings with Legislators, Legislative Staff, US Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. It's been a fabulous opportunity to spend time at our State Capitol meeting with these folks who serve our great state and to work with our lobbyists, J&H Consulting in thanking our Legislators for their support in successful funding of our Harbor Expansion General Investigation, sharing our need for coordinated, multi-agency, long term sustainability planning for Homer Spit erosion and resiliency, and sharing the City's legislative priorities and positions. After we return, I'll follow up with a more complete report and photos.

City Manager Meetings and Events:

- February 11 – Conversations with a Council Member with Councilmember Venuti
- January 13 – Planning Meeting for public outreach for the City lots proposed as a location for the new multi-use community center
- February 17-21 – Travel to Juneau for meetings with J&H Consulting, 20 different State Legislators and their staff, US Coast Guard, and State agencies on behalf of the City.
- Ongoing weekly meetings with Departments, Mayor, and Councilmembers

Attachments:

- Library Annual Report
- February Employee Anniversaries
- Inactive Records Destruction Report

Homer Public Library 2024 Annual Report



On a rainy day in May, two dedicated patrons settled in for some serious entertainment.

- Jan. 1: The New Year opens with plans for major events, particularly the nationwide Big Read. The library has several projects underway, including replacing the chairs and upgrading technology. The balance in the library endowment fund stands at \$56,496.11.
- Jan. 5: Storytime Craft makes suet balls.
- Jan. 8: Council adopts Ordinance 23-49(S), which reorganizes the City administrative structure and creates standalone departments for the library and IT.

Highlights of 2024 included the Big Read in January and February, replacement chairs in April, the summer reading program in June and July, renovations to study room 5 in September and digitizing the *Homer News* archive in December. We encountered some financial turbulence in August, offset by a surge in donations in November. Through it all, the library benefitted from enormous infusions of labor and money from the Friends of the Library, the LAB, numerous businesses and community organizations, and many, many private citizens. Homer really is a unique place.

January

On January 8, Council passed Ordinance 23-49(S). Among other things, this ordinance establishes a standalone library department for the first time in 39 years. It also adds language to the Homer City Code mandating certain qualifications for the library director.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read encourages communities all across the country to select from a shortlist of titles and build public programs around shared reading. For 2024, the Friends of the Library chose *The Cold Millions*, by Jess Walter, and paired it with *The Big Both Ways*, by John Straley. Both books explore social class, protest and economic hardship.

- Jan. 10: Virtual author talk by Rebecca Serle about multigenerational love stories.
- Jan. 11: The RFP for replacement library chairs closes.
- Jan. 13: Writing Circle with Richard Chiappone.
- Jan. 19: Big Read Kickoff at Alice's Champagne Palace, including a singalong with live music.
- Jan. 20: Plant Swap.
- Jan. 23: Virtual author talk by Rajiv Nagaich, author of *Your Retirement: Dream or Disaster*. Big Read Book Club discusses the Spokane riots.
- Jan. 24: Big Read Coffee Table on KBBI discusses themes from *The Cold Millions*.
- Jan. 25: Big Read Historical Homer—Clark Fair talks about his ongoing weekly column with the *Homer News*.
- Jan. 30: Virtual author talk with Dr. Robert Lustig on medicine and processed foods.
- Jan. 30: Big Read Book Club discusses the history of unions.
- Feb. 1-May 30: Art in the Library displays works by Andy Sonneborn.
- Feb. 1: Big Read Zoom with authors Jess Walter and John Straley, exploring their books *The Cold Millions* and *The Big Both Ways*. Hosted at the library.



Friends of the Library Coordinator Cheryl Illg and Trivia Master Kathleen Gustafson kicked off the Big Read on January 19.

The Big Read kicked off on Jan. 19 with a night of live music, singing and trivia at Alice's. Over the next 11 days, KBBI featured a book talk, Clark Fair gave a talk on the history of Homer and the Big Read Book Club met twice, talking about the Spokane Riots and the history of unions.

February

The Big Read continued through Feb. 17. The month featured exhibits and discussions, a Zoom talk with Tom Kizzia and both authors, a free-speech panel, a movie showing and more Big Read Book Club meetings. The grand finale starred numerous local citizens in *The Cold Millions Onstage with Pier One*, bringing to life historical speeches and songs from the labor movement.

