



MEMORANDUM

CC-26-172

Ordinance 26-43 An Ordinance of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Amending the FY27 Capital Budget by Appropriating \$50,000 From the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) Trails Fund for the Construction of a Paved, ADA Pathway in Karen Hornaday Park.

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Lord and Homer City Council
Date: September 14, 2026
From: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

Summary: At the August 24th City Council meeting, Council requested feedback from the ADA Advisory Board regarding Ordinance 26-43. The ADA Advisory Board met on September 10th and discussed the proposal for the construction of a paved ADA pathway in Karen Hornaday Park. The information provided to the Board is attached to this memorandum, and the Board focused on three questions:

- Is this project a high priority in relation to other projects, such as building access?
- If so, does the Board support using up to \$10,000 of ADA CARMA funds for paved access to the Hornaday Park bathrooms and pavilion?
- Does the ADA Board want to propose an amendment to the plan to include ADA parking and route the trail to include connectivity to the parking spaces?

Discussion: During their conversation, the Board acknowledged that an accessible path of travel for City facilities is important and required by law. While not opposed to the project if Council agrees to fund it, the Board agreed that this proposal is not its highest priority at this time. It was noted that the Board's top priority for the past several years has been access to City Hall.

Regarding the use of ADA Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) funds for this project, the Board recognized that an improved pathway would benefit all users of the park and that it would be appropriate for the project to be funded entirely through the HART Trails Fund.

When considering the design, the drawing included in the attached materials was deemed inadequate for accomplishing the goal of an accessible pathway. It appears to begin at a location that is chained off and identified as no parking for ambulance access. The photos in the Board's memorandum show the proposed area from ground level and the blue parking stops that appear to designate ADA parking. It appears that paving the route as shown in the attachment would provide a pathway without direct access to parking.

Recommendation: If Council chooses to approve funding for this work, the Board strongly recommends that the project be redesigned to include accessible parking spaces and a pathway that connects the parking area to the accessible portion of the public restroom. The Board requests the opportunity to review and comment on a revised design before approval.

Attachments:

ADA Advisory Board Memo and attached drawing
Accessible Parking Designs provided to Board as a Laydown
Minutes Excerpt



MEMORANDUM

Ordinance 26-43 Appropriating Funding for Construction of a Paved ADA Pathway at Karen Hornaday Park.

To: ADA Advisory Board
From: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager
Meeting Date: September 4, 2026

Summary: At the August 10th City Council meeting Ordinance 26-43 was introduced and referred to the ADA Advisory Board for their review and recommendations. This ordinance appropriates \$50,000 from the Homer Accelerated Roads and Trails (HART) trails fund for the construction of a paved ADA pathway in Karen Hornaday Park.

At the Council meeting an amendment was proposed to use \$10,000 from the ADA Capital Asset Repair and Maintenance Allowance (CARMA) Fund. The rationale for the amendment was that currently there is a multi-use path that goes to the pavilion at the park, there are still some people who use wheelchairs or walkers who still have trouble on the surface material, and paving the path is part of the ADA plan.

It was noted that the ADA Transition Plan for Parks, Play Areas and Campgrounds doesn't identify a plan to pave there. A top priority for ADA is access to buildings and the City is still working on that. Questions were raised whether the ADA Advisory Board prioritizes this project for ADA CARMA funds over other projects, and whether there's ADA parking that would connect to this new path.

The amendment was voted down and the public hearing and second reading was postponed to September 14th to allow the ADA Advisory Board time to weigh in.

