

DRAFT INTERPRETIVE THEMES

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME:

Homer, with its famous Spit, reaches into Kachemak Bay, inviting us to explore public lands, waters, and diverse communities beyond the end of the road, while drawing us back to the “Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea.”

SUBTHEMES:

The Spit: The Homer Spit, a striking geologic feature and center for regional tourism, is a destination as well as a gateway to Kachemak Bay.

Volcanoes: The powerful Cook Inlet volcanoes seen on the horizon are visible evidence of the region’s global connections to the Ring of Fire.

Bay and Inlet: Kachemak Bay and Cook Inlet are wild and expansive places that connect people to their livelihoods and their adventures.

Transportation: Boats and planes seen from the overlook indicate that Kachemak Bay is a working waterway providing access to jobs and recreational opportunities.

Wildlife and Habitat: A variety of habitats can be seen from Baycrest Hill where visitors may view a diverse range of terrestrial and marine life.

Public Lands and Waters: The surrounding public lands and waters are protected for everyone so that these places may play host to a seemingly endless list of recreational opportunities.

Glaciers and Kenai Mountains: The glaciers and mountains of Kachemak Bay are constantly changing due to the same geologic forces that shaped the landscape.

Climate and Weather: Baycrest Hill provides an ideal place to view the dramatic skies of a dynamic maritime climate.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Replace the existing Gold Rush interpretive panel with up to eight new interpretive panels using the identified themes and a unified design scheme. Place them in or adjacent to the planters with one by the Halibut sign or spread them out based on the theme. If necessary and useful, provide a QR code on the panel for more information.
- Replace the existing wood carving of Kachemak Bay with multiple metal sculptures. The sculptures should be a piece of art that can withstand the elements and depicts and identifies the natural features that can be seen from that specific vantage point. The new metal art should use the long fence line, but should not obstruct the view. Details such as the type of metal and how it is applied to the fence should be left to the artist.
- To benefit visitors and residents, add picnic tables to the overlook. One option would be to place a couple between the planters. However, after new interpretation is added, picnic

tables may clutter the area. To avoid this, another option would be to create a picnic area to the east and west of the core area of the overlook where cars currently park.

- Replace restrooms with an eco-friendly, lower maintenance, and weather-resistant alternative that is more aesthetically pleasing
- Add recycling containers and make all trash and recycling containers bear-resistant
- Remove or cut back vegetation that is impeding the view (i.e. alders behind the Halibut sign)
- Consider using interpretive art at necessary structures such as restrooms and benches, and even in the ground along sidewalks.