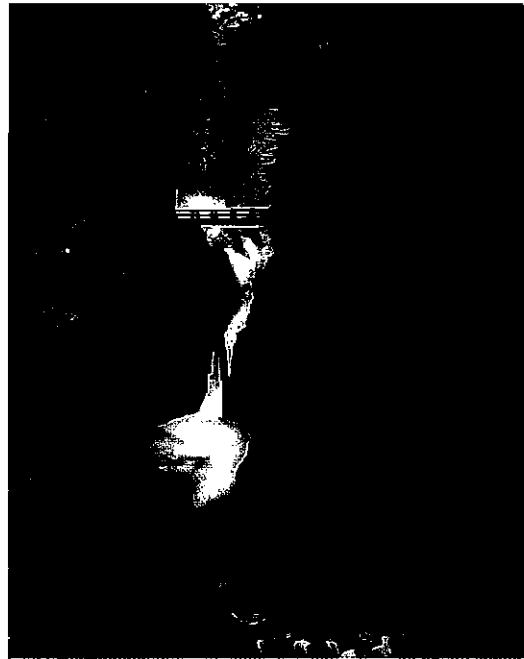


*Parks & Recreation  
Advisory Commission*

*Thursday  
March 21, 2013  
REGULAR MEETING  
5:30 p.m.*



City Hall Cowles Council Chambers  
491 E. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Prepared and Produced by the City Clerk's Office -3/12/2013 - rk





**NOTICE OF MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. AGENDA APPROVAL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** *(Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings Only)*
  - A. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 21, 2013 Page 5
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA** *(Three minute time limit)*
- 5. VISITORS** *(Visitors normally have 10 minutes for their presentation.)*
  - A. Katie Koester, Economic and Community Development Coordinator Page 17
    1. Legislative Processes
- 6. STAFF & COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**
  - A. Community Recreation – Mike Illg Page 25
  - B. Staff Report – Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician/GIS Page 29
  - C. Parks Maintenance – Angie Otteson
  - D. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report – Dave Brann
    1. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Synopsis for March 7, 2013 Page 31
  - F. Karen Hornaday Park Committee – Robert Archibald/Deb Lowney
    1. Karen Hornaday Park Committee Synopsis for March 7, 2013 Page 33
- 7. PUBLIC HEARING**
- 8. PENDING BUSINESS**
  - A. Diamond Creek Recreation Area Multi-Resource Management Plan Page 35
  - B. Pier 1 Campground – Update – Commissioner Brann
  - C. Kachemak Drive Trail – Commissioner Brann
    1. Bicycles on the Road Signage and Right of Way Permit Application – *(Postponed from the February 21, 2013 Meeting)*
    2. Update on the Survey Results
- 9. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Scheduling a Spring Park Walk Through
  - B. Homer Education and Recreation Center Setting a Worksession for Discussion
  - C. Karen Hornaday Park Page 69
    1. Recommendations from the Committee
  - D. Mud Bay Trail – Chair Bremicker Page 71
- 10. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**
  - A. Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings 2013 Page 73
  - B. Commission Annual Calendar 2013 Page 75
  - C. Strategic Plan 2013 Page 77
  - D. Notification of Award Land and Water Conservation Fund Re: Karen Hornaday Park Page 79
  - E. Memorandum 13-XX Mayor Wythe and City Council re: Recommendations for the 2013 Land Allocation Plan Page 81
- 11. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**
- 12. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER** *(If one has been assigned)*
- 13. COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**
- 14. COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**
- 15. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**
- 16. ADJOURNMENT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS APRIL 18, 2013** at 5:30pm in the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer Alaska



Session 13-02 a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order on February 21, 2013 at 5:32 pm by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS ARCHIBALD, BELL, LOWNEY, BREMICKER

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BRANN (EXCUSED)

TELEPHONIC: COMMISSIONERS LILLIBRIDGE

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, GIS/PLANNING TECHNICIAN  
MIKE ILLG, RECREATION SPECIALIST  
RENEE KRAUSE, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the agenda.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during regular meetings only)*

A. Meeting Minutes for the regular meeting on January 17, 2013

Chair Bremicker requested approval of the minutes.

LILLIBRIDGE/LOWNEY - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the Commission.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Kevin Walker, attending the Kachemak Drive Path Committees as interested member of the public and has offered his experience and expertise, commented on the disbanding of the Kachemak Drive Path Committee. The Committee members were very surprised to hear that, if the committee is disbanded it will not go away; they want to build a trail. He has put dozens if not hundreds of hours in to work. The committee has a pretty good idea of what they are doing just not sure how they are going to get there. He stated that he received a copy of the survey just moments ago and he noticed that the survey did not go up the primary intended path of the trail. They are thinking about how the Karen Hornaday Playground was done.

He commented on the Diamond Creek Recreation Area, he is on the Board of the Ski Club and he would like to see more of a multi-use trail, the packet was well put together, lots of flora and fauna, access to the beach, another really good trail to support.

He encouraged keeping on with the Kbay Trail and not too particular on how we do it but don't throw it out the window.

Commissioner Lowney inquired on the survey not covering the step section. Chair Bremicker interrupted stating that it was an item later on the agenda and Carey Meyer was present so it would be more appropriate to address her question later in the agenda.

Commissioner Lowney then inquired about Mr. Walker's comment regarding "we can get it done", she understood that there was a set amount of money and her concern was what was intended to get it done.

Mr. Walker responded on his research regarding available grants and obtaining support from other organizations such as with the Water Trail.

Beth Cumming, expressed two concerns, she hoped the Kachemak Drive Committee will not be disbanded until a more solid feeling on the pros and cons of building the proposed trail, it hasn't been discussed to the point that they are all on the same page. The second relates to the survey on the first ½ mile, she did not believe Carey was present to do some explaining to us, but they thought they made it plain that the survey would include the very steep part that crosses the gully and the survey wasn't done it was done all along the Mud Bay Trail to the end of the road that give Beach Access. She would like Carey to explain why the lower survey was done.

## RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

## VISITORS

Kathryn Crowley, Indoor and Outdoor Playspace Assessments

### 1. Trail and Walkway Survey Results

Ms. Crowley, delivered a handout depicting trails in the city, spoke on the Assessment she was contracted by Jenny Martin, Best Beginnings when Commissioner Lowney asked about getting more information and input on Trails and Walkways. Her understanding was on the families with young children aspects. She made assessments on the city play spaces. They at first attempted a paper survey which was not well received, they next put it online. Ms. Crowley outlined the responses received from the three questions asked in the survey. They map handout indicates the hotspots as reflected in the responses received. The information provided areas that are safe for kids and what is being used. The Spit Trail and in-town trails are the most scenic and safe. Conditions of the trails are of highest concern; discussion amongst the parents would focus on trails or safer pedestrian paths along heavily traveled roadways. Ms. Crowley noted that the access to Karen Hornaday Park along W. Fairview garnered the most requests for improvements providing safer entrance into the park, crosswalks along E. End Road at Ben Walters Way, Little Fireweed and Paul Banks School; crosswalk at Heath Street/Hazel from Post Office to the Library and Bunnell area; linking up Beluga Slough with Ocean Drive and then with the Spit Trail. There is a Bike Path but it really is not safe for walkers or families with young children, linking E. End Road to Kachemak Drive; and the Horizon Loop trail; some expressed concern about the Diamond Creek Trail erosion.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Crowley for her efforts then requested she expand to the older kids and that there are issues out there that parents should be aware of; it was believed that there were additional areas of concern; prioritizing the hotspots would be really helpful; some issues are State such as the E. End crosswalk and some are city issues that can be dealt with; there is some interest on the usage of the trails connecting to the schools; identification of problem areas is really great information in solving those problems and will also help in getting a start on the Adopt a Trail program. Knowing if there would be interest in having a trail from Beluga Slough to the Spit would have any benefits would be nice information to have for the future. Ms. Crowley noted that a better survey would be really beneficial in getting responses.

Chair Bremicker added comment on the funding differences with the HART funds for trails and sidewalks.

Mr. Illg offered submitting the survey to the businesses along Ocean Drive to get their side too.

Chair Bremicker requested clarification that Carey Meyer could speak on the Survey at this time in the agenda. Ms. Krause explained that the item was on the agenda under pending Business and the Commission would have to vote to amend the agenda or suspend the rules to have Mr. Meyer speak on

that subject now or after he speaks about the Spit Trail. Mr. Meyer preferred speaking about the Spit Trail now then addressing Kachemak Drive.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO ALLOW CAREY MEYER TO ADDRESS PENDING BUSINESS ITEM A.2 AFTER VISITORS ON THE AGENDA.

There was a brief discussion.

The commissioners agreed by consensus to suspend the rules and address this agenda item after Visitors.

Mr. Meyer provided a brief update on the Spit Trail Project. He offered details on the location and some of the construction obstacles that will be encountered. Mr. Meyer added a summary construction schedule for the Spit Trail and subsequent restrooms. He also introduced the new project manager, Dan Nelson.

There were a few questions and comments from the Commission regarding the trails footprint, the existing boardwalk, the existing pit toilet conditions being improved, which side of the road is the trail going to be on, project completion is expected for the 2014 season, there will be benches, all along the trail, art, and the planned location for the trail to the Deep Water Dock.

Staff acknowledged the presence of Tom Schroeder and was going to speak under Comments on the agenda and asked if there was any problem with addressing Pending Business Item C before Staff Reports. Mr. Illg noted that he had to leave and was currently running late.

LILLIBRIDGE/BELL - MOVED TO APPROVE AMENDING THE AGENDA TO ADDRESS ITEM C, DIAMOND CREEK RECREATION AREA UNDER PENDING BUSINESS TO ITEM A.

There was no discussion.

The motion to amend the agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

#### STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

##### A. Community Recreation - Mike Illg

Mr. Illg provided a short report on a status update for the HERC building; Boys and Girls Club and Community Recreation is on a month to month and that no new activities be started; there is lively dialog on building or turning it into a new community recreation center; he recommended putting this on the agenda for the April commission meeting. He commented on the idea of a Dog Park located at the Boys and Girls Club location and they did not feel that it would work since they really use that field.

Chair Bremicker commented on more work being done on the building. He felt it was important enough to establish a special meeting or worksession.

Mr. Illg responded stating changes to the CIP recommendation to using the funds to building a new building; establishing a short term revenue direction. He said they are currently at a standstill until the Fire Marshall's report.

Commissioner Lowney tended to agree however she debated whether it was worth the commission's time and would be interested in a more pointed discussion on what the commission would be meeting to discuss or action the commission would take before she could vote for a meeting.

Mr. Illg explained that a preliminary dialog on how to generate the revenue to run a community center would be the focus of the meeting.

Chair Bremicker had a few ideas also and agreed that some brainstorming was needed. He recited an earlier visit to the old building and many comments on leasing space in the building.

Ms. Engebretsen stated that there were two issues long term funding, if the Legislature wants to give half a million dollars we do not know what we want to do with the building. She agreed that there is a lot of discussion needed.

Commissioner Archibald would like to see a cost comparison on building new, renovating the old, tearing down part of the building to assist them in making a decision.

Further discussion on what options would be available regarding the disposition of the building, this commission was believed to be the most appropriate to field these questions, the users groups directed this discussion and it should be the Commission.

Chair Bremicker asked when will they have a meeting and what is going to be on the agenda, what we can do to get started.

Ms. Krause called for a point of order. This was the time for Mike' report and it has developed into a discussion on the HERC building.

Mr. Illg suggested that they put this item on the March agenda and he can provide a written report. He commented that this point forward it cannot keep coming from him, it needs to come from the commission and the public. Ms. Engebretsen agreed that it solves the problem, Mr. Illg is being asked to provide the information for the Commission to discussion.

#### B. Staff Report - Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician/GIS

Ms. Engebretsen will have information on the cemetery at the March meeting, Katie Koester will be attending the March meeting to explain legislative grant process this ties in with the CIP process and the information on forming a service area in included in the packet under Informational Materials.

There was a brief discussion on the formation of a Service Area.

#### C. Parks Maintenance - Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson was not in attendance at this meeting.

#### D. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report - Dave Brann

Chair Bremicker reported that the committee had lots of discussion on the survey and what was done or not done, why or why not. Chair Bremicker commented that he found it frustrating when there has been discussions and getting second hand information. He believes that it is always better to get it on the record. The committee did discuss the issue of what it should do next and he believes that the commission will discuss that later on the agenda so he will not say anymore and asked if there were any questions.

#### F. Karen Hornaday Park Committee - Robert Archibald

Commissioner Lowney reported that the committee had a great discussion on the new pavilion. There were lots of great ideas. Most wanted to have a gathering area, fire pit, simple design, Open to viewshed and playground. The ideas were submitted to Frank Cloyd who drafted the proposed design that is included in the packet. There is a recommendation to change the roof line but that was not depicted in the drawing provided by Mr. Cloyd. Commissioner Lillibridge and she agreed that they could live with the design as presented by Mr. Cloyd however wanted the Commission aware of the overall recommendation from the committee.

The committee is ready for the design to be submitted to an engineer for construction and cost estimates.



Concern was expressed that if the presented design was changed then there would be more of a delay and could possibly prevent it from being constructed this summer. Commissioner Lillibridge stated that Mr. Cloyd stated this was simple, provided protection from winds, and accounted for wind shear, recommended using another material than concrete due to freezing issues and ground in food, recommended using same materials that are used in the playground.

Discussion continued on the design being reversed so when someone is sitting on the bench around the fire pit their view is not the playground but the bay. This requires the removal of the existing pavilion.

The community build effort to construct the pavilion was dropped due to availability to lead the project and the time frame, suggestions offered by the members of the committee would be to getting volunteers/contractors to construct different segments of the project with the city providing the materials.

Commissioner Lowney also advocated for the Commission to address two items at a later meeting and they were Concert on the Lawn and the Park Host.

Staff noted that the pavilion is an agenda item and they can discuss more then.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no items for public hearing.

## **PENDING BUSINESS**

### **A. Kachemak Drive Trail**

#### **1. Bicycles on the Road Signage and Right of Way Permit Application**

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record. Ms. Engebretsen stated that Commissioner Brann requested this item on the agenda and she has not done any work on the item of signage. She recommended postponing this item to the next meeting.

Chair Bremicker postponed this item to the next meeting agenda.

#### **2. Survey Update on the first ½ Mile**

Mr. Meyer made the following points during a brief update on the survey:

- Conversation with Abilities Survey indicated a report and estimate in the next few weeks. The City should receive a report covering the estimated costs, potential environmental permitting issues, and design for best option for a proposed trail.
- Acknowledged concern that the actual steep portion, the area that runs up to the DOT parking lot was not surveyed; this was due to an earlier visual inspection walking the proposed lower trail corridor and the steeper second section with the engineer and surveyor, it was determined to be "not too bad on the lower portion, but the upper half in his opinion will never be more than a walking trail."
- Mr. Meyer cited requirements in the Trail Manual, the cross slope and depth of the ravines that run across that alignment are too prohibitive to even consider constructing a 10 foot wide path or even a five foot wide path.
- Safety concerns on excavation required for the trail on that degree of slope
- Signs of sloughing on that steep slope in its natural state does not recommend cutting into that slope
- The Alaska Department of Transportation would probably agree on not disturbing that slope
- Controlling erosion would be an issue
- This is not a Never Project but a Not Recommended Now project. It can be done but at what expense.

Further discussion by the commission resulted in the Commissioners agreeing by consensus to waiting until actual survey and reports are in hand for further discussion or action.

B. Pier 1 Parcel Update

1. Kayak Launch Site Approval
2. Home for the Wooden Boat Society
3. Pier 1 Campground - Why was it bulldozed, and when will it be rebuilt?

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record. He requested from Staff what action or discussion was needed by the Commission.

Ms. Engebretsen explained that Commissioner Brann had requested these items on the agenda.

Item 1. Kayak launch Site - Council has already approved so there was no further action or discussion required on the part of the Commission.

Item 2. Home for the Wooden Boat Society - Council held a worksession on this and the City Manager will ask Council at the Monday Council meeting what do they intend to do - recommend issuing a lease, do you want to say yes to Wooden Boat or do you want to put the parcel out for RFP.

Item 3. Pier 1 Campground - Ms. Engebretsen spoke with the Harbormaster on what happened and what do they propose to correct the issue. She noted that there was some problems during the dredging of the fishing lagoon and in the process to clean up the mess it was easier to just bulldoze it clean and most of those logs delineated the spaces were rotten. So it is planned to have this all done in time for the summer camping season.