A brief list of organizations that collaborated on the Big Read: Alice's Champagne Palace, Bunnell Street Arts Center, Homer Council on the Arts, Homer High School, Homer Senior Center, KBBI, Kenai Peninsula College, Ninilchik Library and Pier One Theatre. Individual volunteers are too numerous to list here, but our thanks also go out to all the FHL members and the helpers from the community. Particular recognition goes to Cheryl Illg and Mercedes Harness, who coordinated the schedule and improvised admirably when one of our major author visits fell through.

- Feb. 2: Alarm system replaced. Big Read Conversation about finding home and the local housing crisis. HCOA hosts the conversation and features an exhibit all through February.
- Feb. 4: Big Read explores Alaskan cultures in a new high school curriculum, hosted at the Bunnell Arts Center.
- Feb. 6: Big Read Book Club discusses indigenous perspectives.
- Feb. 8: Big Read book discussion at the Senior Center, followed by sharing stories about homesteading. Virtual author talk with Tessa Bailey on writing romantic comedies.
- Feb. 13: Big Read Book Club discusses leading women.
- Feb. 15: Big Read Book Circle invites elders and long-time locals to the Ninilchik Community Library to talk about *The Cold Millions* and share stories from early Ninilchik.
- Feb. 16 and 17: Big Read watches *The Cold Millions* on stage. Pier One presents historical speeches and songs from labor movements at Beluga Lake Lodge.
- Feb. 16: Big Read watches *Newsies* at the library.
- Feb. 28: Virtual author talk with Kim Scott on managing a workplace.



Paintings by Andy Sonneborn went up in the fireplace lounge on February 1.

March

On March 1, we put up a large display screen behind the front desk, as a way of advertising library resources and upcoming events. The LAB and FHL board held their annual potluck at the library on March 3, with excellent food and a chance to meet people that otherwise would never cross paths.



At the Celebration of Lifelong Learning on April 20, Spencer Co's family accepted the Youth Learner Award on his behalf.

- Mar. 1: A large display screen goes up at the front desk, displaying public announcements and news of upcoming programs.
- Mar. 5: Voznesenka School visits the library. Wii Sports for Tweens and Teens.
- Mar. 14: Showing of Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse.
- Mar. 27: Teens and Tweens Get Crafty.
- Apr. 2: New office chairs arrive at the library, replacing worn-out furniture throughout the building. Virtual author talk with Smithsonian curator Paula J. Johnson on the book *Smithsonian American Table: The Foods, People and Innovations That Feed Us*.
- Apr. 9: Virtual author Talk with Colum McCann and Diane Foley on their book *American Mother*, about the murder of Foley's son by ISIS terrorists. Homer High School students present a travelogue about their trip to Australia.
- Apr. 11: Cinda Nofziger, Cheryl Illg and Lyn Maslow present to the Downtown Rotary Club about the western lot project, as well as library and Friends of the Library programs.
- Apr. 12: Library staff play Dungeons and Dragons with teens.
- Apr. 17: Virtual author talk with Xochitl Gonzalez, author of *Anita de Monte Laughs Last*, about art and society in New York of the late 1990s.

April

On April 7, the HPL unveiled new library card designs, featuring the same illustrations that local artist Rachel Tussey produced for the Bookmobile. We also launched the library needs survey, which ran through July 31.

On April 9, students from Homer High School presented a travelogue about their trip to Australia. A dozen kids showed off pictures, told stories and raffled off small packages of vegemite.

The Celebration of Lifelong Learning featured monologues from three DDF students, the much-beloved trivia tree and silent auction, outstanding food and music, and excellent speeches from both awardees (Spencer Co delivered recorded remarks, while Nancy Lord gave her speech in person).

New chairs arrived, taking the place of the aging furniture throughout the building. Patrons particularly appreciated the new office-style chairs, which see heavy use all around the computer terminals.



Eager readers stormed the library for the Spring Book and Plant Sale on May 10 and 11.

May

The bookmobile loomed over the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair on May 4. More than 100 kids signed up for the summer reading program and did arts and crafts.

