



MEMORANDUM

CC-26-028

Resolution 26-010, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Requesting the Issuance of a Request for Proposals for Professional Trail Planning and Design of a Loop Trail in the Vicinity of Hornaday Park.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum

Prepared For: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council

Date: January 20, 2026

From: Councilmembers Davis and Erickson

RECOMMENDATION:

Resolution 26-010 requests that the City Manager issue an RFP for professional trail planning and design services for a loop trail in the vicinity of Hornaday Park.

We are bringing this forward because the City owns multiple adjacent parcels in this area and, as we saw and heard at our last meeting (first meeting of 2026), there is strong community interest in a connected loop trail that emphasizes scenic experience and a sense of journey. We believe that taking a deliberate planning approach now will help ensure that any future improvements are durable, cost-effective to maintain, and aligned with the character of the area.

The existing informal loop route is approximately one mile in length, including approximately 0.45 mile of already improved trail, 0.45 mile of unimproved paths/game trails, and 0.16 mile of existing campground road, with approximately 370 feet of cumulative elevation change. This route is already being used by city residents; the attached map is intended to provide a clear reference point for understanding the current informal loop route and its three segments.

The resolution proposes a scope consistent with Level 2 or Level 3 trail concepts in the City's Trails Standards Manual. We believe the work will benefit from on-site field review and engagement with local trail users and organizations familiar with the area.

The resolution requests that the selected proposer, to the extent practicable, identify an alignment that avoids wet areas, minimizes erosion risk, and seeks to utilize slopes of less than fifteen percent (15%) where feasible – and which minimizes the need for removal of existing trees and shrubs.

As a practical matter, the amount of engineering planning and work that could be done on this trail is essentially unlimited—particularly on the older switchback road portion, which has been used as a hiking trail for several decades, but could benefit from extensive redesign and reinforcement if money

were no object. The intent of this resolution is to seek an RFP that strikes a sensible balance between thorough professional review, especially of the undeveloped portion of the loop, and the modest size of the City's trails budget.

Because seasonal vegetation growth can limit efficient site review, we included timing language aimed at allowing site visits and walk-throughs prior to mid-June 2026, to the extent practicable. The intent is to support timely fieldwork during a window when conditions are easier to observe and discuss on the ground.

ATTACHMENTS:

Map showing the route of the current informal loop trail's three segments.



Blue segment (right/east leg of loop) is “improved trail” - the old switchback road leading up.

Forest green segment (left/west leg of loop) is the “informal” return – the paths and game trails leading down to the campground.

Lime green segment (lower/southern edge of loop) is the existing campground road that returns walkers to the ascent/starting point near the playground.