There was a brief discussion on whether the commission should be part of the determination in redesigning the campground. Staff explained that there is no funding, Ms. Otteson could explain what she has in mind but certainly she could present to the commissioners what is being proposed and would be allowed some input. Anything will be simple, easily removed and very inexpensive to free. Commissioner Lillibridge opined that the Harbor messed it up so they should pay to fix it up.

C. Diamond Creek Recreation Area

1. Adding the Recreation Area to the Map on the Website
2. Discussion and Request for Non-motorized Signs
3. Approval of the Diamond Creek Recreation Area Plan

Mr. Tom Schroeder stated he planned to have clean copies for the Commission since they have received a few changes since the last Plan which is in their packets. He was not sure if the Commission needed to review those changes or not, they are very minor to approve it. He was looking for feedback from the Commissioners. He was mainly concerned with goals and objectives.

Chair Bremicker requested more information on what was being planned.

Mr. Schroeder provided a brief description on how the City of Homer received the land and the goal to protect it for non-motorized use. There are only two points to access the area and it is a good time to determine other options and plan additional access points. He believed that this plan advocated for the best use of these two parcels. It was a little bit of wilderness just outside of town.

Discussion included the location where the Ski Club has a storage shed as a great access, the access on Roger's Loop is not the best access point, trail connections, mechanism for creating new trails within the area, the plan is not concrete, how the city can move forward, the requirement to revisit this plan every 5-10 years, State and Federal requirements and approval of the plan, avoiding micromanaging the process, concern expressed regarding changes within the scope of work.

LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO APPROVE THE PLAN AND FORWARD TO CITY COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

Discussion ensued on the changes within the revised plan such as maps, and public restrooms. Mr. Schroeder stated that the revision did not substantially change the document presented tonight. He noted that trails were overlaid on maps, print quality and public restrooms. Commissioner Archibald did not want to approve it before Commissioner Brann had a chance to review the document. Staff explained that there was time and if the Commission wanted to wait until the March meeting it would

work. Further comment was made on the Diamond Creek Trail being tied into the trail system within this recreation area.

VOTE. NO. BELL, LOWNEY, ARCHIBALD, BREMICKER, LILLIBRIDGE

Motion failed.

Chair Bremicker requested this item on the March 21, 2013 agenda. A brief discussion on receiving the revision earlier than the meeting packet.

D. Dog Park Information for Commission Review and Consideration

Chair Bremicker asked Commissioner Lilibridge if this item is crossed off their list.

Commissioner Lilibridge reported that she intends to organize an Ad Hoc group to work on creating a Dog Park for Homer and will bring this to the Commission for a recommendation at a later date. Commissioner Lilibridge briefly outlined her goals and intent with the committee.

Chair Bremicker provided some guidance on the formation of a committee under the city regulations. He wanted to encourage her goal and having an Ad Hoc group would be easier.

Commissioner Lowney commented that speaking with some residents about a dog park recommended looking into using Ben Walters Park and making sure target organizations and groups that are dog focused. This will allow them a voice at the table.

Commissioner Lilibridge will be out town and plans to have a first meeting in April after she returns. She invited Commissioner Lowney to attend at least the first meeting to help brainstorm ideas. Commissioner Lilibridge briefly outlined some areas that she has viewed.

Chair Bremicker stated Commissioner Lilibridge did not need the Commissions permission and encouraged her to go for it.

E. Karen Hornaday Park- Day Use Recommendations

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD -MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY PUT HIGH ON THEIR AGENDA RELOCATING THE EXISTING PAVILION TO THE RECOMMENDED LOCATION BETWEEN THE FIELDS ALLOWING FOR A ROAD TO ENCIRCLE THE PAVILION.

Chair Bremicker asked for some clarification on the location. Commissioner Lowney noted that they wanted people to be able to see down into the t-ball field where the Highland Games are conducted. Commissioner Archibald wanted to make sure that the relocation is expedited as soon as practical. He also advocated for enough clearance to be allowed for setting up bleachers along the top edge of the slope.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was a brief discussion on the details of moving the existing pavilion before they can construct the new pavilion.

Commissioner Lilibridge requested an update on the remaining funds for the Park. Ms. Engebretsen stated that they needed to make a recommendation on what the commission would like to see and not worry about the expense.

LOWNEY/BELL - MOVED TO FORWARD THE DESIGN RECOMMENDATION FROM THE KAREN HORNADAY PARK COMMITTEE FOR THE PAVILION.

Discussion ensued on the allowing the engineer some flexibility to keep the design within the budget, use of natural materials, the view-shed and proximity to the playground and the importance of having it on the construction schedule for this season. There was question regarding the familiarity of the site. Staff noted that a preliminary design can come back to the commission for approval. Commissioner Lowney wanted the original ideas, drawings and concept available to the engineer.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Re: Dissolving the Committee - (Postponed from Previous Meetings)**

Chair Bremicker read the title into the record. He next stated he would provide a brief history of the committee.

Chair Bremicker lobbied for the committee expressing the work they have done, that they wished to stay involved to assist in guiding the project, including organizing volunteer efforts to construct the project. Chair Bremicker stated that there are advantages to being a city committee such as having a nice, accessible meeting space, direct route of information to the committee and contact with city personnel, the disadvantages to being a city committee are advertising and quorum requirements. He continued by stating that there are hardly any costs involved in having the committee meet; they do not have city personnel at the meetings; the agenda is boiler plate and they don't have packets the size of the commissions packets. He acknowledged that at least they haven't in a while. The committee takes their own notes of the meetings, so beyond a little supplies, the committee has been aware and trying not to burden the city staff asking for stuff.

Chair Bremicker cited the good work that committees can do and has done during his tenure on this commission. He went on to further note some value to an ad hoc group but it was still the intent of the committee to oversee that too and help the commission.

Chair Bremicker wanted to make it very clear to the commission that the rules say, the City Administration could not dissolve the committee or direct the Commission to dissolve the committee, it is not their job, Council could do that he was sure, but it was the Commissions job to disband a committee.

##### **LOWNEY/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO NOT DISBAND THE COMMITTEE.**

Discussion noted that since the commissioners recommended under a previous agenda item to waiting until the report on the survey that the committee should not be disbanded at this time.

Commissioner Lowney called for the Vote.

Chair Bremicker asked if any opposition. None was voiced.

Chair Bremicker noted for the record that the committee was not disbanded.

Comments from Ms. Krause after the vote noted that meetings were not free in response to an earlier reference from Chair Bremicker questioning the cost to hold a meeting and that the estimated costs to have a meeting were approximately \$500. Chair Bremicker responded that his time was worth \$35 per hour and he was sure that the other volunteer's time would equal that amount so the City was getting a benefit too by having volunteers work on these projects for them.

##### **B. Land Allocation Plan 2013**

Chair Bremicker read the title for the record.

Ms. Engebretsen stated that she would like the Commission to comment on three things

- End of the Road Park, page E-35, or page 205 of the packet is not designated as a park
- Area designated for Short-term Leases across Ramps 3-5 are incompatible with the Proposed Spit Trail

- Any recommendations the commissioners would like to make comments on leasing out any portions of Pier 1 parcels

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve designation of "park" for End of the Road Park

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The motion was approved by consensus of the Commission.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the designation of the area for short term leases and making a recommendation on a preferred designation as a rest area.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO DESIGNATE THE AREA CURRENTLY DESIGNATED FOR SHORT TERM LEASES AS A REST AREA.

There was no further discussion.

The motion was approved by consensus of the Commission.

Chair Bremicker asked for recommendations on the Pier 1 parcel. Chair Bremicker did note that he should not vote on this matter since he had a conflict. Staff acknowledged the prior vote on his conflict. Chair Bremicker noted the previous resolutions and then he commented on a proposal he personally submitted regarding the use for this parcel.

Commissioner Archibald requested direction from staff of what action was needed from the commission. He further commented that they previously forwarded recommendations.

There was further discussion on whether they could designate for RFP and could they limit it to non-profits, reiterating the prior recommendations; that it has to fit within the current zoning of marine industrial, the definition of Marine Industrial, attendance by a commissioner at the worksession.

Staff recapped her understanding of what the commissioners wanted; supports the Wooden Boat Society request; and continued use of the property for a campground.

Commissioner Lillibridge confirmed what she was to report at the meeting. Chair Bremicker inquired about the Barge Haul Out.

Staff recommended that stating the commission supports the use as a campground will alleviate a host of issues on other uses for the property. Not discounting other options too.

Commissioner Lowney was concerned about the accommodation for Barge Haul Out in the winter and camping in the summer, she has the same concerns with the placement of the dredge materials. They try to use these sites for recreational and then they are used for industrial and it really doesn't blend. Commissioner Archibald did not want Homer to become a home for wrecking boats but they need to strongly recommend that the whole pier one area stays recreational.

Chair Bremicker asked if this recommendation could be postponed to the next meeting. Staff explained that it would not be timely for Council action.

Commissioner Archibald made the following recommendations:

- Page 145, C-9, designate as Park Land or Public Recreation

A Brief discussion ensued on those parcels and the value of assigning a designation to them.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY MOVED TO RECOMMEND DESIGNATING THE PARCELS AS DESCRIBED ON PAGE C-9 AS PUBLIC RECREATION.

There was no further discussion.

The motion was approved by consensus of the Commission.

Commissioner Archibald noted that information hasn't been confirmed.

A brief discussion noted that the City has retained ownership longer than EVOS. Staff explained that designations for this section of land could be conservation (Mud Bay side) and open space recreation.

The commission agreed by consensus to support the staff designation recommendation.

Commissioner Archibald recommended designation of two parcels for a future park on page E-6.

Staff recommended designating two-thirds or two parcels within the area for park land.

The commission agreed by consensus on the Staff recommendation.

Commissioner Lowney requested clarification on the small parcel known as Woodard Park. She did not believe it was still there, and Botts Street has been vacated it is no longer there. Staff explained that there is enough space in Woodard Park that could support a swing set, bench, etc.

Commissioner Lowney then had some questions on the James Sherry Pocket Park. Discussion by staff and Commissioners explained the intent to retain that property, utilities present, possible location for a park bench.

Commissioner Archibald inquired about the Ben Walters Park and ice skating park. Staff was unaware of any information. Commissioner Lowney also commented on Ben Walters Park for a Dog park which would clean it up and maybe eliminate an unsavory reputation.

Commissioner Archibald recommended designation of Public recreation for the parcel used for Mariner Park. There was no opposition to the recommendation.

Commissioners talked about a small parcel along the tideline; page E-34, south from Coal Point Park/Ice Dock Road that is used during the summer by campers. They expressed concern about having long term campers which would negate any other users especially if the Spit Trail is projected along that path. There has been an issue with the easement along there and Public Works is working with the Lessees.

#### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Commissioner Attendance at Council Meetings 2013
- B. Commission Annual Calendar 2013
- C. Strategic Plan 2013
- D. Klauder & Company Architects, Inc. Re: HERC Building Analysis dated December 10, 2012
- E. Approved Budget for 2013 - PR Related
- F. KPB Land Management Division - Designation of Public Lands
- G. How to Form a Service Area in the Kenai Peninsula Borough

Chair Bremicker stated that the commissioners could review the informational materials on their own.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

There was no audience present.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF**

There were no comments from staff.

**COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER** *(If one is assigned)*

There was no councilmember present.

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Bremicker commented that he thought it was a pretty good meeting; if he gets a little wound up well that's just him; he appreciates the work of the administration; the help they get from Julie and Renee and everybody else in the city; he knows they work really hard and try to do their best; they need to put up with him as he puts up with them.

**COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Archibald echoed Commissioner Bell's comments. He also recommended that the commissioners review the item under informational materials regarding state lands and they can offer input really easy on the website.

Commissioner Lowney welcomed Bumpo back; Robert always nice to have you back and not on the phone; Tricia thank you for being on the phone, sorry you could not attend the meeting. Good job covered a lot of material tonight.

Commissioner Bell it is always appreciated for their continued support of the commission and when it got a little zesty tonight your professionalism shined through.

Commissioner Lillibridge apologized for not being there in person, she will be out of town for the March meeting, it was a good meeting, happy to work with all of them and she has taken notes and will do her best to confirm with Renee before the Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2013 at 5:30 pm at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

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Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_





**EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CITY OF HOMER  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

by Anne Marie Holen, City of Homer Special Projects Coordinator

**Q: What is a CIP?**

**A:** CIP stands for Capital Improvement Plan. It is a multi-year document that lays out community priorities for capital projects, including (for each one) a project description, rationale for why it's needed (benefits to the community), description of progress to date (money raised, plans drawn up, etc.), and estimated total cost. For City of Homer projects, additional information is provided on the timeline for completion.

**NOTE:** A Capital Improvement Plan is not a funding request. From the City's standpoint, it is a plan. From the standpoint of a non-profit organization, it is a mechanism to raise awareness of a needed project and increase chances of funding from various sources. Nominating a project for inclusion in the CIP should not be thought of as a request for City funding.

**Q: What is a capital project?**

**A:** A capital project is a major, non-recurring budget item that results in a fixed asset (like a building, road, parcel of land, or major piece of equipment) with a useful life of at least two years. Designing and building a new library is a capital project. Planning and implementing an after-school reading program is not a capital project. Most of the projects in the City of Homer CIP are City projects, but some are community projects spearheaded by a non-profit organization (e.g., Pratt Museum) or state or federal agency (e.g., Alaska DOT or Kachemak Bay Research Reserve). City of Homer CIP projects must have an estimated cost of at least \$50,000. Those from non-profit organizations must have an estimated cost of at least \$25,000.

**Q: Newspaper articles often refer to the CIP as a "wish list." Is that accurate? If so, what's the point of writing up a "wish list"?**

**A:** That's not entirely accurate. In 2007, the Homer City Council undertook an overhaul of the CIP to eliminate projects that were unlikely to be undertaken in the next six years. This makes the CIP less of a "wish list" and more of an actual plan, at least for City projects.

There are several reasons to maintain a CIP, even when it seems like little progress is being made in accomplishing projects: 1) It helps focus attention on community needs. 2) It helps groups raise money for projects if the sponsor can say that the project has been identified as a community priority in the CIP. 3) Typically a project must be included in the CIP to be eligible for a state legislative appropriation.

**Q: What is the process for developing the Capital Improvement Plan?**

**A:** CIP development is a multi-step process that starts around June 1 of each year and ends in November.

Step 1 is to develop the schedule. The schedule must be approved by the City Council.

Step 2 is to publicize the CIP process and invite project nominations from community organizations.

Step 3 is to send a copy of the current CIP to all the City department heads and the City Manager and ask for recommendations for new projects, projects that should be deleted, or changes to existing projects.

Step 4 is to make sure that all the City advisory bodies have a chance to weigh in. They are encouraged to name their “top 5” projects, and that information is passed on to the City Council. They can also suggest new projects, changes to existing projects, or any other recommendations related to the CIP.

During this time, I will start working on a new draft CIP, to be constantly updated throughout the process. NOTE: The document is a DRAFT until it is approved by the City Council. Proposed new projects are kept separate until they are approved by Council.

The City Council typically holds a work session to discuss the CIP and also a public hearing at a regular City Council meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify. The City Council will view the CIP as a whole and will also work to identify legislative priorities (a subset of the CIP) for special attention during the coming year.

Step 5 is to finalize the CIP as per City Council approval, and make 30 bound copies. These should be ready to distribute before the end of November. The CIP is also put on the City website.

**Q: Are the “legislative priorities” the same as the CIP?**

**A:** No, they are a subset of the CIP. The full CIP might contain 50 projects. All of them have been approved by the City Council and can be considered community priorities. However, the City Council also develops a “short list” of projects on which the City will focus particular attention during the upcoming legislative session. (The goal is to get at least partial funding for a project included in the state capital budget.) The “short list” and the “legislative priorities list” are the same thing.

The state budget process begins with a proposed budget submitted by the Governor in December. The legislature takes the Governor’s budget and works it over starting in mid-January. The House and Senate must both agree on a budget before it is finally passed in mid-April. (NOTE: The “operating budget” is different than the “capital budget.”)

The City’s “short list” may have 10-15 projects on it. An attempt is made to include some less expensive projects along with big expensive ones. Most if not all of the projects on the short list will be City of Homer projects (e.g., for roads, harbor improvements, water and sewer upgrades, etc.) Project descriptions are put in special “packets” tailored specifically to legislators and state commissioners. Typically, the Mayor and one or two City Council members will make one or more trips to Juneau to advocate for funding for these projects. Other groups (e.g., hospital, college, non-profit representatives) also lobby for their favorite CIP projects.