The Spring Book and Plant Sale on May 10-11 was successful as always! Shoppers arrived with empty bags, and some lined up at the front door before the library opened Saturday. Many thanks to the Friends of the Library

- Apr. 20: Celebration of Lifelong Learning, featuring food from the Tickled Pear, desserts from BB's Bakery, live music, a silent auction and a trivia tree. Monologues from three DDF students. Congratulations to Nancy Lord and Spencer Co, the adult and youth winners, respectively!
- Apr. 30: Crafternoon for teens and tweens.
- May 1: Virtual author talk with Douglas Brunt, author of *The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel: Genius, Power and Deception on the Eve of World War I*, about the disappearance of the inventor of the diesel engine on Sept. 29, 1913.
- May 4: Bookmobile at the Safe and Healthy Kids Fair.
- May 8: The new lounge chairs are set up in the library. Virtual author talk with Nina Simon, author of *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*, about three amateur sleuths investigating a murder next door.
- May 10-11: Spring Book and Plant Sale.
- May 13: Wii sports for teens and tweens.
- May 14-16: Outreach sessions with Agnew::Beck on the Homer Comprehensive Plan.
- May 14: Poetry reading by local authors Wendy Erd, Linda Martin, Peter Kaufmann and Anne Coray.

Board members (Judy Gonsalves, Lyn Maslow, Ann Dixon, Sara Reinert, Lin Hampson, Linda Robinson, Shellie Worsfold, Sarah Brewer, Joy Steward and McKenna Black), as well as all the volunteers who made the sale possible: Marylou Burton, Eric Fenger, Barb Veeck, Michael McKinney, Bobby Copeland-McKinney, David Lewis, Cecelia Fitzpatrick, Jane Miles, Lolita Brache, Barbara Haynes, Deb Curtis, Carter Davis, Daniel Christ, Doug Baily, Landa Baily, Milli Martin, Annie Williams, Joleene Hooker and Karen McRae. Special thanks to Sara Reinert, Barb Veeck and Marylou Burton for sorting and storing books in preparation for the sale—a job that never ends!

On May 10, volunteers with the Christian Community Church turned out to help clean up the library grounds. They pulled a number of saplings out of the rock garden along the library's north wall and removed the potentilla bushes from the start of the Story Walk Trail, which required some heavy digging.



Four poets visited the library for a collaborative event on May 14.

On May 14, the library hosted a poetry reading with authors Wendy Erd, Linda Martin, Peter Kaufmann and Anne Coray. All four authors read excerpts from their work and took questions from the audience.

The summer reading program kicked off on the last day of the month. Hordes of small people played ring-toss, experimented with a marble maze, and made crafts out of Kleenex boxes and paper towel rolls.

- May 21: Virtual author talk with Rebecca F. Kuang, author of *Yellowface*, about envy and racism.
- May 31: Summer Reading Kick-off in the kids' room, featuring upcycle crafts.
- Jun. 1-Sept. 30: Art in the Library displays works by Bonnie Dupree.
- Jun. 3: Virtual author talk with Matt Shindell, curator of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, on his book *For the Love of Mars*.
- Jun. 5-Jul. 24: Girls Who Code for Teens and Tweens.
- Jun. 6-Jul. 25: Girls Who Code for elementary students.
- Jun. 6: Upcycle old t-shirts into pet toys for the animal shelter or to take home.
- Jun. 10-Jul. 29: Music, Movement and Making for babies through preschoolers features 20-25 minutes of a story, plus singing and dancing, and creative making with recycled materials.
- Jun. 10: Teens and Tweens do "fontomatopoeia" paintings for decorating the teen corner.
- Jun. 11-Jul. 30: Stories and Adventures with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies features read-alouds, games, and crafts in the woods west of the library.



Library staff welcomed volunteers to an appreciation lunch on June 25.

June

The summer reading program continued with coding workshops, author talks, special storytimes and events at Bishop's Beach and in the woods west of the library. Kids made pet toys out of old t-shirts, created paintings for the teen space, learned American Sign Language and enjoyed a "family spa day."

On June 25, the library workroom hosted a volunteer-appreciation lunch for all the groups that offer their time to support the library: the FHL board and the LAB; the regular volunteers who shelve, clean and repair books; the members of the Teen Advisory Board and the others who assist with youth events; the dozens who sort book donations, drive the bookmobile, read between the lines on the radio, and hang flyers around town; and the huge crowds who help out with the book and plant sales, the Celebration of Lifelong Learning, the chess club, the summer reading program, the author events and other special projects. FHL provided an outstanding selection of food and put up some impressive decorations. The list of invitees came to more than 90 people, of whom about a third managed to attend. Thank you all!

July

The summer reading program cruised on through July. Volunteers decorated the bookmobile and marched with it in the Fourth of July parade. Authors from across the country gave more presentations, and a Junior Iditarod racer visited the library with her retired sled dog. We saw more art and more Sign Language, plus LEGOs, movies and s'mores.

