



# AGENDA ITEM REPORT

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## **Resolution 23-030, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Supporting Improvements to the Properties of the Homer Public Library, According to a Design Plan Developed by the Friends of the Homer Library, Contingent upon the Availability of Funds for Construction. Aderhold/Venuti.**

<b>Item Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Prepared For:</b>	Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	10 April 2023
<b>From:</b>	David Berry, Library Director
<b>Through:</b>	Rob Dumouchel, City Manager

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Over the last two years, city staff, various community groups and the Friends of Homer Library have worked with the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program to develop plans for improvements to the trail on the western portion of the library lot.

### **Project Summary**

The 2.24-acre wooded parcel directly west of the library already includes a public trail which library staff use for outdoor programming in summer. The trail is used as a throughway by pedestrians traveling between the library and points north or west, as well as recreationally by dogwalkers, birders and people reading the StoryWalk® books. The proposed improvements would:

1. Upgrade the trail to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
2. Add directional signage to connect the trail more firmly with the surrounding network
3. Provide educational signage regarding the human and natural history of the area
4. Encourage greater use of the lot with playspaces and room for library programs
5. Protect the environment, particularly the wetlands, while still allowing public access
6. Enhance the aesthetic attractions of the area with archways and a compass rose

### **Recent History**

Here are some highlights of the process to date:

- March 20 and May 18, 2022: Placemaking workshops brought together various community groups to share their vision for the space.
- August 2022: Landscape architects presented three possible designs.
- September 9-10, 2022: The designs were on display at the book and plant sale, with Friends on hand to answer questions and gather feedback.

- October 7-8, 2022: Open houses at the library, where the public was invited to comment on the designs. We also collected public responses through a survey.
- January 2023: Based on public feedback, the three designs were boiled down to one.
- February 2023: The design was presented to the ADA Advisory Commission, the LAB and PARCAC. All three bodies favored the project, with the latter two passing motions of support.

### **Projected Timeline**

To make the funding and maintenance easier, the Friends have split the project into three stages. They've also consolidated the various features toward the western end of the trail, leaving the grass along Hazel Avenue as-is. The overall strategy is to tackle the smaller and easier features first and leave the bigger, more expensive features for later.

#### **PHASE 1:**

- ADA trail upgrade (funded though Small Works Trails Program)
- Bird's nest (close to trail along eastern portion)
- Stump seating (near the midpoint of the trail)
- Book bench (at western end of trail)
- Reading tree (location TBD)
- Design work on interpretive signage
- Design work on extension of storywalk posts

#### **PHASE 2:**

- Setting up the play space at the western end of the trail, including a slide and picnic table
- Install interpretive signage
- Install storywalk extension

#### **PHASE 3:**

- Compass rose

#### **POSSIBLE FUTURE PROJECTS, OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THIS DESIGN:**

- Bridge
- Archways
- Covered outdoor space

As part of the broader citywide effort to improve Homer's trails, the Public Works department has graciously agreed to incorporate the ADA upgrades into their ongoing Small Works Trails Program.

The Friends will raise funds for all other improvements, and will turn those improvements over to the City upon completion. Maintenance thereafter is a City responsibility.

Following discussions with Public Works, the Friends removed the largest pieces of the project (the bridge, archways and covered outdoor space) from this design and will treat them as future, separate projects. This will cut down on maintenance in the short term and allow for individual focus on each of those features.

Given the extensive public input to date and the thoroughly-vetted design, the Friends of Homer Library would like to ask Council for permission to proceed with fundraising and negotiating with contractors.

**Recommendation:**

Adopt Resolution 23-030

**Attachments:**

Resolution 23-030  
Western Lot Concept  
Resolution 23-018

1 **CITY OF HOMER**  
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 Aderhold/Venuti

4 **RESOLUTION 23-030**

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6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,  
7 SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROPERTIES OF THE  
8 HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY, ACCORDING TO A DESIGN PLAN  
9 DEVELOPED BY THE FRIENDS OF HOMER LIBRARY, CONTINGENT  
10 UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION.