**Q: Does the City seek federal funding for CIP projects also?**

**A:** Yes. All three members of the Alaska congressional delegation require local governments and other groups to submit funding requests in February of each year. Typically the City of Homer will select 3-6 projects for which we seek federal funding. In recent years, the City has received partial funding for Deep

Water Dock expansion and for the proposed East Boat Harbor. With the moratorium on federal “earmarks” announced in early 2011, chances of receiving federal funding for a project have diminished substantially.

**Q: What advice do you have for a community member who wants to see a particular project included in the CIP?**

**A:** • Keep in mind that if a proposal comes from one of the following, it is automatically forwarded to the City Council for consideration: 1) A City department head, 2) a City advisory body, 3) the Mayor or individual City Council member, 4) a non-profit organization or state/federal government agency. If you can sell your idea to one or more of those, and that person or group gives it to me, I will draft a project description to take to the City Council. NOTE: Ask for a Project Nomination Form to use for this purpose.

• Take advantage of opportunities to express support for one or more projects anytime the CIP is on a Council meeting agenda. If you testify earlier in the process, Council members will have more time to consider what you say before making their final decisions. The CIP will be on the Council agenda at least three times: For introduction, public hearing, and final vote. Check with the Clerk’s Office regarding the dates. You can also communicate with City Council members individually.

Further advice: If you are seeking funding for your project through the state legislature, talk to our local state representative (currently Paul Seaton) about that process.

**Q: Once a project is approved for inclusion in the CIP, what can I do to make sure it doesn’t just languish there?**

**A:** • Keep your eyes on the prize. If you are with a community group or advisory body, develop a long-range plan and base your CIP request on that plan. Limit your request to one or two items and then keep your attention and energies focused on that goal.

Be realistic in your expectations. Many projects require multiple sources of funding over a period of years. Project success starts with a vision, then a well-developed funding plan, then focused implementation of that plan.

• Finally, I have to say this: If you think the City should be providing more programs, services, facilities, etc. for the people of Homer and providing more support to non-profit organizations, remember that almost all the money at the City’s disposal comes from sales and property tax revenues. Tax collection is nothing more than a tool for pooling our resources to buy the things the community wants and needs. Shopping locally helps maintain a healthy revenue stream from sales taxes.

The City can (and does) apply for grants to fund capital projects, but those funders almost always require the City to cover some of the costs with local funds. There is no free lunch.



**CITY OF HOMER**  
**2013-2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING PROCESS**  
**FY 2014 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE**

ACTION	TIME FRAME
City Council approval of schedule	June 11, 2012
Solicit new/revised project information from local agencies and non-profits (City departments notified in May)	June 12
Input for new draft requested by	June 29
Prepare and distribute draft CIP to City advisory groups for review and input	(Meeting dates): Planning Commission July 18, August 1 & 15
	Parks and Recreation Commission July 19, August 16
	Port and Harbor Commission July 25, August 22
	Library Advisory Board August 7
	Economic Development Commission July 10, August 14
	Transportation Advisory Committee August 21
Administrative review and compilation	August 27-31
City Council worksession to review proposed projects	September 10
Public Hearing on CIP/Legislative request	September 24
Local Election	October 2 (First regular meeting for new Council members: 10/22)
Adoption of resolutions by City Council	October 8
Administration forwards requests for Governor's Budget	End of October
Administrative compilation of CIP	End of October
Distribution of CIP and State Legislative Request	Beginning of November 2012
Compilation/distribution of Federal Request	February 2013



# City of Homer Capital Improvement Plan Project Nomination Form

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## Project eligibility

- A. Does the proposed project represent a major, nonrecurring expense (\$25,000 or more for non-profit organizations; \$50,000 or more for government organizations)?      YES      NO
- B. Will the proposed project result in a fixed asset (e.g., land, major equipment, building or other structure, road or trail) with an anticipated life of at least two years?      YES      NO
- C. Will the project provide broad community benefit?      YES      NO
- 

*If you were able to answer YES to all three questions, please provide additional information:*

1. Project title (Suggested heading in CIP):
  
2. Project description and benefit. Describe the project (in half a page or less), including specific features, stages of construction, etc. Explain how the project will benefit the Homer community.
  
3. Plans and progress. Describe (in one or two paragraphs) what has been accomplished so far (if anything). This may include feasibility study, conceptual design, final design/engineering/permitting, fundraising activity, and total funds raised to date.
  
4. Project cost:
  - A. TOTAL COST (including funds already secured) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. For construction projects, break out preconstruction costs (feasibility/design/permitting):  
Preconstruction costs = \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Construction costs = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Timeline: Indicate when you hope to complete each phase of the project.  
Please keep in mind that the CIP will not be published until January 2010. Legislative funding would not be available until July 2010 (or later) for state funding and October 2010 (or later) for federal funding (Fiscal Year 2011).
  - A. For projects that consist of land or equipment purchase only, state when the purchase would be made:  
\_\_\_\_\_For construction projects:
  - B. Preconstruction phase to be completed by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. Construction phase to be completed by \_\_\_\_\_.
  
6. Please provide a photo, drawing, map, or other graphic image if possible.







## CITY OF HOMER

Community Recreation  
600 E. Fairview Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Telephone (907) 235-6090  
Fax (907) 235-8933  
Web Site  
[www.homercommunityrecreation.com](http://www.homercommunityrecreation.com)

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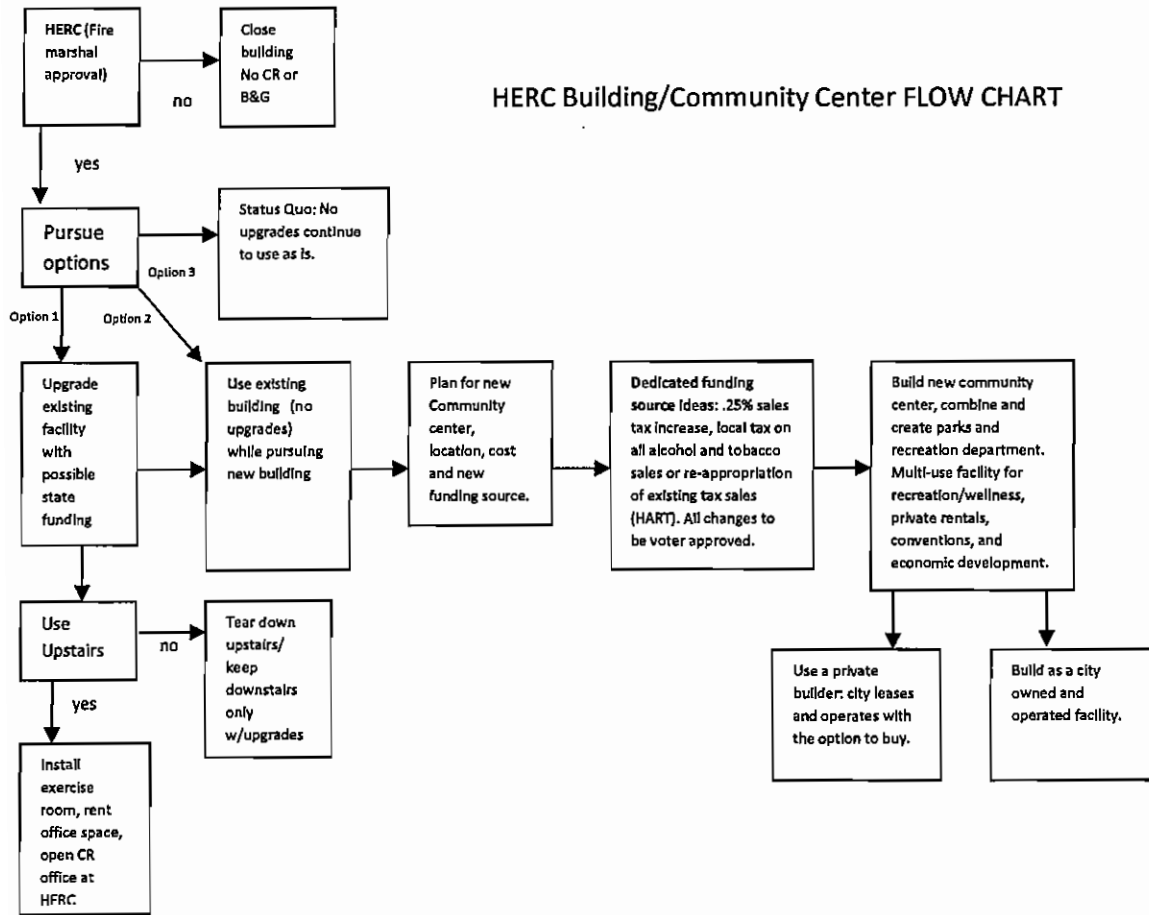
### Staff Report

To: Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission  
From: Mike Illg, Community Recreation Coordinator  
Date: 3/11/13

1. HERC Building/Community Center. Please review the attached flow chart. This is simply a "work in progress" document with options, choices, ideas, etc. that I suggest be worthy of discussion. I highly recommend that we schedule a work session that specially addresses the HERC building/community center and prioritize a strategy and recommendations for the city council.
2. Pickle Ball. This fun. Low impact sport is really taking off! It happens on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday evenings, 6:30-8:30 & Saturdays, 9am-noon.
3. Running. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Migration 5K Run will take place on Sunday, May 12 at 9am starting at the Fishing Hole. The annual Homer Spit Run "10k to the Bay!" will be happening on Saturday, June 29 starting at 10am at Homer High. Proceeds from race go towards youth running programs.
4. Hershey Track & Field Meet. Community Rec is excited to co-sponsor this event with the Kachemak Bay Running Club by having an organized track meet on the new track! It happens on Saturday May 25 at 10am and is for children ages 9-14. We are looking for volunteers!
5. Safe Kids Fair & Bike Rodeo. This event is dedicated to childhood injury prevention and has many community health partners including the city's fire department, police department and Community Recreation. This happens on Saturday, April 27 at 10am at Homer High.
6. Indoor Ultra Light Flying. On Thursdays at 3:30 at Homer High, we have some kids that are flying remote control airplanes in the commons. This is a great indoor activity and a sight to see.



## HERC Building/Community Center FLOW CHART



Tentative ideas/suggestions/options: community survey, special revenue source/tax, construction bonds, use existing preliminary planning and site for town center towards a multi-use community center





# City of Homer Planning & Zoning

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603-7645

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To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
From: Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician  
Date: March 12, 2013

Subject: March Staff report

### **Cemetery**

The Commission asked for information about the cemetery, and Dan Gardner, Public Works, relayed the following:

Plots are \$200. Funds go to the General Fund (which is how parks are paid for)

Excavation adult -\$500; \$400 opening, \$100 closing

infant- \$375; \$300 opening, \$75 closing

Extraordinary conditions such as weather, heavy snow coverage, ice, frozen ground and Et cetera may result in fees charged up to \$200 additional at Public Works discretion.

There are plans for expansion. Public Works has been working on the expansion for several years. The City finally made the purchase of the 3 adjacent lots. Design work for the expansion is underway with the engineer on city contract. The budget for the expansion work was not approved for 2013. The only funds approved were for design.

FY2010 receipts: \$1600, FY 2011 \$4,600, FY 12 budget \$1800

Staff request: what would the Commission like staff to do next? Would you like cemetery information reported to you annually? (We can add it to the calendar).

**KH park shelter** – Staff met with Public Works on the design the Commission forwarded. A preliminary design and cost estimate from the contract engineer will hopefully be available for the April meeting. The Commission and park committee can comment on the design and also the budget. Dan Nelson, the City's new project manager, was very helpful in thinking of cost saving ideas, and what items could be added later. For example, the stone bench in front of the pit circle is a really great idea, but very very expensive. We could make some nice wood benches that match what's in the playground for now (they could be reused somewhere else later). With more funding or a focused volunteer effort, the rock bench could happen, its just not likely to with the \$90,000 budget. I feel confident we're on the right track to a pavilion that will be a great addition to the park this year.

**Reminder:** Land Allocation Plan Work Session with the City Council– Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. All Commissioners are invited to attend. I hope at least one representative can make it! A memo with your recommendations will go to Council (see information items in this packet).

**Mariner Park** – It doesn't look like there is any funding for any upgrades this year, nor much staff time with the improvements planned at K Hornaday Park. I recommend the Commission put this on the agenda for July, in time for budget recommendations for FY 2014.

**April Meeting** – I will be out of town for the next meeting.

**Meetings** – I recommend the Commission have work sessions outside the meeting, maybe once a month. You have a lot on your plate and one meeting a month may not be enough. I'd suggest hour long, brown bag lunch type work sessions or special meetings. It would probably be easier for various staff members to attend during the day, for an hour or so.

Minutes, Kachemak Drive Path Committee  
Thursday, March 7, 2013, 5:30 p.m.

Attending: Dave Brann, Bumpo Bremicker (chair), Beth Cumming, Lindianne Sarno (recording).  
Committee member Lynn Burt is Outside.

Also attending: Larry Slone, audience member from Planning Commission.

Chair Bremicker calls meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Dave moves and Beth seconds approval of agenda.  
There are no minutes from last meeting.

There is no public comment, reconsideration, or visitors. No reports, public hearings, or pending business.

New Business:

Where Do We Go from Here? Discussion on all aspects of Kachemak Drive Path Committee work.

We look forward to seeing the survey and the 35% design of the first half mile of the trail.

We agree removing pedestrians and bicyclists from contact with motor vehicles on the dangerous hill is an urgent goal.

To this end:

Lindianne moves and Beth seconds:

The Kachemak Drive Path Committee supports upgrading the Mud Bay Trail to level three trail specifications. This compacted gravel trail will connect the Spit Trail to the Beach Access Road. This committee supports volunteer involvement in constructing and maintaining this trail to the extent possible.

Motion passes. Thanks to Larry Slone for helpful language.

We agree that a committee member will bring this motion to City Manager Walter Wrede for language clarification.

We need to get this motion on the next Parks and Recreation Agenda.

Dave Brann thinks that if we obtain permission from the city, there can be work parties that can shovel dirt, take out roots, rake. He hopes the survey and engineering design will give us enough information to list the permits we will need for this trail from DOT and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Dave Brann is willing to go talk to Walt to find out what steps we need to take to ensure this trail is on the official city trail list.

General discussion: Volunteer projects will be co-ordinated through this committee. Are there funds remaining from the \$20,000, and is it OK to use those funds to start work? Typar and gravel will cost money. Dredge fill is available at \$5/yard, if there is enough money to come up with 100 yards, we can start. Dave Brann can get volunteer four-wheelers if we can get permission to do the work.

Second discussion topic: Will this Committee be disbanded?

We all agree this is a Parks and Recreation Commission decision. The Commission moved and voted not to disband this Committee until the trail is completed from East End Road to the Spit.

Third discussion topic:

Beth moves that during the Shorebird Festival this Committee sponsor a bonfire near the Beach Access Road and serve cocoa on the Friday of Shorebird Festival from 3 to 5 p.m. We will need permission from the Fire Department for the bonfire. Beth will check on getting this into the Shorebird Festival schedule. We can put signs at the base of the Spit parking lot and at the airport parking lot, encouraging folks to walk the trail to the bonfire. There is a 19 foot tide at 4 p.m. during the proposed bonfire time. Good for bird viewing.

Bumppo and Dave think this is an excellent idea. Let's do a resolution and send to the commission. Beth is asked to report to the Parks and Recreation Commission after checking with Shorebird Festival coordinator at Chamber of Commerce, Debbie D.

No audience comments. No City Staff present.

Comments of the Committee:

Beth: Carey Meyer said the steep part of the hill is the worst terrain he has seen in ten years of working with the City of Homer.

Lindianne: I am grateful Dave Brann has experience building trails with volunteers, he has blazed trails before, glad we are at this point.

Dave: Will be a busy spring and summer, I'm working on Water Trail and Kachemak Drive Trail. We can weed whack soon.

Bumppo: We need to work together to make this a better city.

We adjourn at about 7:30 p.m.



KAREN HORNADAY PARK COMMITTEE  
MEETING - March 7, 2013

Chair Robert Archibald called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

In attendance: Ralph Broshes, Deb Lowney, Marti McCleery, Phil Needham, Miranda Weiss

Agenda for the current meeting and approval of minutes from the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting were approved.

Visitors in attendance- Carey Meyer, Public Works Department

#### Staff & Committee Reports

Carey Meyer reported that the City met with the Planning & Development Department and the engineering portion of the day-use area was quoted at roughly \$10,000. A notice to proceed should be implemented by March 8, 2013.