- Jun. 11: Storytime at Bishop's Beach includes songs, poems and a free book from the bookmobile. Touring author Ken Waldman reads for kids and performs on the fiddle.
- Jun. 12: Zoom author talk with Chris Grabenstein, Hena Kahn and Mychal Threats, live in the kids' room.
- Jun. 13: Upcycle old t-shirts into pet toys for the animal shelter or to take home. Virtual author talk with Frieda McFadden, author of *The Housemaid* and others, about writing psychological thrillers.
- Jun. 14: Family Spa Day includes a DIY bath bomb, a balm and a scrub to take home.
- Jun. 17: Artist David Braeme and teens and tweens do "fontomatopoeia" paintings for decorating the teen corner.
- Jun. 19: Showing of *Wall-e*, about a robot at the end of the world.
- Jun. 20: Virtual author talk with Tiffany Jewell, author of *Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in School*, about racism in education.
- Jun. 24-26: Upcycled hand puppets.
- Jun. 27: Yoga for Teens and Tweens.
- Jul. 3: Pre-parade activity and sign up to walk with the bookmobile, library staff and Friends of the Library in the Independence Day parade.



Youth Services Librarian Cinda Nofziger set the tone for the July 4 parade.

The summer reading program party drew something like 100 attendees. The marimba was great, the hot dogs and ice cream outstanding, and many games and prizes got the kids wildly excited. Many thanks to Cinda Nofziger, Cheryl Illg and all the volunteers who helped out with setting up and serving throughout the event.

Overall, the summer reading program featured 95 programs and events, with 1,129 attendees. Nearly 300 people took part in the reading challenge and 123 completed it! A brief list of all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes and sponsored readers: The Alaska State Library, Susan Jeffres, the Homer Bookstore, Homer Emblem Club #350, Ulmer's Drug and Hardware, Homer's Jeans, Two Sisters Bakery, Wagon Wheel, Cycle Logical, Sustainable Wares, Saw and Cycle, Homer Art and Frame Co., Bubbles Soda Parlor, BB's Bakery, The Fringe, Coffee Smith Café, Swell Taco, Salmon Sisters, Nomar, Wayne Aderhold, Save U More and many anonymous individuals.

- Jul. 4: BOB the Bookmobile cruises in the Independence Day parade.
- Jul. 8-29: American Sign Language with Sherry Pederson.
- Jul. 9 and 11: Making reusable snack bags.
- Jul. 9: Virtual author talk with Newbery Award winner Kate DiCamillo, about the fun-loving pig Mercy Watson. Shown live in the kids' room.
- Jul. 15: Art for Teens and Tweens. Artist David Braeme helps kids with "fontomatopoeia" paintings for decorating the teen corner.
- Jul. 16: Virtual author talk with Max Brallier, author of the series *The Last Kids on Earth*. Shown live in the kids' room.
- Jul. 17-23: LEGO Contest drop off. Competitors bring their creations to the library for judging.
- Jul. 17: Showing of *The Mitchells vs. The Machines*, in which a family battles a robot uprising.
- Jul. 18: Yoga with Anna for Teens and Tweens.
- Jul. 19: Junior Iditarod Musher Addy and her retired leader dog visit the library.
- Jul. 22-26: Art with Sharlene creates art from recycled materials.
- Jul. 22: Spa Day for Teens and Tweens includes a DIY bath bomb, a balm and a scrub to take home.



Friends of the Library Board Members Judy Gonsalves and Joy Steward ran one of the most popular tables at the end-of-summer-reading party on July 27.