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12 WHEREAS, The library grounds consist of the parcel with the library building (Glacier  
13 View Subdivision No. 26 Tract A) and an adjacent property to the west with a trail and  
14 greenspace (Tract B); and

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16 WHEREAS, The western parcel (Tract B) is underutilized and has great potential to be  
17 developed for library activities and public enjoyment; and

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19 WHEREAS, The Friends of Homer Library have long advocated for improvements to  
20 Tract B that would serve various aims, including upgrading the trail to the standards of the  
21 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), protecting the environment, adding directional signage,  
22 adding educational signage covering the natural and human history of the area, encouraging  
23 greater use of the lot with a play space and room for programs, and enhancing the aesthetic  
24 attractions of the parcel; and

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26 WHEREAS, Homer City Council adopted Resolution 21-018, supporting a public process  
27 to design such improvements in collaboration with City offices, the National Park Service,  
28 various community organizations and interested citizens; and

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30 WHEREAS, The process has narrowed options down to one design plan, which has been  
31 reviewed by the Library Advisory Board, the ADA Advisory Board and the Parks, Art, Recreation  
32 and Culture Advisory Commission; and

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34 WHEREAS, The Friends of Homer Library will comply with any applicable state or  
35 federal laws and City of Homer policies regarding the construction of all design features, will  
36 transfer ownership of the completed features to the City, and will raise funds for the  
37 construction of all features except the ADA upgrades to the trail; and

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39 WHEREAS, the City of Homer will fund and execute the ADA upgrades and assume  
40 responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of each part of the project as it reaches  
41 completion; and

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43 WHEREAS, The design plan is included as Attachment A.  
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45           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, hereby  
46 supports improvements to Glacier View Subdivision No. 26 Tract B, following the design plan  
47 included in Attachment A, contingent upon the availability of funds for construction.

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49           PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

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CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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56 ATTEST:

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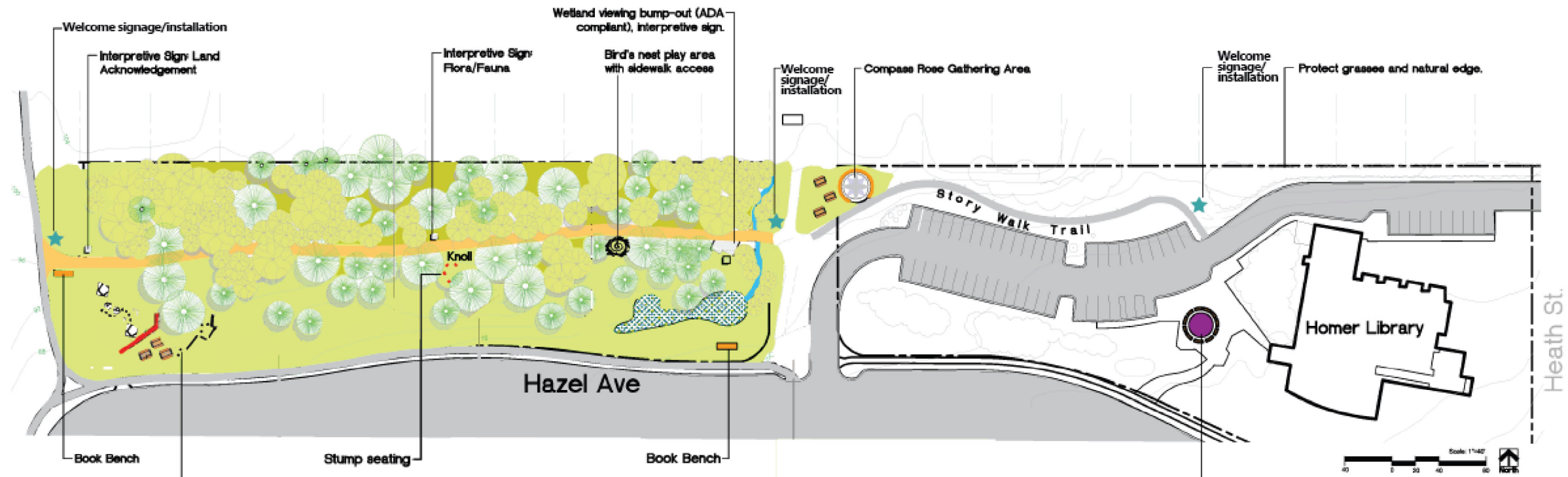
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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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61 Fiscal note: N/A