Carey also stated that Bill Nelson will be doing the preliminary engineering on the road realignment.

#### Pending Business

A. Update on funds from the Legislative Grant for KHP improvements:

Carey Meyer reported that the monies remaining from that grant total \$90,000. He also noted that the hydro-seeding has yet to be completed but that additional topsoil may not be needed which would cut on cost.

B. Discussion on the new picnic pavilion:

The design by Frank Cloyd submitted to Parks and Recreation is a feasible design. Elements of the design such as the curved rock seating around the fire pit and a pitched roof could get expensive.

It was mentioned that the partitions in the original design may be an obstacle for big groups. The possibility of removable partitions was briefly discussed.

Phil and Miranda both inquired about the use of volunteers for the construction of the curved seating at the fire pit as well as other "sections" of the construction project. Thoughts are that it would cut back on construction costs affording us the opportunity to get the pavilion and amenities desired in return. Carey thought that might be possible but Deb Lowney commented that if there is no leader to head the volunteer effort that we should turn the project over to the city.

Carey also commented that a concrete slab was the most preferred foundation by Public Works for the pavilion, reality being less maintenance on concrete than chips or gravel.

C. Discussion on moving the existing pavilion:

Carey discussed moving the old pavilion and that the most likely scenario would be to put out an informal bid and hire an "on file" contractor to move it. It would be best to move it to the new location with a new pad already in place and in one piece but since the new structure footprint overlaps with the old structure that may not be feasible if we want construction of the new to start in the spring.

#### New Business

- A. Briefly discussed an addition of new equipment to the playground. Miranda reported that originally Hopp thought it would be some type of rope climbing structure but they now believe that that structure will be much too large for the intended space. Miranda requested an approximate size estimate of the area where the structure will be placed which prompted Deb

to request from the city a map of the park with footprints of the all the current structures including the footprint of the new pavilion.

B. Disposition of connexes, snack shack and buildings used by little league.

i. Connexes:

A question was raised regarding the dilapidated connex currently used to store little league equipment between the ball fields. Could it be replaced with one of the connexes currently in the park that is in better shape? Carrey mentioned that he wasn't sure which department owned those connexes and that the usual process would be to put them in the excess equipment sale.

ii. Snack Shack:

The concrete shed is in disrepair but sturdy. Phil thought that the solution for the snack shack would be to add a couple layers of block raising the roof and installing a floor higher than the flood line. The question was asked if the snack shack was a big enough storage area for the little league equipment, Phil thought that it would be.

Deb voiced her opinion that she preferred Carey's suggestion to solicit a mobile snack shack to come in when needed turning the current snack shack into a storage unit. Marti made the comment that the connexes could be creatively painted and utilized for storage not costing any money except for paint.

Deb made a motion to remove and ban all connexes from Karen Hornaday Park turning the snack shack into storage. If more storage is needed other alternatives should be considered.

The motion was made and passed as follow:

Recommend on to Parks and Recreation Commission,  
Remove all Conex Type storage Containers from Karen Hornaday Park and ban any further use of Conex type Units. As soon as possible, determine the feasibility of removing the roof of the existing snack shack to facilitate adding additional courses of cinder blocks to provide adequate head room and replace roof. The existing floor area is to be engineered and new design is to be above water table, to be poured cement. This could be accomplished at same time as pavilion replacement.

Miscellaneous Items of Discussion

- A. Ralph inquired as to how much work needs to be done to the park host camp sight. Public Works has a spot in mind that has a view of the whole park. The city is waiting on Grant approval; Public Works will sequester funds once result of application is known.
- B. Robert asked if the alders in back of the ball field could be cut back prior to the ground thawing. Deb mentioned that a Youth Core group will be available in April to help with miscellaneous odd jobs and that they, if the city can get the alders cut, could haul them away. A list of other jobs that the group might be able to take care of needs to be considered.
- C. Drainage in the corridor where the alders are is an issue. There is a Grant for a proposed trail in that corridor which would help immensely as far as getting equipment in to clean it out.
- D. Robert asked if there was any plan for improvements to the restroom. Phil stated that the roof on the restrooms as well as the roof on the old pavilion needs to be replaced.
- E. Deb mentioned the "Adopt a Park" program and how we need to find organizations willing to adopt sections of Karen Hornaday Park.
- F. Miranda mentioned that Hopp is getting ready to schedule the Playground Work Party and that this year it will be organized by Church on the Rock

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM



# City of Homer

## Planning & Zoning

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To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
From: Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician  
Date: February 11, 2013

**Subject: Diamond Creek Park Plan**

Todd Schroder from the Homer Spoil and Water Conservation District spoke to the Commission in December about the draft plan.

**Requested action:** Discuss the plan and make any recommended changes. Please make a recommendation to the City Council to approve the plan.

**Brief history**

The City acquired some property between the dump and Diamond Ridge a few years ago, through the State Forest Legacy Program. That program requires all development be approved by the state prior to any construction. It's a lot of work to ask for permission every time someone wants to build a trail on this property! Instead, an overall management plan could be approved by the City and the State, encompassing all the things we hope to do in the coming years. When that is approved, it will be much more straightforward to build trails and improvements already included in the adopted plan.

The state demonstration forest is next to the City property, and the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District has a management agreement with the State to manage the demonstration forest. Their management plan and agreement needed to be updated. They were able to acquire a grant to write a plan that will cover both City and State land (saving the City a lot of staff time and money). Dave Brann has been the Commission's representative to the working group for the plan. Now that the draft plan is complete and ready for public comments, it is going through the public process. A recommendation from the Commission is needed to the City Council.

**Conclusion**

The first step toward any trail or recreational development on the City property is adoption of a management plan, and approval by the state through the Forest Legacy Program. The City Council will need to pass a resolution, approving the plan.

**Requested action:** Discuss the plan and make any recommended changes. Please make a recommendation to the City Council to approve the plan.



# Diamond Creek Recreation Area Multi-Resource Management Plan

Prepared by:



Draft Plan  
September 2012





# Diamond Creek Recreation Area Multi-Resource Management Plan

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## Introduction

The Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA) encompasses two parcels of land totaling 273 acres northwest of Homer, Alaska. Located within the Diamond Creek watershed, DCRA offers varied landforms and ecosystems—including Diamond Creek and its floodplain, diverse scenery, ecologically significant features like “tree islands” and wetlands, and numerous opportunities for viewing wildlife (including moose, black and brown bears, eagles, spruce grouse, and many others, including the occasional wolf).

The DCRA lies directly west of the Homer Demonstration Forest (HDF) (see map below). Because many DCRA activities and projects will be coordinated with those occurring in the HDF, the management structure of the HDF is briefly outlined in the box at right. The 360-acre, state-owned HDF was established in 1986 after a collaborative effort spearheaded by Homer Soil and Water. The HDF is managed for education, research, forestry demonstrations, recreation, and environmental quality. North of the DCRA lies a 77-acre parcel protected by a conservation easement. Across the Sterling Highway to the west is the 220-ac state-owned Diamond Gulch recreational parcel, which provides non-motorized access along Diamond Creek to Cook Inlet (see [www.evostc.state.ak.us/Universal/Documents/Habitat/CI\\_KENAI\\_SMPARCELS.pdf](http://www.evostc.state.ak.us/Universal/Documents/Habitat/CI_KENAI_SMPARCELS.pdf)). DCRA provides a critical link

### Management of the Homer Demonstration Forest

HDF management responsibility is laid out in the Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA) 2 (1987), which transfers responsibility for the HDF from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Division of Wildlife Land and Water Management to the Department of Forestry (DOF). The ILMA was revised in 1992 to extend the term of the agreement. The ILMA states that the HDF is managed for “educational, recreational, and environmental demonstration purposes” along with recreational and educational purposes with land purpose. The plan for the HDF was developed by the HDF Steering Committee led by Homer Soil and Water. The committee includes representatives from DOF, the Kenai National Moose Club, the University of Alaska Cook Inlet Campus, Homer High School, and other groups and individuals with an interest in the Demonstration Forest.

joining these parcels, complementing in essential ways the watershed functions they provide and the public uses they support.

## History of the Diamond Creek Recreation Area

The DCRA is an outgrowth of the “Diamond Creek Project” initiated by Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT) in 2000. This effort focused on protecting forestlands, wildlife habitats, recreational opportunities,



and watershed functions in lands within the Diamond Creek watershed. Over the next few years, a coalition of interested groups and individuals joined a community-wide effort led by KHLT to purchase lands in the Diamond Creek watershed threatened with conversion to other uses.

Among lands considered for purchase were two parcels west of the HDF and owned by the University of Alaska (UAA). These encompass forestlands and extensive wetland areas and support ski trails connected to the HDF trail system, which is used by thousands of skiers each year—including members of school ski teams. The UAA parcels were identified as suitable candidates for acquisition through the Forest Legacy Program.

The USDA Forest Legacy Program (FLP) provides state, regional, and other governments with help in identifying and protecting environmentally important forestlands likely to be converted to non-forest uses. As stated in its Implementation Guidelines ([http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/flp\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/flp_guidelines.pdf)), the FLP ... *seeks to promote forestland protection and other conservation opportunities. Such purposes shall include the protection of important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife and recreational resources, riparian areas and other ecological values. Traditional forest uses, including timber management, as well as hunting, fishing, hiking, and similar recreational uses are consistent with purposes of the FLP. Both purchased and donated lands and interests in lands through the use of conservation easements and fee-simple purchase are used to acquire forested land meeting Forest Legacy purposes from willing sellers or donors.*

Each state receives funding and administers its own program in accordance with a statewide Assessment of Need that identifies Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs), see **map at right** for Cook Inlet FLAs. Up to 75% of the costs related to acquiring land or easements can be covered by the FLP, with the remaining 25% provided by match.

The Diamond Creek Project took a significant step forward in 2004 when DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)—partnering with KHLT

—was awarded a match grant from FLP to use towards purchase of FLA lands within the Diamond Creek watershed. KHLT completed purchase of the two UAA parcels in July 2007 using FLP funds and match provided by numerous entities, including The Conservation Fund, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, the Rasmuson Foundation, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Kachemak Bay Rotary Club, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club, and many individual donors.



KHLT immediately transferred title of the UAA land to the City of Homer. The city accepted title through an ordinance and a resolution:

ORDINANCE 07-03 of the City Council accepting ownership of property conveyed by the University of Alaska, consisting of two parcels identified by the Kenai Peninsula Borough parcel

numbers 173-022-01 and 173-032-29 and designating the use as public purpose for park.

RESOLUTION 10-48: A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, approving a conservation easement between the City, as Grantor, and the State of Alaska, for the City-owned land commonly referred to as the Diamond Creek Property.

Resolution 10-48 approved an attached conservation easement, which the city granted to the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). (The easement is recorded with the state recorder's office, Homer Recording District, document 2010-003220-0.)

The conservation easement outlines both the purposes for acquiring the property and for granting the conservation easement. As stated in the easement, the purposes for acquiring the property "...include protecting environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses and for promoting forest land protection and other conservation opportunities as well as the protection of important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife, and recreational resources, riparian areas and other ecological values." The easement also specifies that the property "...must be used and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Legacy Program... and in the event the Property is not so used and maintained the Forest Service may require the State to restore the Property."

The purpose of the conservation easement itself is "...to assure that the Property will be used, maintained, and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Legacy Program and other applicable federal laws and regulations and the Grant Agreement... It is further the purpose of the Easement to provide for reimbursement to the State by the City in the event that the Property is not used, maintained and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Legacy Program..."

The city retained ownership of the property, including all responsibilities, costs, and liabilities related to its operation and maintenance.

## Management of the Diamond Creek Recreation Area

As is clear from the documents referenced above, management responsibility for the DCRA rests with the City of Homer. However, because FLP funds were used in purchasing the land, and a related conservation easement was granted to the state, a plan for the DCRA was needed that would satisfy both FLP and DNR requirements. Homer Soil and Water, in cooperation with the city, arranged for funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to conduct a resource inventory and develop an appropriate management plan for the DCRA. (The city is a "cooperator" with Homer Soil and Water.) Because of its role in developing the HDF management plan, as well as in coordinating and conducting various management activities outlined in that plan, Homer Soil and Water understood the value of developing a plan for the DCRA that would be fully integrated with that of the HDF.

This plan is being submitted to the City of Homer for its review and adoption. It is expected that the city will solicit public review of this draft plan before its adoption (as well as later community involvement and support in implementing recommendations). The city is responsible for coordinating approval of this plan with DNR in accordance with conditions of the conservation easement granted by the city to the state—outlined above.

### Forest Legacy Program guidelines for the DCRA management plan

APPENDIX F of the FLP Implementation Guidelines cited above provides a *Sample Content of a Forest Stewardship [or Multi-Resource Management] Plan*. Homer Soil and Water referenced this material during development of this DCRA Multi-Resource Management Plan. FLP guidelines specify that plans must:

- be prepared, or verified as meeting the minimum standards of a forest stewardship plan, by a professional resource manager.

- identify and describe actions to protect, manage, maintain and enhance relevant resources listed in the law (soil, water, range, aesthetic quality, recreation, timber, water, and fish and wildlife) in a manner compatible with landowner objectives.
- be approved by the State Forester or a representative of the State Forester.
- involve landowners in plan development by setting clear objectives; landowners should clearly understand the completed plan.

The DCRA plan should also:

- promote the purposes for which the land was acquired, that is: protecting environmentally important forest areas, as well as important scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife, and recreational resources, riparian areas, and other ecological values.
- accommodating a broad array of compatible uses and activities.

Compatibility between management goals for DCRA and HDF lands is important because the value of the DCRA to the community in part derives from its relationship to HDF environmental processes and

recreational resources (as well as its connections to Diamond Gulch property across the Sterling Highway)

During development of this plan, input was solicited from the Homer Demonstration Forest Steering Committee. Equally important, input was obtained from the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry, and from the Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

This document describes the DCRA area and its resources. It also identifies objectives that can guide future decisions related to how the DCRA is used and managed and suggests opportunities for enhancing community benefits from this area.

## Site Description

### Location and access

The DCRA is located ¼ mile north of the northwest boundary of Homer city limits, in the area known locally as Baycrest Hill. It is composed of a 33-acre parcel on the west and a 240-acre parcel on the east (see map below). The western parcel includes Sterling Highway frontage at several locations on either side of Milepost 168.



The legal description for DCRA lands is:

SE ¼ EXCLUDING THE W ½ SW ¼ SE ¼ SE ¼  
SEC09 T06S, R14W – S.M. and

SE ¼ & S ½ SW ¼ SEC10 T06S, R14W – S.M.

The larger (eastern) parcel's southern boundary corresponds to the entire section line on the southern border of Section 10, Range 14 West, Township 6 South, Seward Meridian.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough has assigned Assessor's Parcel Number 17303229 to the western parcel (within Section 9) and APN 17302201 to the eastern parcel (located in Section 10).

