



MEMORANDUM

CC-26-153

Ordinance 26-41 An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY27 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$150,000 From the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund for the Planning and Design of Developing an Existing Roadbed Above Karen Hornaday Park into a Hiking Trail.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
Date: July 21, 2026
From: Daniel Kort, Public Works Director
Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

SUMMARY:

This ordinance is a request for an appropriation of \$150,000 from the HART Trails Fund to fund the design efforts towards the development of an existing primitive roadbed above Karen Hornaday Park into a hiking trail.

BACKGROUND:

In January of 2025, the City of Homer (City) purchased 20-acres of land above Karen Hornaday Park through Ordinance 25-02 for the purpose of open space and recreation, protection of stormwater drainage and steep slopes, and preservation of wildlife corridors. The City already owned 10 additional acres to the west of this parcel, and the combination of Karen Hornaday Park, this new 20-acre parcel, and the previously owned 10-acre parcel offer a unique opportunity to develop a trail that would offer residents and tourists an unprecedented experience and view of the City, Homer Spit, and Kachemak Bay.

The purchase of this property was completed in April/May of 2025. Shortly after the purchase of this property, Memorandum CC-25-166 was presented to council suggesting staff consider the establishment of a “Low-Cost Walking Trail Loop”. In response to this memorandum, staff wrote Memorandum CC-25-167 to Council and one to the Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission (PARCAC) explaining that Homer City Code (HCC) 21.44 related to Steep Slopes required staff to hire a Civil Geotechnical Engineer to evaluate any development on slopes greater than 15% or greater, and the how all trail planning and design must follow the requirements defined in the City’s adopted Design Criterial Manual for Trails that the City Council adopted in 2009.

An RFP for the Woodard Canyon Looped Trail planning and design was issued and received two proposals. The funding Ordinance 26-29 did not pass, so the award was cancelled. Staff met with sponsors of the trail legislation and agreed to a new plan to plan a Conceptual Looped Trail separately from the design of the Woodard Canyon Trail which will transition the existing primitive roadbed into a trail. The Conceptual Looped Trail RFP has already been released for proposals and Ordinance 26-30 was adopted to appropriate funds towards this project. This funding Ordinance will provide funding dedicated towards the design that will transform the existing primitive roadbed into a trail. This new project is estimated to cost approximately \$150,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Public Works Department Recommends adoption of this Ordinance to provide funding for the design of developing an existing roadbed above Karen Hornaday Park into a hiking trail.