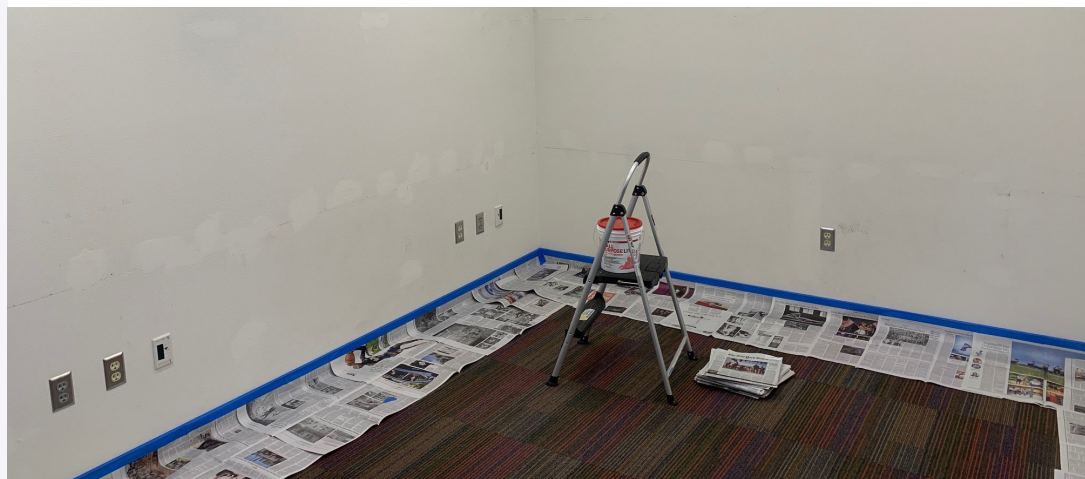
August

On August 16, the State Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums (LAM) announced major cuts to the Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grants, reducing the per-library allocation from \$7,000 to \$1,829. Following public protest, the LAM restored the full amount of the grants in October.

Separately, the amount allocated to the State Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) dropped from \$500,000 to \$369,514. SLED provided 60 of the 68 databases available to patrons through our library website. Several small databases (LearningExpress, Auto Repair Source, Hobbies and Crafts Source, Home Improvement Source and Small Engine Repair Source) disappeared from the list.

Renovations began on study room 5, and we shifted furniture around on the main floor to create more open space and smooth the flow of traffic.

- Jul. 23: Virtual author talk with Elizabeth Acevedo, author of *The Poet X*, about using poetry to express hidden feelings, including a short workshop. Stories, S'mores and Science at Bishop's Beach.
- Jul. 25: Storytime on the Spit with Youth Services Librarian Cinda Nofziger.
- Jul. 26: End of the summer reading challenge.
- Jul. 27: End of summer reading party, with hot dogs from Global Federal Credit Union, ice cream from Udder Delights and marimba music from Shamwari.
- Jul. 31: Virtual author talk with Caldecott Medal winner Dan Santat, author of *A First Time for Everything*, about the practicalities of creating graphic novels.
- Aug. 7: Virtual author talk by Jennifer Levasseur, curator at the Smithsonian, about the International Space Station.
- Aug. 15: Virtual author talk with Irena Smith about the college-admissions process.
- Aug. 21: Virtual author talk with Shelby Van Pelt, author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*.
- Aug. 22: Author talk by Susan Pope, author of *Rivers and Ice*, a memoir of life in Alaska.
- Aug. 29: Candidate Forum for Mayor and City Council, organized by KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion and League of Women Voters.



Building Maintenance staff renovated study room 5 during September.

- Sept. 4: Sound Publishing, the publishers for the *Homer News*, kindly donate bound volumes containing the print run of the newspaper from 1976-2022.
- Sept. 6-7: Book and plant sale.
- Sept. 10: Virtual author talk with Garret Graff on the oral history of D-Day and the September 11 attacks.
- Sept. 13: *The Muppet Movie* in the meeting room.
- Sept. 18: Virtual author talk with Nate Klemp on living with an expansive mind in a distracted world.
- Sept. 21: Virtual author talk with Liane Moriarty explores character development.
- Sept. 26: Renovations on study room 5 are complete.
- Oct. 1: The library sends its microfilm records of the *Homer News* to Ancestry.com for digitization. After scanning the images and putting them up online, Ancestry provides a free link for Homer Public Library patrons. The microfilm returns to the library in January 2025.
- Oct. 2: Virtual author talk with scientists from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute offers a journey into the hidden world of tropical bats.



Bound volumes of the Homer News and Homer Tribune fill the compact shelves on September 4.

September

The *Homer News* closed its local office and took most of the furnishings and equipment up to Kenai. However, they donated bound volumes of the newspaper from 1975-2021 and some loose-leaf issues from the 1960s. The set now takes up nearly a complete range of the compact shelving in the staff area.

The Parks Division put in a ton of work on the western lot—grading the trail, clearing away underbrush, constructing bump-outs for the storywalk posts, and laying sod around the tree where the wraparound bench will someday go.

Building Maintenance completed the renovations on study room 5 on Sept. 26. Staff immediately labelled it the “executive suite,” but the room’s first use was as a gaming den for patrons playing Splendor.