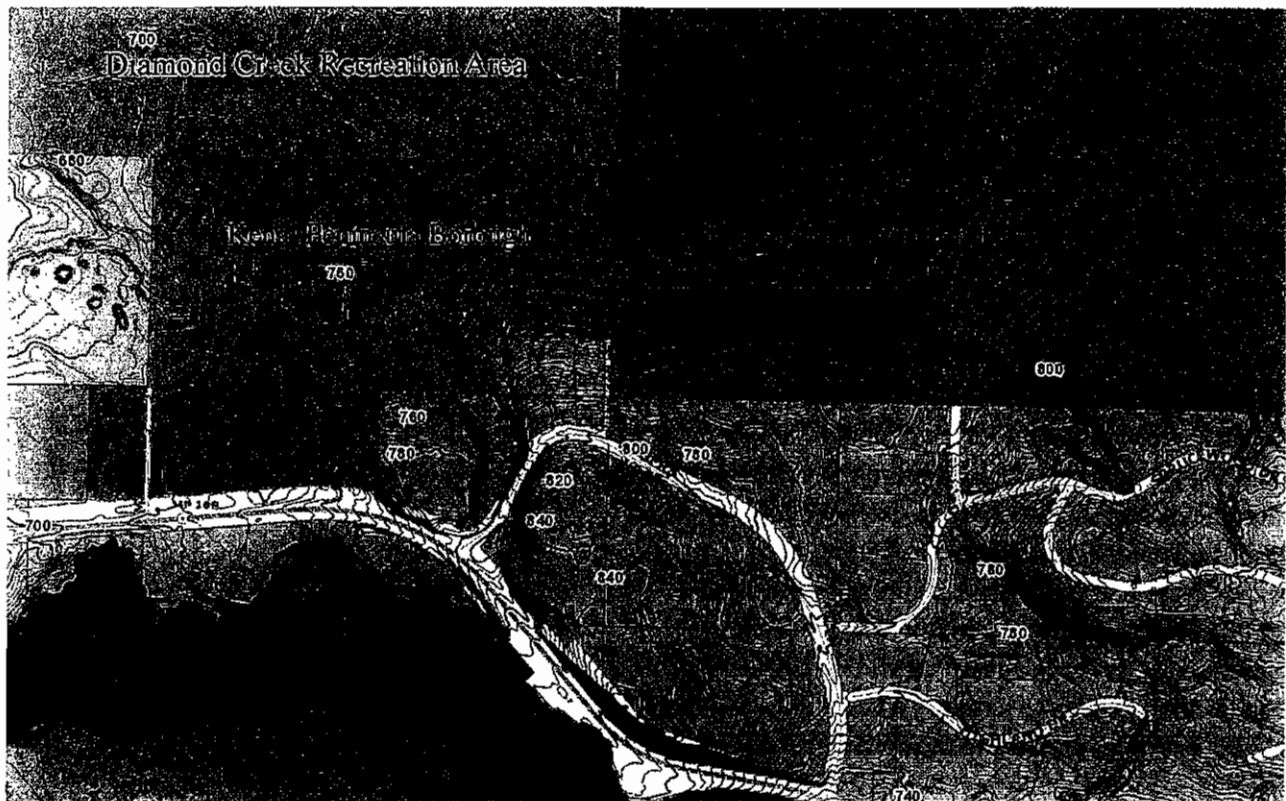
All points within the DCRA are less than 2 miles from Kachemak Bay.

Located near the top of Baycrest Hill, Rogers Loop Road—an old loop of the Sterling Highway—is a road from which the DCRA is frequently accessed. Access off Rogers Loop Road is via a platted but unimproved road about 540 ft long called Quirtland Street and then via a section line between a borough-owned parcel in Section 15 (salmon-colored in the

map below) and Section 14 (the HDF, shown in light purple-color below; blue indicates privately owned land, and green indicates city-owned land).

The Rogers Loop trailhead provides the most popular access to trails within the HDF; it receives moderate-to-heavy use during the winter months (after snow accumulation permits cross country skiing) and light-to-moderate use the rest of the year. Parking at this trailhead is limited to a widened road shoulder with a capacity of 15-20 cars. This is often inadequate during heavy winter use, when overflow parking spills out along the edge of Rogers Loop. The Kachemak Nordic Ski Club (KNSC), in its 2009 Baycrest Trails Strategic Plan, identified expansion of the Rogers Loop parking area as a goal. Signage and nearby restrooms are maintained by the HDF Steering Committee and KHLT, largely with volunteer labor. KNSC grooms cross country ski trails and packs snowshoe trails in the DCRA and HDF.

Further east and off the Sterling Highway, a second trailhead is provided from land managed by the Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) (the light purple parcel below transected by Maintenance Street). Access from the DOT trailhead involves



crossing borough-owned parcels (again, salmon-colored parcels). KNSC holds a temporary winter-use agreement with the borough for use of ski trails in this area, and while occasional summer use occurs, there are no formal agreements in place regulating non-winter access. Public ownership and ample parking make the DOT trailhead particularly attractive as a year-round access point, although access across wetlands would require careful planning, design, and installation to prevent trail deterioration and wetland damage. Currently, public access via the DOT trailhead is less common than from Rogers Loop, especially during summer and fall when ground conditions are wet. KNSC owns a storage shed at this location and provides trail signage at the site.

Possible access improvements into the DCRA include the expansion of the parking area at the Rogers Loop trailhead (mentioned above), development and expansion of year-round trails through the property, and construction of a new trailhead on the western boundary of the DCRA where it fronts the Sterling Highway.

A new trailhead on the eastern side of the Sterling Highway, on the western edge of the DCRA, offers a unique opportunity to create a highly attractive recreational linkage between the DCRA and the Diamond Gulch trail. As mentioned earlier, the Diamond Gulch trail runs from the west side of the Sterling Highway, along Diamond Creek, and down to Cook Inlet. Many recreationalists time their hike down the Diamond Gulch trail so as to reach the beach as the tide is receding. This allows them to hike south along the coast while the tide is out, with their destination being Bishop's Beach in downtown Homer, a hike along the beach of about 7 miles. Linking the Diamond Gulch trail to the DCRA would provide recreationalists with an extended journey encompassing a greater variety of sights and experiences, combining the rolling terrain, varied plant communities, and wetland habitats of the DCRA with the steep coastal bluffs and tidelands of the Diamond Gulch to Bishop's Beach trail. Diamond Creek already passes under the Sterling Highway through a culvert, and when the Baycrest Hill stretch

of the highway is improved, an enlarged culvert could be installed to permit pedestrian (and wildlife) travel under the Sterling Highway along the creek.

While each of these access improvements pose unique challenges (a more detailed discussion is found under Goals and Objectives), they also present ways to enhance social, economic, and recreational opportunities in the Homer community by improving access to and throughout an extensive system of scenic landscapes and open space.

Motorized recreation conflicts with the forest stewardship goals of the DCRA, and motorized vehicles should be limited to construction and maintenance activities. Motorized vehicle use can damage wetlands, cause erosion, disturb wildlife, and render-groomed ski trails unusable.

## Climate

The Homer area experiences a maritime climate—with relatively warm temperatures and high precipitation (see the table below). With the Kenai Mountains to the east and north, Homer is shielded from many storms moving out of the Gulf of Alaska. Proximity to the warm waters of the Pacific helps to moderate temperatures and reduce variations between highs and lows characteristic of areas further inland. Summers are generally cool and moist, and winters are comparatively mild compared to other areas of Southcentral Alaska. The following table shows climatic data recorded at the Homer Airport weather station from 9/01/1932 to 8/22/2012:

	Avg. max. temp. °F	Avg. min. temp. °F	Avg. total precip. (inches)	Avg. total snow (inches)	Avg. snow depth (inches)
Jan	29.1	16.5	2.22	9.6	4
Feb	32.3	18.9	1.81	11.3	5
Mar	35.5	21.3	1.52	9.2	5
Apr	43.1	28.9	1.20	2.9	2
May	50.7	35.7	0.97	0.3	0
Jun	57.1	42.1	0.96	0.0	0
Jul	60.8	46.3	1.56	0.0	0
Aug	60.5	46.0	2.47	0.0	0
Sep	54.9	40.2	3.03	0.0	0
Oct	44.5	31.3	3.13	2.1	0
Nov	35.0	22.8	2.74	7.4	1
Dec	30.1	18.1	2.83	12.1	4
Annual	44.5	30.7	24.45	54.9	2

Given the DCRA's average elevation of more than 600 feet above sea level, data from the weather station (situated about 63 feet above sea level) should be adjusted to reflect higher snowfall and cooler average temperatures. Snow depth and snow water equivalent has been measured at a snow survey site in the Homer Demonstration Forest for over 30 years.

## Geology

(See Map 2, Contours)

Glacial processes are primarily responsible for the landscape of the Kenai Lowlands, with glacial deposits overlaying Tertiary bedrock from the Beluga Formation of the Kenai Group. When the glaciers covering the region retreated approximately 17,000 years ago, glaciated landforms were created as moraines, glacial lakebeds and drainageways, and other deposits were left behind. Numerous glacial events occurred within larger glacial periods, the most recent of which is the Wisconsin period. While earlier periods covered the entire Kenai Peninsula, the latest periods did not cover higher elevations. During the Wisconsin period, several major glaciations formed many of the landforms now visible within the region, including kettle ponds and relict glacial lakebeds. One of the Wisconsin period glaciations, known as the Naptowne, is further divided into separate, smaller glacial advances. Of these, the Moosehorn advance was the most influential in shaping the Diamond Creek watershed. Geological evidence suggests that Diamond Creek was once an ice marginal drainageway between moraines, flowing north to the Anchor River. Upon retreat of the Moosehorn glacier, Diamond Creek cut westward through the moraine to empty directly into Cook Inlet (Berg, E.E.-2006).

## Soils

(See Map Group 3, NRCS Soil Survey, and Map 4, Soil Drainage)

The Western Kenai Peninsula soil survey was published online in 2005 by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and can be downloaded at: [http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/AK652/0/WesternKenai\\_manu.pdf](http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/Manuscripts/AK652/0/WesternKenai_manu.pdf). The survey indicates that the dominant soil types within the DCRA are Spenard peat and Starichkof peat, both categorized as very poorly-drained soils with high acidity (low pH). Properties, features, limitations, and suitabilities of all soils in the survey area are provided in the online manuscript cited

above, as well as from NRCS offices. Map Group 3 provides a soil survey report generated for the DCRA area using Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>). This report lists acreages of all soil types in the DCRA along with their selected properties and interpretations.

## Hydrologic Features and Wetlands

### (See Map 5, Wetlands)

The Diamond Creek watershed covers an area totaling 5.35 square miles, with Diamond Creek itself extending over 5 miles from its headwaters to its outlet in Cook Inlet. The DCRA's eastern half is bisected from southeast to northwest by Diamond Creek, and the stream also meanders inside the northern border of its western parcel.

Diamond Creek is an underfit stream, meaning that its current flow regime is insufficient to have created the valley within which the creek now flows. The stream valley was created by much larger flows fed by melting glaciers.

Ten types of wetland ecosystems (plus Wetland-Upland complexes and Disturbed wetland areas) have been identified and mapped in the Kenai Lowlands by the Kenai Watershed Forum (see <http://www.kenai-wetlands.net/>). The riparian corridor created by Diamond Creek is one of four wetland ecosystem types found in the DCR, the other three being Drainageways (these are “relict” drainageways created by glacial meltwater), Kettles, and Discharge Slopes. (see Map 5)

Riparian wetlands occur along streams, and rivers, and are fed by groundwater, surface runoff, precipitation, and snowmelt. (Many riparian corridors on the Kenai Peninsula are also fed by glacial meltwater.) The Diamond Creek riparian corridor encompasses broad fringe wetlands, with bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) and Barclay's willow (*Salix barclayi*) meadows. Spruce forests generally cover adjacent slopes.

Discharge slopes are the most abundant wetland ecosystem within the DCRA, occurring over mineral

soils in areas of transition from wetlands to uplands and at slope breaks on terraces. These wetlands occupy locations where upslope groundwater is discharged, or where water tables are perched near the surface. Discharge slopes on the lower Peninsula usually feature forested hillsides of Lutz spruce (*Picea x lutzii*), especially at toe-slope transitional areas. The eastern half of the DCRA encompasses large areas mapped as discharge slopes.

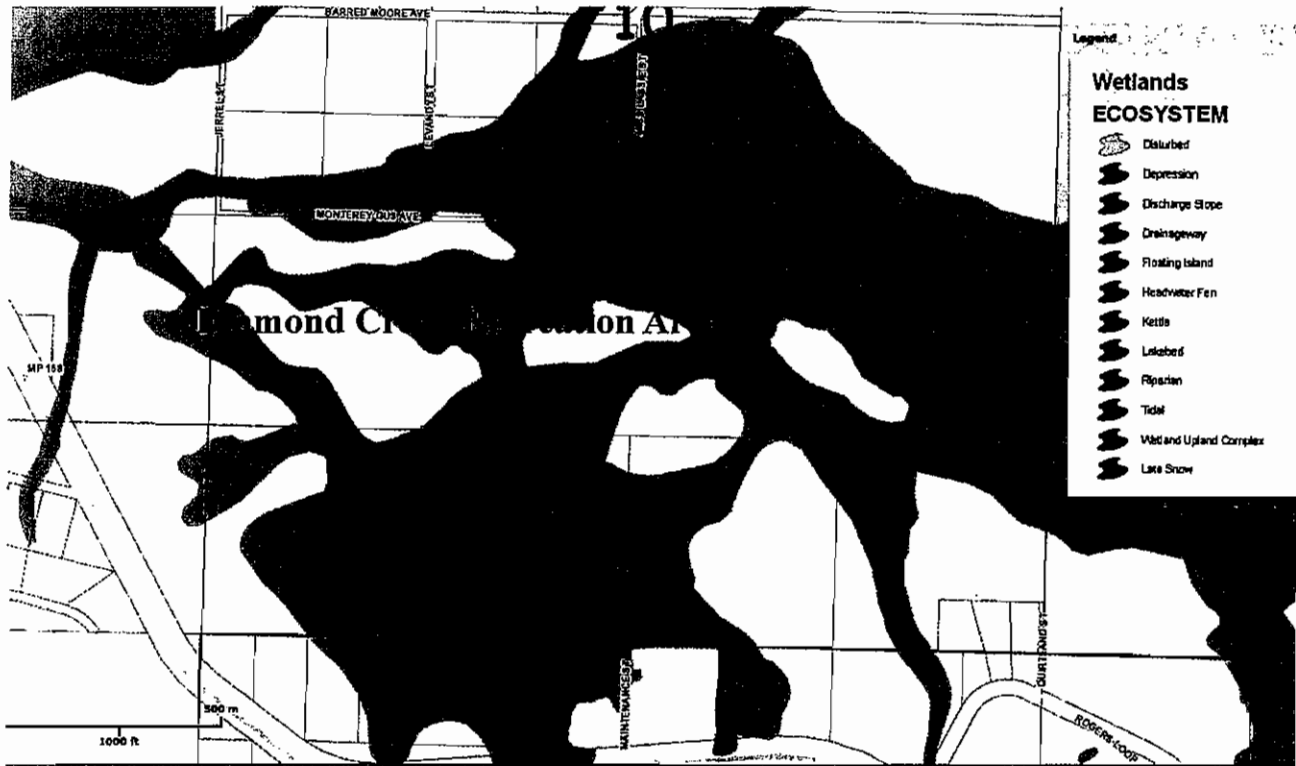
Kettle wetlands are found in depressions resulting from blocks of ice being left behind by retreating glaciers. Meltwater streams flowing on top of ice deposit sediments which become broad outwash plains of glacial till. Ice blocks buried within the outwash then melted, leaving depressions known as “kettle holes” in the surrounding sediments. Kettle and kame” topography refers to a landscape of mounds and basins formed by retreating glaciers. Kames are formed when glacial streams carry sediments into cracks or depressions on surface ice. As the glacier retreats, the buildup of sediments is eventually released, and deposited as hills or ridges. Kettles are usually described as peatlands that form over flat silty plains between kames. Unlike similar “ice-block” wetland formations, kettles are linked to Cook Inlet by a stream or wetland connection. The water table can vary between stable (open water or bogs) and highly variable (up-slope), with grasses and shrubs typically showing dominance. The central portion of the DCRA displays a kettle and kame landscape, with extensive peatlands surrounded by forested ridges.

Relict glacial drainageway wetlands occupy areas where glacial meltwater accumulated and flowed outward. They sometimes support modern, underfit streams that flow through previous glacial deposits. Relict glacial drainageways are differentiated between their hydrologic components and the surrounding landscape. Five types have been identified for the Kenai Lowlands, all generally classified as peatlands with a stable, high water table. The DCRA contains a Type 3 stream fringe drainageway, identified as hummocky or shrubby, and possessing a slightly more variable water table than other glacial drainageways. Plant species found in



this area include: thinleaf alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), dwarf birch (*Betula nana*), sweetgale (*Myrica gale*), water horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), water sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), and bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*). In this case, the relict glacial drainageway sits upon a layer of Starichkof soil between spruce forest uplands.

Consequently, much of the DCRA uplands are covered with deadfall. Adequate regeneration is occurring, however, and while varying widely within the immediate area, a good portion (over 50%) of the DCRA has shown moderate to high levels of forest productivity. Stands are uneven aged. Extensive monitoring of the forest within the HDF since the



Severe flooding occurred in 2002 significantly impacting Diamond Creek and destroying habitats that had supported a population of resident Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma* Walbaum). The floods also had a disastrous impact on local beaver populations, destroying the dams that protect them from predation and provide access to food sources.

beetle outbreak has shown high regeneration rates as well, although bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*) appears to be increasing in areas where the forest canopy has been opened up by die off and blow down. Increased bluejoint limit survival of small tree seedlings, and can also substantially increase spring wildfire hazard.