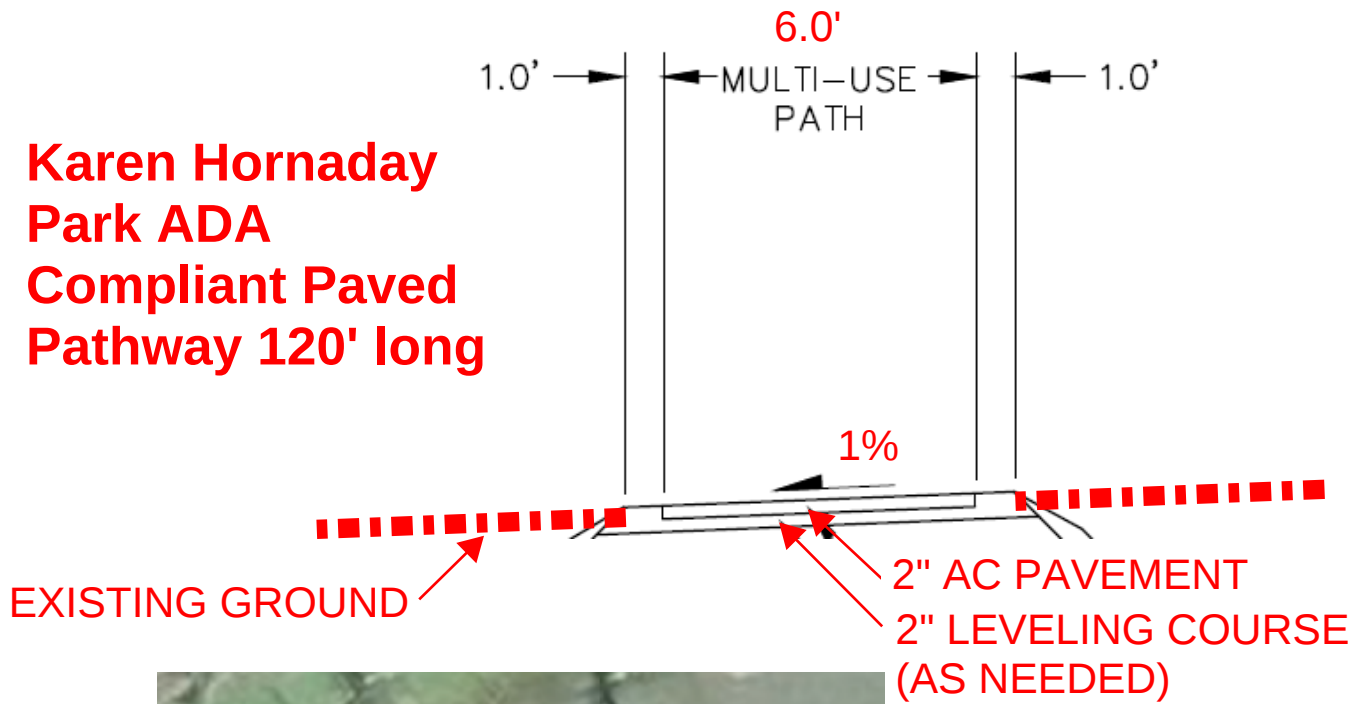
Discussion: The drawing that's included shows the proposed paving area. It appears to begin at a point that's chained off and identified as no parking for ambulance access. The photos included with this memo show the proposed area from ground level and the blue parking stops that suggest ADA parking. From my perspective it appears paving the route proposed provides a pathway without immediate access to parking.

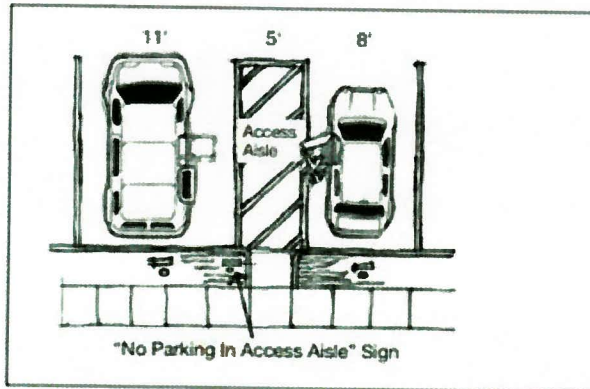
Questions for the Board:

- Is this project a high priority, in relation to other projects like building access?
- If so, does the board support using up to \$10,000 of ADA CARMA funds for paved access to the Hornaday Park bathrooms and pavilion?
- Does the ADA Board want to propose an amendment to the plan to include ADA parking and route the trail include connectivity to the parking spaces?