- Oct. 9: The new digital resources page goes live on the library website. Virtual author talk with Silvia Moreno-Garcia on Latin American genre fiction. Mushroom stamp art.
- Oct. 10: Students from Voznesenka School visit the library. Chief Technology Officer Bill Jirsa, Special Projects Associate Susie Inglis and Library Director Dave Berry discuss and demonstrate Artificial Intelligence.
- Oct. 11: The Pratt Museum visits the library to introduce kids to owls.
- Oct. 22: Virtual author talk with Lori Gottlieb, author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*.
- Oct. 25: Showing of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, in which Halloween spirits attempt to take over the Christmas season.
- Oct. 29: Candidate Forum for House District 6, organized by KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion and League of Women Voters.
- Oct. 30: Spooktacular teen and tween costume contest.
- Nov. 7: Virtual author talk with Stanley Milford, author of *The Paranormal Ranger*.
- Nov. 14: Virtual author talk with Javier Zamora, author of *Solito*, on childhood migration from Central America.
- Nov. 15: *The LEGO Batman Movie* in the meeting room.



The Parks Division cleared and regraded the trail on the western lot and prepared the site for the bench that will wrap around this tree, as seen on September 20.

The book and plant sale came off wonderfully, as always. Many volunteers work both sales during a given year, which is all the more impressive. Look at the list below, and compare it with the people who volunteered in May: The Friends of the Library board, Marylou Burton, Tom Goode, Eric Fenger, David Lewis, Stu Schmutzler, Beau Berryman, Michael McKinney, Bobby Paulino, Deb Curtis, Helen Armstrong, Charlie Barnwell, Sandy Early, Janet Fink, Gina Creedon, Janet Klein, Barbara Haynes, Jacque Peterson, Jenny Coyle, Milli Martin, Annie Williams, Kate Finn, Megan O'Neill, Carter Davis, Daniel Christ, Bonnie Jason, Ollie DeLyser, Mable DeLyser, Calvin Wedvik and Karen McRae.

Following extensive debate, the LAB approved the 2025-2029 Library Strategic Plan. Anticipating population growth, the plan identifies future needs for space, staffing, technology and collection development, as well as maintenance requirements for gradually aging infrastructure. Library services have improved greatly in the past several years, but plenty of opportunities remain!

- Nov. 16: Mr. Whitekeys visits Homer to talk about his new book, *The Voyage of the Alaska Union*. Hosted at Kachemak Bay Campus.
- Nov. 18: Games for teens.
- Nov. 20: Virtual author talk with Mona Susan Power, author of *A Council of Dolls*, on Native rights and culture in fiction.
- Nov. 27: The giving tree goes up in the library lobby. Over the course of December, patrons pick all 60 titles off the tree and donate \$440 in gift certificates for the Homer Bookstore.
- Nov. 30: Friends of the Library Pop-Up Plant Sale.
- Dec. 4: Virtual author talk with Jeffrey Post on the Smithsonian National Gem Collection.
- Dec. 5: Technicians from Convergent replace the computer and software controls that manage the library's HVAC system.
- Dec. 11: Virtual author talk with Laura Dave, author of *The Night We Lost Him*, on pulse-pounding, family-driven mysteries.
- Dec. 12: Crafternoon for teens and tweens.
- Dec. 13: A region-wide power failure forces City buildings to close at 11:30.
- Dec. 17: Tom Kizzia and Rich Chiappone discuss writing and history.



On October 10, Susie Inglis and Bill Jirsa visited the library to discuss recent developments in Artificial Intelligence.

October

The library hosted a discussion about Artificial Intelligence on Oct. 10. Chief Technology Officer Bill Jirsa and Special Projects Associate Susie Inglis visited the library to explore the evolution of AI, its impact on society, and what it can do, complete with a live demonstration. The audience of about 25 people chimed in with lots of questions.

On Oct. 29, about 40 people showed up to hear the candidates for House District 6 answer questions. As with last year's candidate fora, this one was organized by KBBI, KDLL, the Peninsula Clarion and the League of Women Voters.