### Flora and Fauna

(See Map Group 6, Forest Productivity and Map 7, Spruce Bark Beetle Infestation)

Ridges and hillsides in the DCRA are populated by Lutz spruce (*Picea x lutzii*), with black spruce (*Picea mariana*) in forested wetland areas. A severe spruce bark beetle infestation occurred in the late 1980s and early '90s, killing many of the old growth Lutz stands.

The following shrub and groundcover species have been identified in the area.

#### Shrubs:

- alder, *Alnus* spp.
- bog blueberry, *Vaccinium uliginosum*
- cloudberry, *Rubus chamaemorus*
- crowberry, *Empetrum nigrum*
- five leaf bramble, *Rubus pedatus*
- lowbush cranberry, *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*
- northern black currant, *Ribes hudsonianum*
- rusty menziesia, *Menziesia ferruginea*

Steven's spirea, *Spiraea beauverdiana*  
willow, *Salix spp.*

**Forbs, ferns, clubmosses, and grasses:**

bluejoint grass, *Calamagrostis canadensis*  
elderberry, *Sambucus racemosa*  
fireweed, *Epilobium angustifolium*  
geranium, *Geranium spp.*  
horsetail, *Equisetum*  
Labrador tea, *Ledum palustre*  
oak fern, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris*  
one-sided wintergreen, *Pyrola asarifolia*  
shield fern, *Dryopteris dilatata*  
Sitka burnet, *Sanguisorba stipulata*  
tall Jacob's-ladder, *Polemonium acutiflorum*  
watermelon berry, *Stretopus amplexifolius*

Wildlife sightings are a frequent occurrence in the DCRA, which contains critical moose wintering habitat, and also provides a migration corridor for many species. Bears, wolves, lynx, ermines, and other carnivores prey upon the ample number of hares and rodents in the vicinity. The area also hosts a tremendous variety of birds, including eagles, hawks, harriers, grouse, cranes, ducks, owls, woodpeckers, thrushes, corvids, owls, wrens, and finches.

Unofficial sightings of trout fingerlings within Diamond Creek have been reported in recent years, but as previously discussed, no beavers have been observed in the area since the 2002 flood events.

### **Cultural Resources**

The Baycrest ski trails are an extremely valuable resource for the Homer community, providing approximately 35 kilometers of inter-connected pathways for skiers and snowshoers to enjoy. The ski trails are also utilized by local schools for practices and events, and often draw visitors from around the region. KNSC, a volunteer organization, has developed and maintained the trails for over three decades. Some of the maintained trails are adjoined to private neighborhood trails, creating an extensive network of recreational access. Continual efforts by KNSC to improve and expand the Baycrest ski trail system have helped to ensure permanent public access within these surrounding private lands. Trails in the Baycrest area are also frequented by

summertime hiking, mountain-bike, and equestrian enthusiasts.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The Forest Legacy Program requires that lands acquired with FLP funds be used for "recreation, conservation, and forestry uses." With the adoption of Homer City Council Resolution 07-03, the City designated the Diamond Creek Recreation Area for "public purpose as park land in perpetuity." In addition, the City of Homer Comprehensive Plan (COH-2009) states that the City will "...strive to identify, acquire, dispose of, or exchange lands to satisfy public recreation needs, acquire land, plan and construct facilities, and identify, protect and preserve scenic and natural areas, such as greenbelts, for recreation enjoyment."

The conservation easement granted by the City to the Department of Natural Resources ensures that the land's natural resources will be protected and sustainably managed. The State is authorized to take action should any portion of the DCRA be used in a manner that does not comply with the Forest Legacy Program. These designations and requirements provide the basis for the general management goals and specific objectives outlined in this section.

### **Conservation**

As described in earlier, the DCRA is largely comprised of forested hillsides, meandering riparian zones, and wetlands which are frequented by wildlife. Preservation of these sensitive environmental attributes is now required by regulation, but doing so will also enable the achievement of other goals. Careful consideration of conservation objectives must be given when planning and implementing opportunities for recreation.

#### **Conservation Objective 1:**

Preserve and protect forested areas within the DCRA.

## Strategies

Participate in monitoring of forest health, in partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the DNR, Division of Forestry, and include the DCRA within any local wildfire risk assessments.

Route non-motorized public access through forested areas to create a strategic firebreak, when possible (motorized vehicles are restricted except for maintenance and grooming unless approved by the City).

### Conservation Objective 2:

Preserve and protect wetlands and riparian zones within the DCRA.

#### Strategies:

Plan new routes for public access through the DCRA in a manner and location that minimizes impact(s) to wetlands.

Seek funding for bridge upgrades and maintenance at trail-stream crossings, and for proper trail-hardening through wet areas.

Regulate and minimize any necessary non-winter motorized travel through the DCRA.

### Conservation Objective 3:

Preserve the natural scenic qualities of the DCRA.

#### Strategies:

Design and install signage so as not to detract from local scenery with sign height, color, material, or placement.

Provide maps of the area near trailheads.

Use as few trail markers as necessary along the trails.

Provide public restroom facilities at trailheads.

Encourage users to pack out trash.

Prohibit overnight camping.

Identify and maintain functional landscape and ecological linkages between the DCRA, the HDF, and

surrounding lands that have been protected through conservation easements or other mechanisms.

Ensure that the DCRA remains a viable wildlife corridor by protecting important habitat features and avoiding obstructions to wildlife movement.

## Recreation

Recreational development within the DCRA should be primarily focused on summer use at this time, as winter access is already well-established. However, certain recreational objectives detailed here will benefit users on a year-round basis. Also, due care should be exercised during all phases of recreational development to protect the environmental attributes of the DCRA, as well as the interests of surrounding landowners.

### Recreational Objective 1:

Improve controlled, non-motorized recreational-access to the DCRA.

#### Strategies:

Support efforts to enlarge the parking area at the Rogers Loop trailhead.

Work with the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Land Management Division to formalize year-round access from the DOT trailhead to the DCRA.

Provide a parking area and trailhead facilities at the western border of the DCRA.

Develop a preliminary plan with the AK-DOT, and seek funding for a pedestrian route across the Sterling Highway near MP 168, in order to extend the recreational corridor to the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site.

### Recreational Objective 2:

Construct summer-use trails within the DCRA.

#### Strategies:

Develop a summer a trail system in upland areas within the DCRA, including construction of a route

along Diamond Creek, to extend from the current HDF trails near the southeastern corner of the DCRA to its western boundary.

Develop a new trail extension to provide summer access from the Sterling Highway-DOT trailhead to the DCRA, with trail-hardening through wet areas.

Plan and develop multi-use 'loops' or trails, to include bicycling and equestrian users.

## **Education**

### **Educational Objective 1:**

Encourage area schools, local organizations, and area visitors to use the DCRA in sustainable ways that promote education.

#### **Strategies:**

Identify optimal natural scenery and wildlife observation areas, and provide minimal-disturbance facilities (such as widened trail segments, lookouts, or informational signage) to enhance visitor experiences.

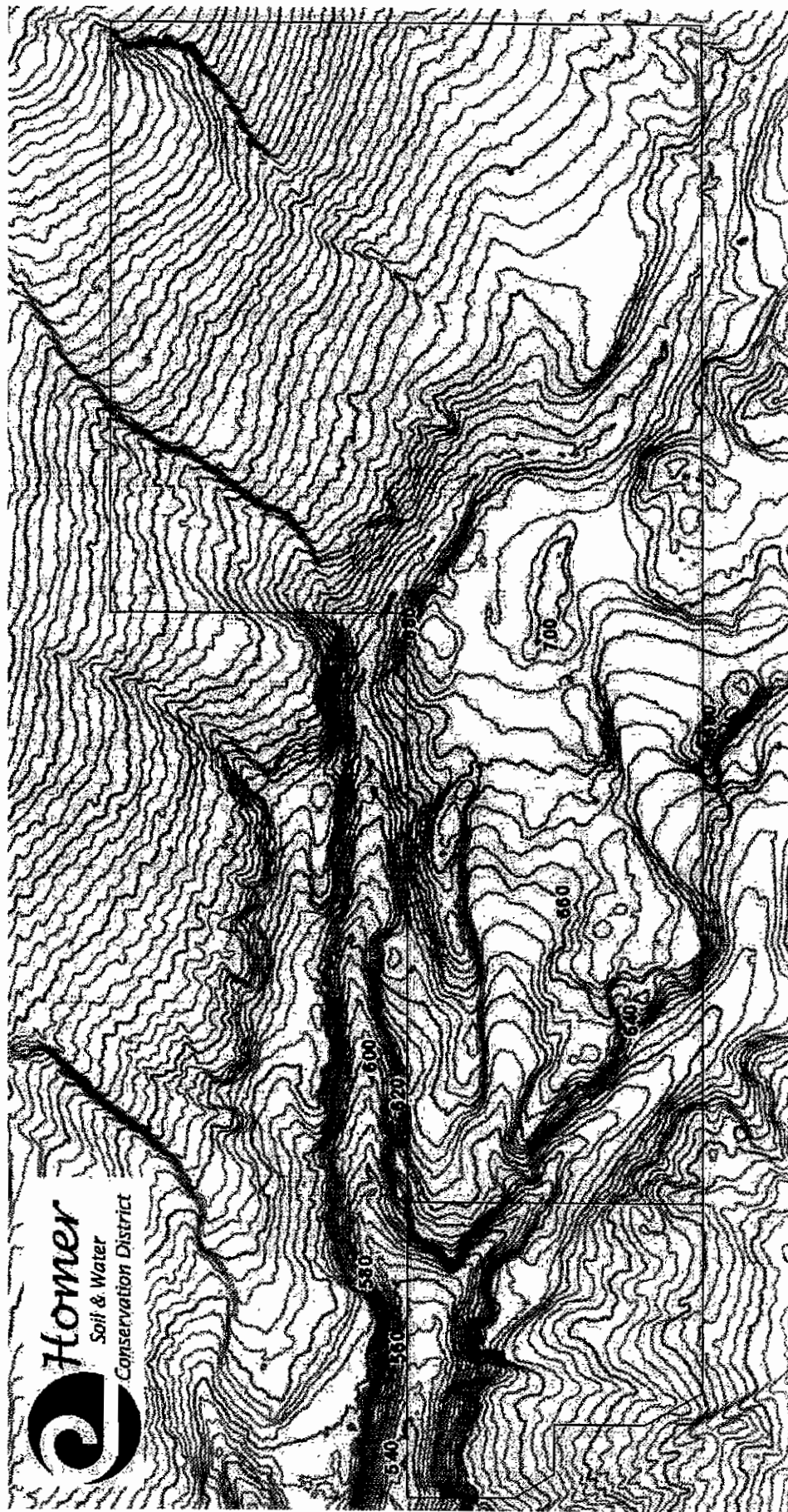
Help to organize and promote educational events on significant dates, or during appropriate community events, to enhance public knowledge of forest and wetland ecology.

# Map 1 - Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access and Development



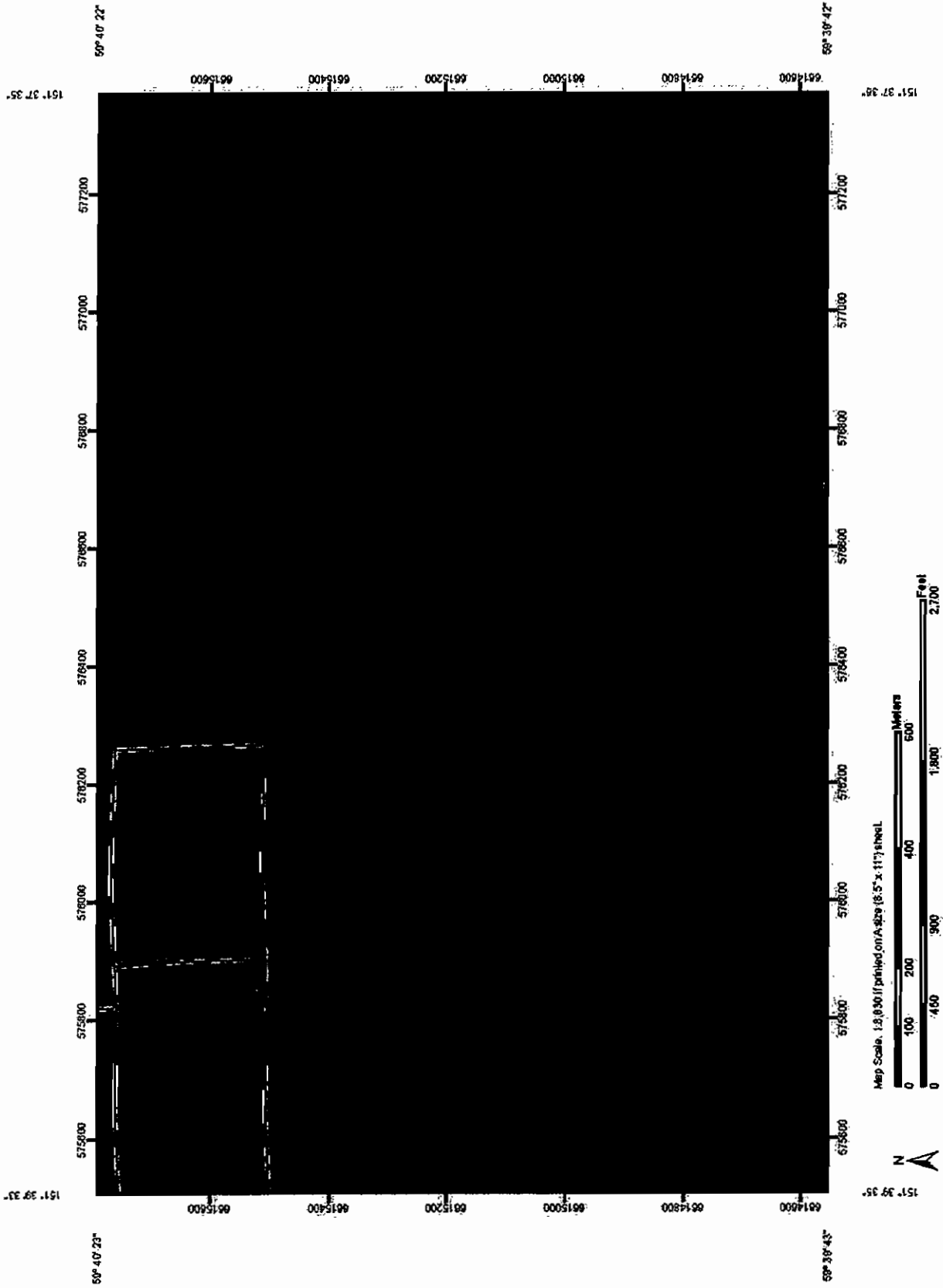
# Map 2 – Diamond Creek Recreation Area Contours