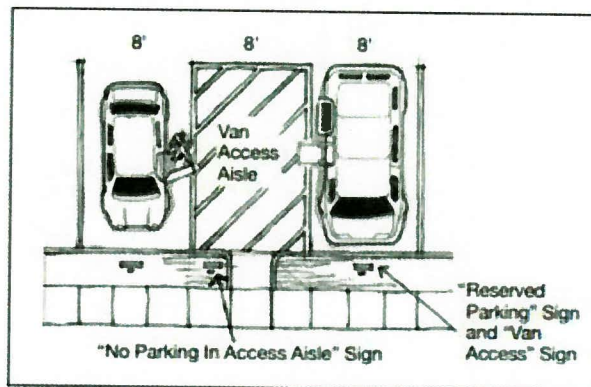


**Karen Hornaday
Park ADA
Compliant Paved
Pathway 120' long**

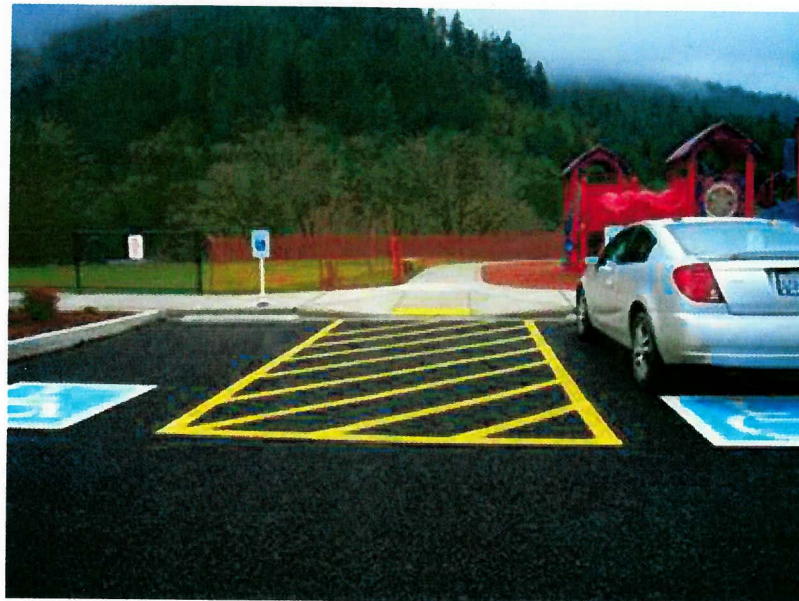




Van-Accessible Space



Alternate Design Van-Accessible Space



Motion carried.

6. REPORT(S)

7. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

8. PENDING BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. Ordinance 26-43 Appropriating Funding for Construction of a Paved ADA Pathway at Karen Hornaday Park.

Discussion was as follows:

- City Manager Jacobsen outlines that in the August 10th City Council meeting this Ordinance was brought forth for construction of a paved ADA path at Karen Hornaday Park. City Council motioned for an amendment to use \$10,000 from the ADA CARMA fund and then the remaining \$40,000 to come from the **HART Trails Fund**, but that amendment failed. City Council forwarded the Ordinance to the ADA Advisory Board for consideration and to determine the priority level of this project.
- It appears that the ADA paved pathway needs to be a bigger discussion to ensure that access to the trail is aligned with ADA including the parking area.
- It was clarified that the total project cost is proposed at \$50,000 whether there was to be \$10,000 allocated from the ADA CARMA fund or not.
- Concerns were voiced regarding the slope and access to parking, bathrooms, and the pavilion.
- Parks and Recreation had a different understanding of what would be covered in the scope of this project. The understanding seemed to differ from what was outlined in the design that was provided.
- It was voiced that the trail should be built to be fully inclusive and funded by the HART Funds. A trail should not need to be funded by the ADA CARMA fund for it to be fully accessible.
- Concerns that the funding quoted would not provide a fully accessible pathway including parking, connection to the trail, bathroom and pavilion.
- There was a desire for a redesign that incorporates all the needs for this trail to be fully accessible and additionally that the ADA Advisory Board be looped in with the redesign.

SAFRA/THORSRUD MOVED TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO WORK WITH CHAIR PARSONS ON A MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL OUTLINING DISCUSSIONS FROM THE MEETING.

VOTE: NON-OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

10. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

10.A. City Manager's Reports

- Library 20th Year Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, the 19th from 2 to 5pm