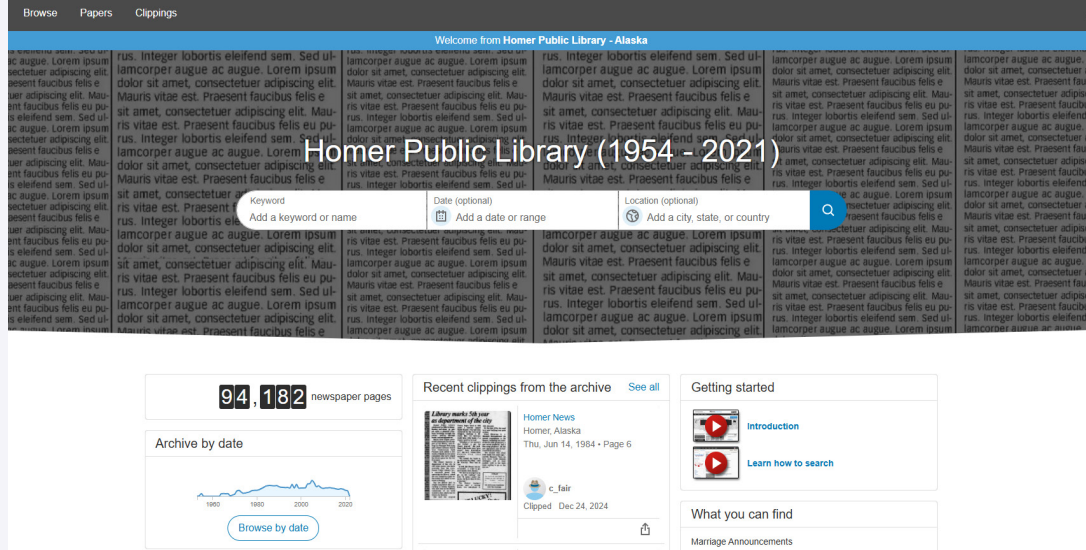
The library website got an overhaul, simplifying access to the 60+ subscription databases that provide everything from peer-reviewed articles to streaming videos. The list can be sorted by title, subject, content format and age group.

November

The library received a state grant for \$6,462 to offset the cost of providing internet service to the public. In the space of two months, four donors collectively contributed \$14,000 to the Library Endowment Fund. The Friends of the Library set up the giving tree on Nov. 27 and people purchased the first items that afternoon, starting a run that ended with patrons plucking all 60 book tags and donating \$440 worth of gift certificates to the Homer Bookstore.

The Teen Advisory Board gave a brief presentation at the start of the LAB meeting, describing some of their activities and advocating for a dedicated teen space in the library.

- Dec. 19: Digitization of the *Homer News* is complete and the link goes live on the library website.
- Dec. 31: The year ends with a sense of accomplishment and many plans for the future. The balance in the library endowment fund stands at \$81,842.72.



Newspapers.com finished digitizing the Homer News on December 19.

December

In late October, we shipped our entire collection of the *Homer News* on microfilm to Ancestry.com, the parent company of Newspapers.com. They spent a couple of months scanning and indexing the material, and the archive (1954-2021) became available online on Dec. 19. Patrons can access it from any computer in the library building, and anyone with a personal subscription to Newspapers.com can find it anywhere.

A region-wide power failure on Dec. 13 forced City buildings to close halfway through the day. The library's backup generator worked fine but the internet went down, which drove some patrons to read books instead. We stayed open from 10:00 to 11:30 and managed to get in one nearly-complete storytime.

On Dec. 17, Tom Kizzia and Rich Chiappone visited the library to talk about history and writing, drawing a crowd of 63 people. Tom received a well-deserved award from Representatives Andrew Gray and Sarah Vance.

Thank you!

Our deepest thanks to all those who supported the library over the past year. Many members of the public contributed their time, energy and money to guarantee the success of the institution. We here recognize those who donated to the library's long-term sustainability:

Library Endowment Fund

Anonymous (4)