4-ft. Contours Data Courtesy of KPBB-GIS



Map Group 3 - Diamond Creek Recreation Area Soils

Soil Map—Western Kenai Peninsula Area, Alaska

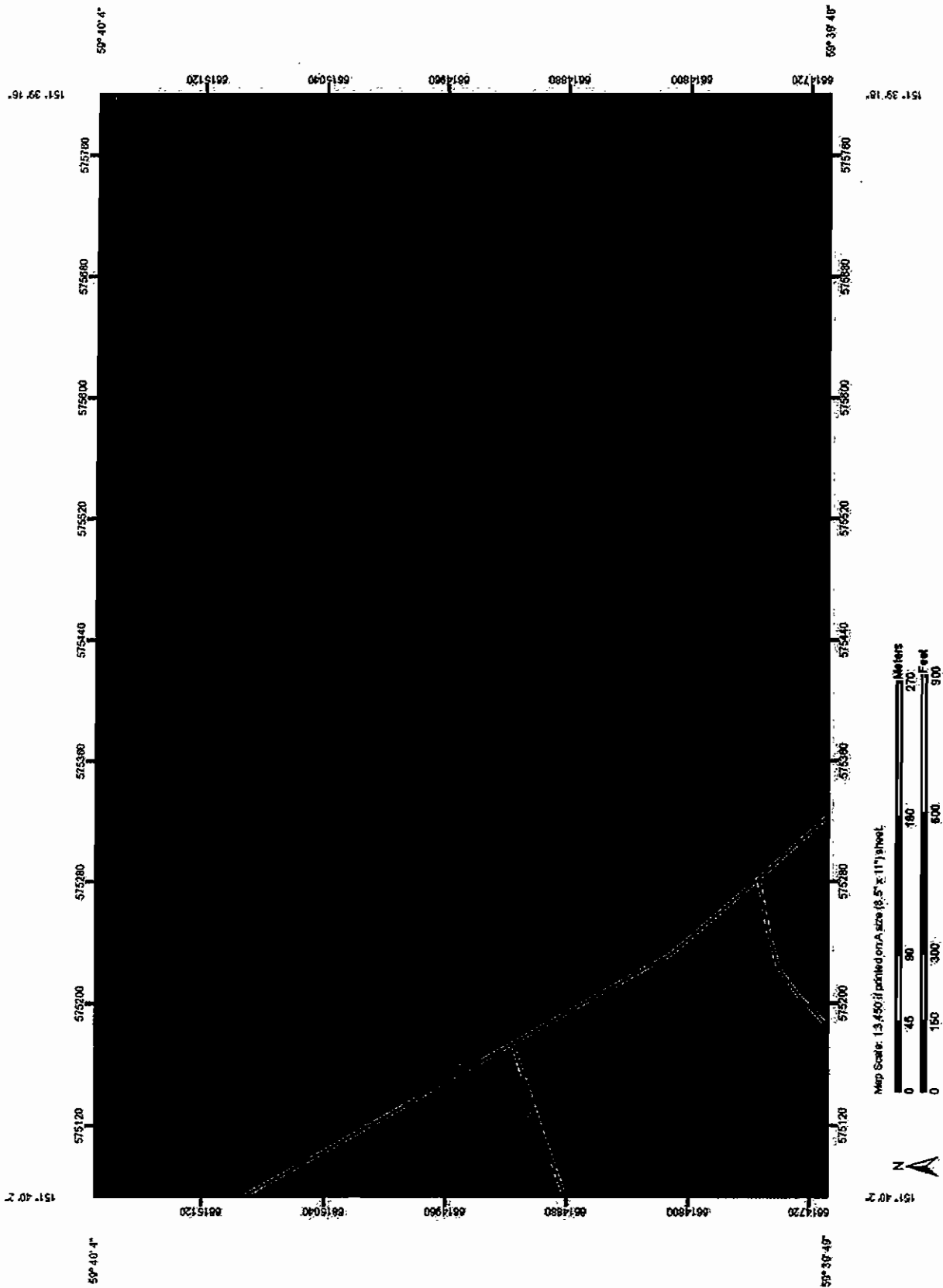


### Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Description	Area (Acres)	Percentage
538	Coal Creek silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	17.1	7.1%
541	Cochoe silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	0.9	0.4%
573	Kachehek silt loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	3.7	1.5%
583	Kachemak silt loam, forested, 4 to 8 percent slopes	33.9	14.1%
616	Mulnala silt loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	30.5	12.7%
619	Mulnala silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	20.8	8.7%
621	Mulnala silt loam, 25 to 35 percent slopes	3.5	1.5%
674	Spentard peat, 4 to 8 percent slopes	77.2	32.1%
877	Starfishkof peat, 0 to 4 percent slopes	52.6	21.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		240.2	100.0%



Soil Map—Western Kenai Peninsula Area, Alaska

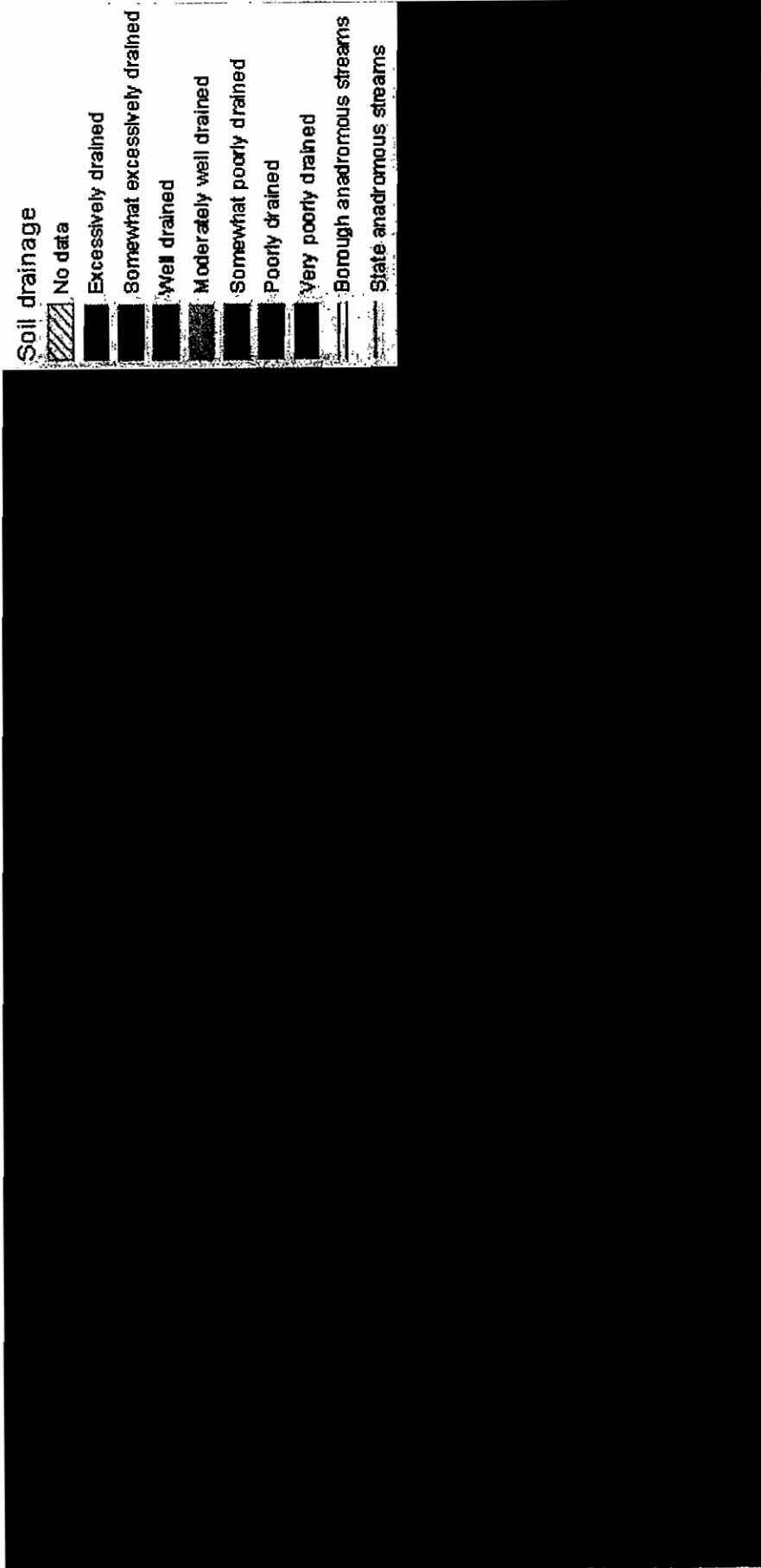


### Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Soil Name	Area (sq. mi.)	Percent of AOI
638	Coal Creek silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	3.5	10.0%
641	Coho silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	17.5	51.0%
619	Mutnala silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	1.8	5.8%
621	Mutnala silt loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes	9.2	26.7%
677	Starichkof peat, 0 to 4 percent slopes	2.3	6.7%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>34.4</b>

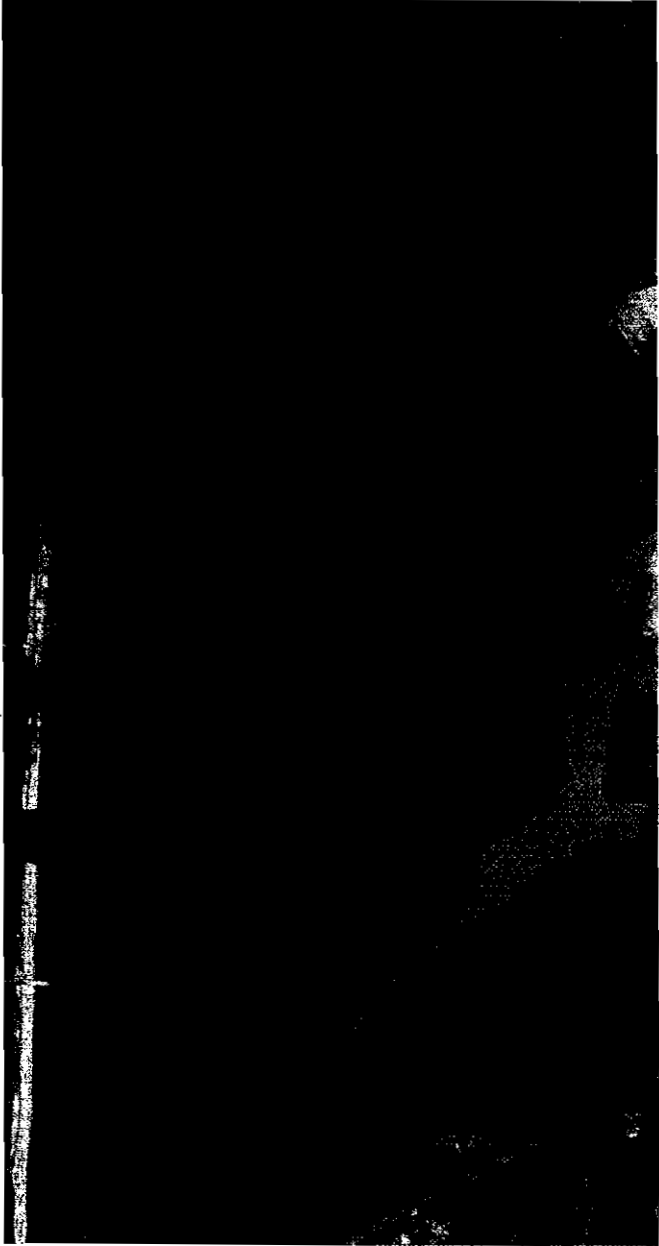
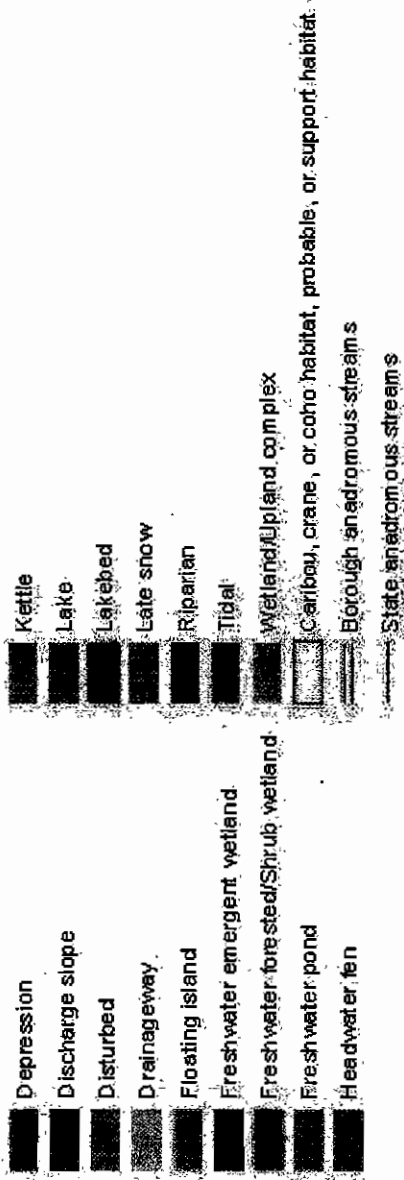
# Map 4 – Diamond Creek Recreation Area Soil Drainage

Map and Legend Courtesy of Kenai Watershed Forum



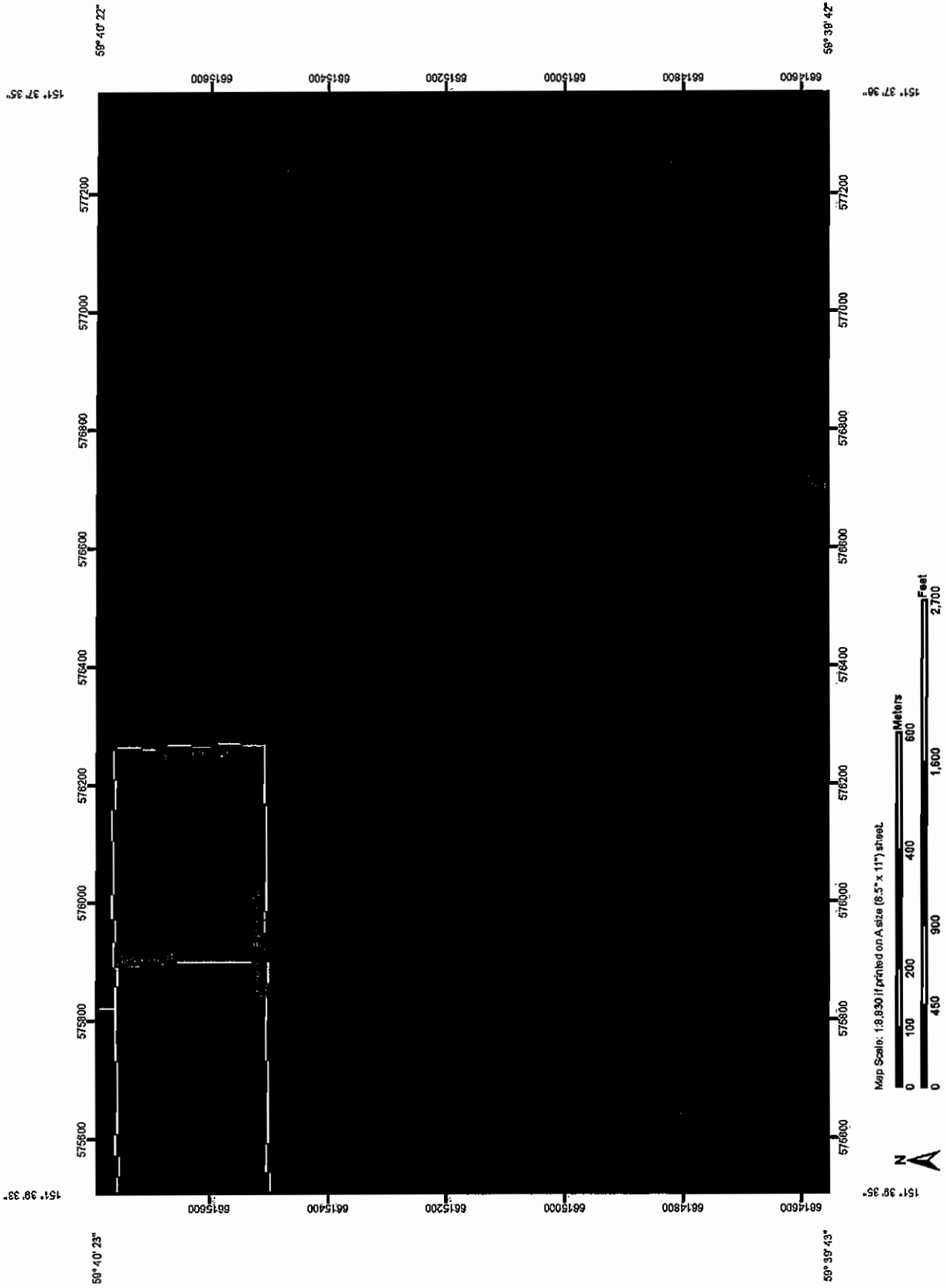
# Map 5 - Diamond Creek Recreation Area Wetlands

Legend and Wetlands Data Courtesy of Kenai Watershed Forum



# Map Group 6 - Diamond Creek Recreation Area Forest Productivity

Forest Productivity (Cubic Feet per Acre per Year): white spruce (Farr 1987 (440))—Western Kenai Peninsula Area, Alaska



### MAP LEGEND

- Area of Interest (AOI)
  - Area of Interest (AOI)
- Soils
  - Soil Map Units
  - Soil Ratings
    - <= 9
    - > 9 AND <= 11
    - > 11 AND <= 12
    - > 12 AND <= 13
    - > 13 AND <= 14
    - Not rated or not available
- Political Features
  - Cities
- Water Features
  - Streams and Canals
- Transportation
  - Rails
  - Interstate Highways
  - US Routes
  - Major Roads
  - Local Roads

### MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:8,830 if printed on A-size (8.5" x 11") sheet.  
 The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:25,000.

