



## Comprehensive Drainage Management Plan

**\*NEW\* DRAFT Project nominated by City Councilmembers**

**Project Description and Benefit:** Homer’s Drainage Management Plan, developed in the early 1980s, includes design criteria and methods for a standardized approach to the construction of drainage facilities based on basin runoff flows. The Plan recommended the use of “natural drainage ways and pre-existing manmade drainage ditches as the most cost-effective way to develop the complete drainage system.”

Currently, the City maintains only three miles of storm sewer and associated catch basins that outflow into Kachemak Bay. Otherwise, Homer’s stormwater is largely channeled and drained through an open ditch system. Homer’s Design Criteria Manual for subdivisions does not currently address on-site stormwater management, with individual developers addressing stormwater on large parcel developments on a case-by-case basis.

Conditions have changed since the early 1980s. Development in Homer has greatly expanded, and with it the size and demand on Homer’s drainage system. Stormwater management strategies and tools have also advanced considerably since Homer’s plan was developed. They now include a wide variety of gray and green infrastructure technologies, low impact development and behavioral practices, as well as innovative policy strategies (such as drainage districts) that, together, can improve the quality and reduce the velocity and quantity of runoff discharging onto downstream properties or directly to receiving waters.

This project develops a comprehensive regulatory, administrative and operational framework to guide Drainage Management in Homer with the goals of protecting our environment; reducing flooding to protect people and property; reducing demand on public stormwater drainage systems and supporting healthy watersheds. It will:

- Consider and recommend storm water management systems and best management practices including specifications for collection, storage, conveyance and treatment structures;
- Incorporate low impact development and green infrastructure management practices to treat or reduce storm water discharges and urban non-point source runoff to area streams and the critical wildlife habitat of Kachemak Bay
- Include public participation and involvement in policy development to better manage runoff and protect downstream properties from the impacts of runoff, pollution prevention and property development best practices.

**Plans & Progress:** . TBD

**Total Project Cost:** TBD

Staff has not been able to fully develop this project in the time available since the CIP worksession; the description here is a draft. Staff recommends provisional approval of this project for inclusion in the 2024-2029 CIP, with a final project being added after it is more fully developed and approved by Council

**FY25 PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS - DRAFT**