Anonymous, in honor of Steve Gibson

Kathryn Anderson

Dave Berry

Kathy Carssow

Richard Chiappone

Kate Finn

Marcia Kuszmaul

Miller Morris, in honor of Dr. Ian Wisecarver

Lesa A. Osborne, in honor of Ann Keffer

Terri Spigelmyer and Andy Haas

Glen Williams, in memory of Gene Williams

Friends of Homer Public Library Endowment Fund

Harmon Clines

Patricia McNeill

Beverly Nikora

Joy Steward and Stu Schmutzler

2024 by the numbers at Homer Public Library



101,206

Visits to the library



170,248

Items checked out

674

New library cards issued

14,213

Patrons attended programs

1,129 attended

Summer Reading events

3,023 sessions

Study Rooms + Meeting Room

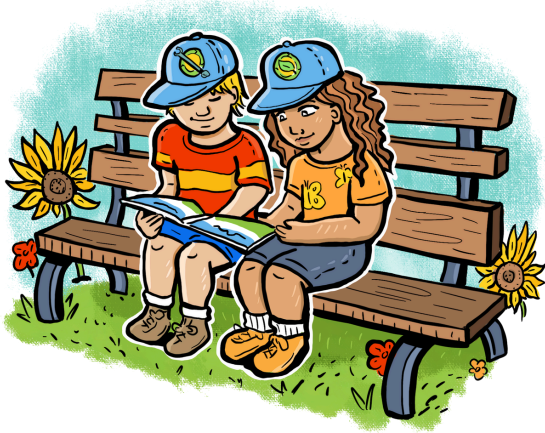
30,573 sessions

Public computers + library WiFi

3,076

Volunteer hours logged





SUMMER@ HPL 2024

... by the numbers at
Homer Public Library

293
Reading challenge
participants

123
People finished the
reading challenge!

26,200
Books + library
items circulated

95
Special events
& programs

1,129
Event
attendees

12
Community
collaborators

13
LEGO challenge
participants

9
Teen + tween
volunteers!

71
Community
donors

READ, RENEW, REPEAT

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/summer-hpl-2024

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MEMORANDUM

February Employee Anniversaries

Item Type: Informational
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council
Date: February 24, 2025
From: Andrea Browning
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

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.

Jenny Carroll	Admin	9	Years
Morgan Tracy	Police	8	Years
Kevin Co	Library	6	Years
Tyler Jeffres	Police	6	Years
Mike Swoboda	PW	2	Years
Dan Kort	PW	1	Year
Leon Galbraith	PW	1	Year



MEMORANDUM

Inactive Records Destruction Report 2024

Item Type: Informational
Prepared For: Mayor Lord & Homer City Council
Date: February 13, 2025
From: Zach Pettit, Deputy City Clerk II

In accordance with HCC 2.92.030(g), the City Clerk's Office completed the annual inactive records destruction process for 2024.

On December 8, 2023, Department Heads were notified of the inactive records that were eligible for destruction, and as a result, 68 boxes of records were approved, pulled, and staged in the Council Chambers. Arctic Shred performed on-site shredding of the inactive records on July 17, 2024.

Arctic Shred travels from Anchorage to the Peninsula to provide their on-site service and then brings the shredded materials to their facility in Anchorage for appropriate disposal. This is the City Clerk's Office first year working with Arctic Shred for our inactive records destruction. Their services were retained after solicitation of prices from three vendors that service the Kenai Peninsula and recommendations from the City Clerks of Soldotna and Kenai.

Copies of the Inactive Records Storage Forms and memorandums approving destruction are available in the City Clerk's Office for review.

PARKS ART RECREATION & CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

2025 Calendar

	AGENDA DEADLINE	MEETING	COMMISSIONER SCHEDULED TO REPORT	CITY COUNCIL MEETING FOR REPORT*	ANNUAL TOPICS/EVENTS
JANUARY				No Regular Meeting	
FEBRUARY	Wednesday 2/12 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 2/20 5:30 p.m.		Monday 2/24 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plans and Goals Review • Comp Plan Review
MARCH	Wednesday 3/12 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 3/20 5:30 p.m.		Tuesday 3/24 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
APRIL	Wednesday 4/09 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 4/17 5:30 p.m.		Monday 4/28 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule Beach/Park Walk Through for May • Museum/Art Gallery Walkthrough • Worksession- Commission Training w/ City Clerk
MAY	Wednesday 5/07 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 5/15 5:30 p.m.		Tuesday 5/27 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach/Park Walk •
JUNE	Wednesday 6/11 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 6/19 5:30 p.m.		Monday 6/23 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
JULY				No Regular Meeting	
AUGUST	Wednesday 8/13 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 8/21 5:30 p.m.		Monday 8/25 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIP Project Recommendations •
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 9/10 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 9/18 5:30 p.m.		Monday 9/22 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule Park Clean Up Day for October • Reappointment Notices & Applications Issued by Clerk's Office
OCTOBER	Wednesday 10/08 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 10/16 5:30 p.m.		Monday 10/27 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms Expire October 31st • Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule • PARC Budget Discussion & Review with Staff
NOVEMBER	Wednesday 11/12 5:00 p.m.	Thursday 11/20 5:30 p.m.		Monday 11/24 6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Chair & Vice Chair • Worksession Commission Training w/City Clerk
DECEMBER				No Regular Meeting	

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