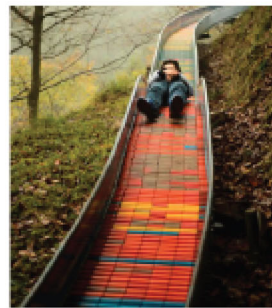


Natural play area: Large boulders (local glacial), play sculpture climbable animals, other balance activities (stepping logs, driftwood, over/under tunnels, hillside slide and ladders). Built for safety, ecosystem protection, and minimal maintenance. Final siting and design to be developed.

Gathering area: Picnic tables and stump seating.

Future Project: Redesign front plaza to include covered outdoor space for education, reading and gathering.

Reading Tree: seating around tree, location to be determined



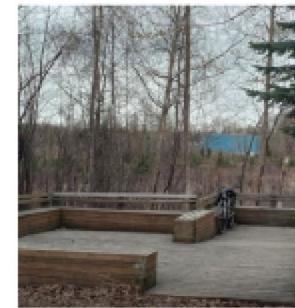
Knoll Slide



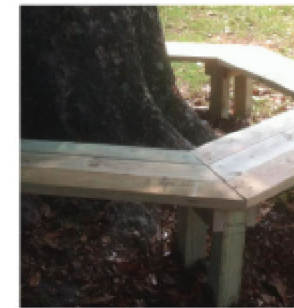
Stump Seating



Bird's Nest Play Area



Wetland Viewing Platform



Reading Tree



Book Bench (ADA compliant)



Compass Rose Gathering Area

*A vibrant, accessible community space adjacent to the Library where learning and nature give rise to a sense of discovery and delight.*

Homer Library Placemaking

NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)

American Society of Landscape Architects Alaska Chapter

Conceptual Design  
Homer Library Western Lot

Friends of Homer Library Working Group  
2023

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**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

Venuti

**RESOLUTION 21-018**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, OF HOMER, ALASKA SUPPORTING THE FRIENDS OF THE HOMER LIBRARY APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ALASKA RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO PLAN IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LIBRARY PROPERTIES, TRACTS A AND B, GLACIER VIEW SUBDIVISION NO. 26.

WHEREAS, The National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) supports community-led natural resource conservation and recreation projects around the nation; and

WHEREAS, Successful local projects facilitated by the NPS RTCA include the Woodard Creek Watershed Plan, Kachemak Bay Water Trail, and Kachemak Heritage Land Trust Poopdeck Property Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Homer Library has a been at its current site for 16 years and would like to better utilize its grounds to expand low-key no-cost recreational opportunities to all users, provide a location for library sponsored events, provide wetland education in an urban setting, and increase cultural appreciation by incorporating land acknowledgement; and

WHEREAS, The library grounds consist of the parcel with the library building (Glacier View Subdivision No. 26 Tract A) and an adjacent property to the west with a trail and greenspace (Tract B); and

WHEREAS, The western parcel (Tract B) is underutilized and has great potential to be developed for library activities and public enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, The Friends of Homer Library, in partnership with the library, the City of Homer and community partners including Center for Alaska Coastal Studies, Pratt Museum, Ninilchik and Port Graham Village Tribes, wish to apply for an RTCA Technical Assistance grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby supports the Friends of the Homer Library application to the NPS RTCA program for the purposes of planning improvements to the library properties Tracts A and B, Glacier View Subdivision No. 26.

43 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2021.

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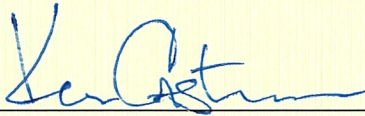
CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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52 ATTEST:

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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58 Fiscal note: N/A