**Warning:** Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.  
 Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
 Coordinate System: UTM Zone 5N NAD83

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Western Kenai Peninsula Area, Alaska  
 Survey Area Data: Version 11, Feb 3, 2011

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 9/2/1996

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

## Forest Productivity (Cubic Feet per Acre per Year): white spruce (Farr 1967 (440))

Site ID	Soil Type	Slope	Forest Type	Yield (Cubic Feet per Acre per Year)	Percentage of Area
538	Coal Creek silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	8.00		17.1	7.1%
541	Cotoos silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	11.00		0.9	0.4%
573	Kachemak silt loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	11.00		3.7	1.5%
583	Kachemak silt loam, forested, 4 to 8 percent slopes	13.00		33.9	14.1%
618	Muhala silt loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes	14.00		30.5	12.7%
619	Muhala silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	14.00		20.8	8.7%
621	Muhala silt loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes	14.00		3.5	1.5%
674	Spensard peat, 4 to 8 percent slopes	12.00		77.2	32.1%
677	Starichkof peat, 0 to 4 percent slopes			52.6	21.9%
Totals for Area of Interest				240.2	100.0%

### Description

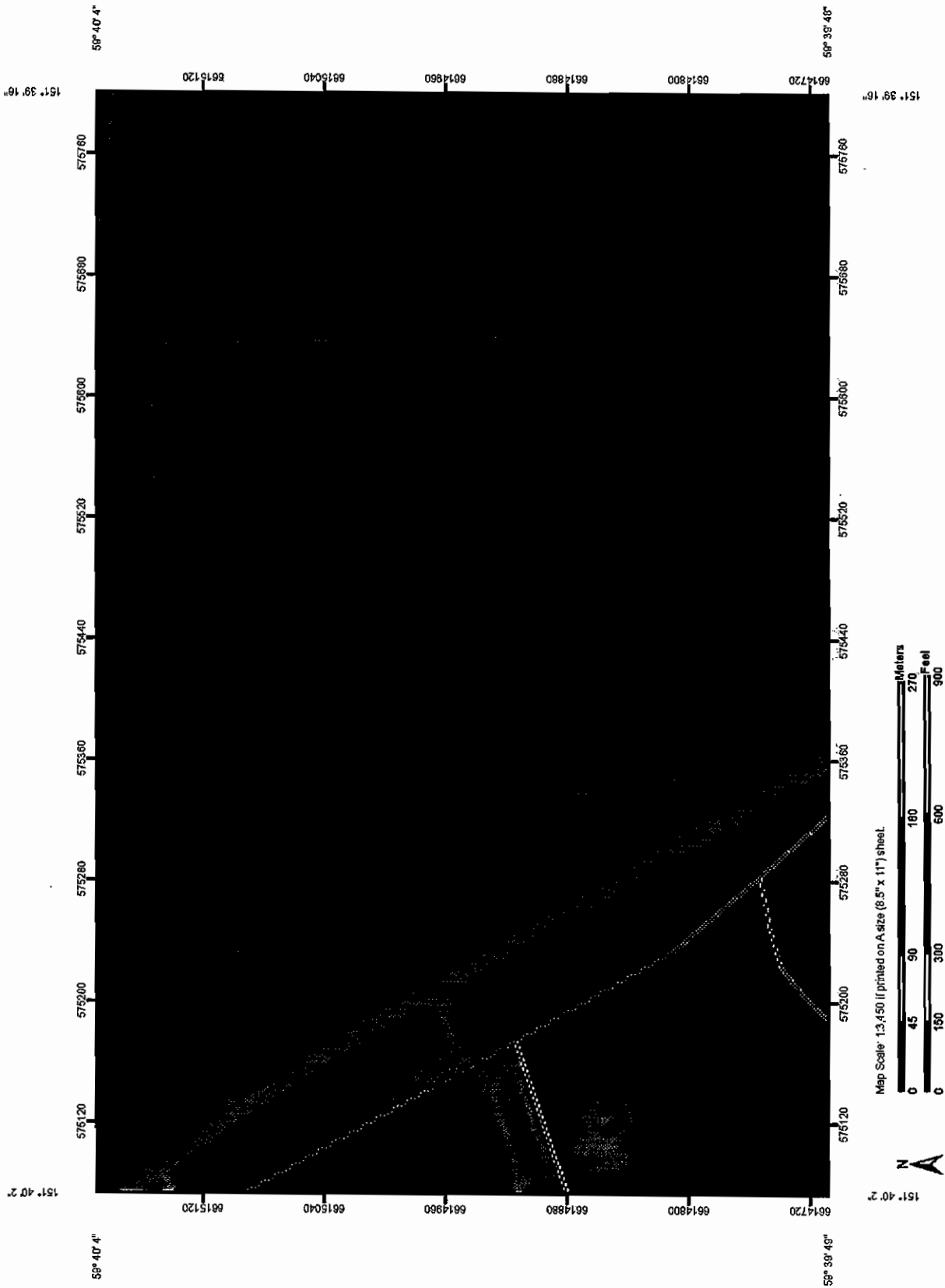
Forest productivity is the volume of wood fiber that is the yield likely to be produced by the most important tree species. This number, expressed as cubic feet per acre per year and calculated at the age of culmination of the mean annual increment (CMAI), indicates the amount of fiber produced in a fully stocked, even-aged, unmanaged stand.

This attribute is actually recorded as three separate values in the database. A low value and a high value indicate the range of this attribute for the soil component. A "representative" value indicates the expected value of this attribute for the component. For this attribute, only the representative value is used.

### Rating Options

Tree: white spruce  
 Site Index Base: Farr 1967 (440)  
 Aggregation Method: Dominant Component  
 Component Percent Cutoff: None Specified  
 Tie-break Rule: Higher

Forest Productivity (Cubic Feet per Acre per Year): white spruce (Farr 1967 (440))—Western Kenai Peninsula Area, Alaska
















Map Scale: 1:3,450 If printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.





## MAP LEGEND

- Area of Interest (AOI)
  -  Area of Interest (AOI)
- Soils
  -  Soil Map Units
- Soil Readings
  -  <= 8
  -  > 8 AND <= 11
  -  > 11 AND <= 14
  -  Not rated or not available
- Political Features
  -  Cities
- Water Features
  -  Streams and Canals
- Transportation
  -  Rails
  -  Interstate Highways
  -  US Routes
  -  Major Roads
  -  Local Roads

## MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:3,450 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.  
 The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:25,000.

**Warning:** Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
 Coordinate System: UTM Zone 5N NAD83

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Date(s) aerial images were photographed: 9/2/1996

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

## Forest Productivity (Cubic Feet per Acre per Year): white spruce (Farr 1967 (440))

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Rating	Area in/Ac	Percent of A/c
538	Coal Creek silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	8.00	3.5	10.0%
541	Cohoe silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	11.00	17.5	51.0%
619	Mulhala silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes	14.00	1.9	5.6%
621	Mulhala silt loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes	14.00	9.2	26.7%
677	Starichkof peat, 0 to 4 percent slopes		2.3	6.7%
Totals for Area of Interest			34.4	100.0%

### Description

Forest productivity is the volume of wood fiber that is the yield likely to be produced by the most important tree species. This number, expressed as cubic feet per acre per year and calculated at the age of culmination of the mean annual increment (CMAI), indicates the amount of fiber produced in a fully stocked, even-aged, unmanaged stand.

This attribute is actually recorded as three separate values in the database. A low value and a high value indicate the range of this attribute for the soil component. A "representative" value indicates the expected value of this attribute for the component. For this attribute, only the representative value is used.

### Rating Options

Tree: white spruce

Site Index Base: Farr 1967 (440)

Aggregation Method: Dominant Component

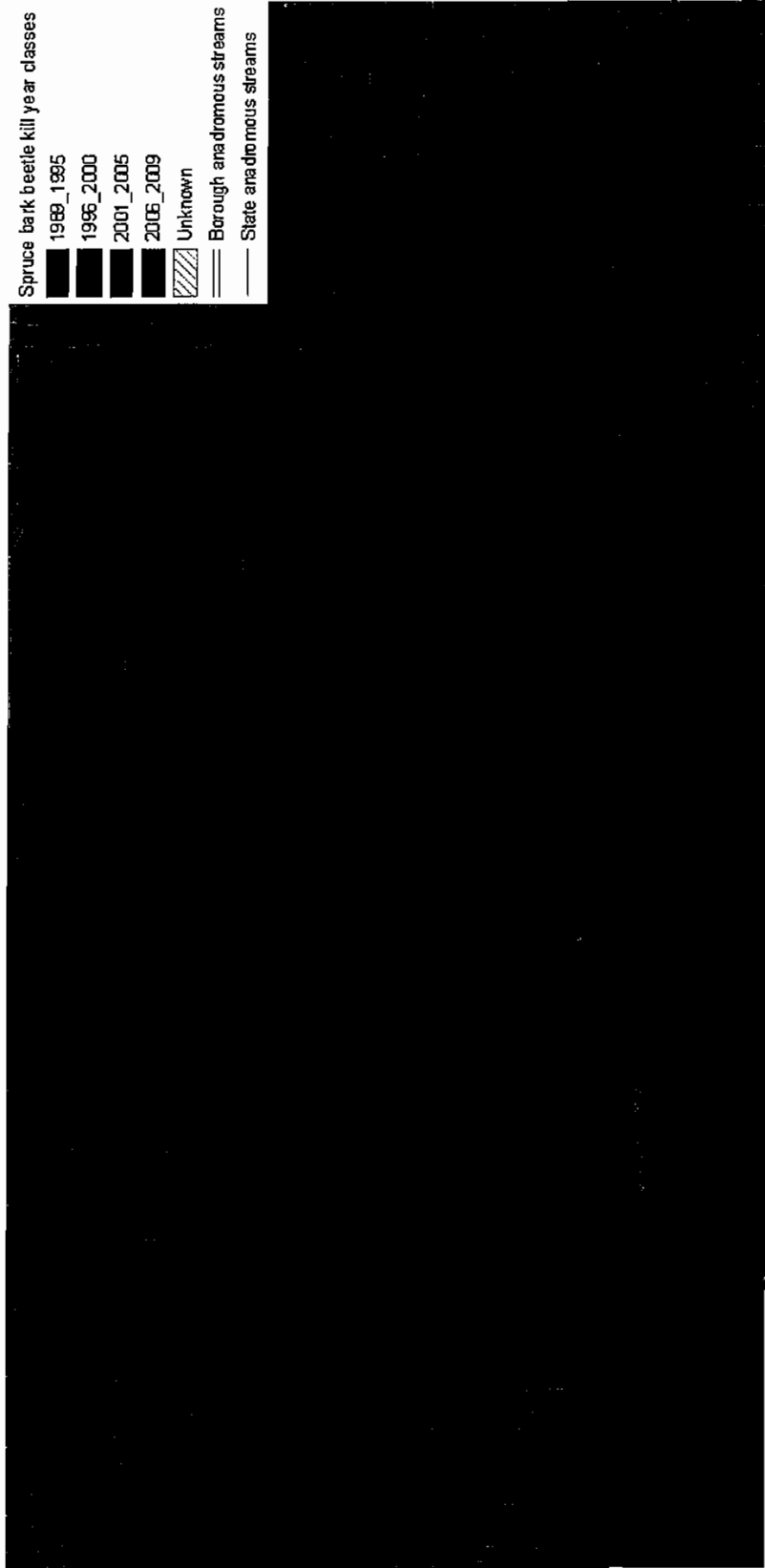
Component Percent Cutoff: None Specified

Tie-break Rule: Higher

Interpret Nulls as Zero: No

# Map 7 – Spruce Bark Beetle Infestation

Legend and Map Courtesy of Kenai Watershed Forum





## Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II  
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



491 E. Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603-7624  
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(907) 235-8121  
Extension: 2227  
Extension: 2224

Fax: (907) 235-3143  
Email: [clerk@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:clerk@ci.homer.ak.us)

## MEMORANDUM

---

**TO:** PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

**FROM:** KAREN HORNADAY PARK COMMITTEE

**THRU:** RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

**DATE:** MARCH 12, 2013

**RE:** RECOMMENDATION TO BAN CONNEXES FROM KAREN HORNADAY PARK AND  
PERFORM THE NEEDED REPAIRS TO THE EXISTING SNACK SHACK USED BY  
LITTLE LEAGUE

---

### Background

A discussion regarding the buildings and storage connexes at Karen Hornaday Park was on the committee's agenda under new business. Following is an excerpt from the synopsis provided by Chair Archibald regarding the recommendation to ban connexes from the park, and repair of the Snack Shack used by the Little League.

*Recommendation to Parks and Recreation Commission:*

*Remove all Connex Type storage Containers from Karen Hornaday Park and ban any further use of Connex type Units.*

*As soon as possible, determine the feasibility of removing the roof of the existing snack shack to facilitate adding additional courses of cinder blocks to provide adequate head room and replace roof. The existing floor area is to be engineered and new design is to be above water table, to be poured cement. This could be accomplished at same time as pavilion replacement.*

### RECOMMENDATION

Make a motion to forward the committee's recommendation to Council.



## Office of the City Clerk

Jo Johnson, CMC, City Clerk

Melissa Jacobsen, CMC, Deputy City Clerk II  
Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I



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Email: [clerk@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:clerk@ci.homer.ak.us)

## MEMORANDUM

---

**TO: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I**  
**DATE: MARCH 13, 2013**  
**RE: MUD BAY TRAIL**

---

### Background

Chair Bremicker asked for this item to be on the agenda for discussion.

### Recommendation

Make a motion to bring to the floor for discussion.





**2013 HOMER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ATTENDANCE**

It is the goal of the Commission to have a member speak regularly to the City Council at council meetings. There is a special place on the council’s agenda specifically for this. After Council approves the consent agenda and any scheduled visitors it is then time for staff reports, commission reports and borough reports. That is when you would stand and be recognized by the Mayor to approach and give a brief report on what the Commission is currently addressing, projects, events, etc. **A commissioner is scheduled to speak and has a choice at which council meeting they will attend. It is only required to attend one meeting during the month that you are assigned.** However, if your schedule permits please feel free to attend both meetings. Remember you cannot be heard if you do not speak.

The following Meeting Dates for City Council for 2013 is as follows:

Commissioner Archibald will attend as needed depending on his work schedule.

January 14, 28 2013	<u>Commissioner Bell</u>	
February 11, 25 2013	<u>Commissioner Lillibridge</u>	
March 11, 25 2013	<u>Commissioner Lowney</u>	
April 8, 22 2013	<u>Commissioner Brann</u>	
May 13, 28 (Tues)	<u>Commissioner Brann</u>	
June 10, 24 2013	<u>Commissioner Lillibridge</u>	
July 22 2013	<u>Commissioner Lowney</u>	
August 12, 26 2013	<u>Commissioner Bell</u>	
September 9, 23 2013	_____	_____
October 14, 28 2013	_____	_____
November 18, 2013	_____	_____
December 9, 2013	_____	_____

Please review and if you will be unable to make the meeting you are tentatively scheduled for please discuss.

PLEASE NOTE: When additional commissioners are appointed the proposed schedule above will reflect those added commissioners.



**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL CALENDAR  
FOR THE 2013 MEETING SCHEDULE**

<b><u>MEETING DATE</u></b>	<b><u>SCHEDULED EVENTS OR AGENDA ITEMS</u></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> FEBRUARY 21, 2013	LAND ALLOCATION PLAN REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
<input type="checkbox"/> MARCH 21, 2013	APPOINT/VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND CITY COUNCIL JOINT WORKSESSION ON LAND ALLOCATION PLAN 2012 3/27/12
<input type="checkbox"/> APRIL 18, 2013	SELECT SPRING PARK &/ OR BEACH WALK THROUGH
<input type="checkbox"/> MAY 16, 2013	PLANNING PARK DAY OR SIMILAR EVENT SPRING PARK AND/OR BEACHES WALK THROUGH
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 20, 2013	COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARK DAY OR SIMILAR EVENT INITIAL BUDGET REVIEW -- WHAT DOES THE COMMISSION WANT?
<input type="checkbox"/> JULY 18, 2013	REVIEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PARK DAY BUDGET TALKS
<input type="checkbox"/> AUGUST 15, 2013	BUDGET REVIEW & RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY MANAGER & CITY COUNCIL
<input type="checkbox"/> SEPTEMBER 19, 2013	FALL PARK WALK THROUGH AND BEACH WALK; ELECTIONS; SELECT KHP CLEAN UP DAY
<input type="checkbox"/> OCTOBER 18, 2013	KAREN HORNADAY PARK CLEAN-UP REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE
<input type="checkbox"/> NOVEMBER 21, 2013	STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW & PLANNING REVIEW OF KAREN HORNADAY MASTER PLAN & PROGRESS
DECEMBER 2013	NO MEETING SCHEDULED HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**STRATEGIC PLAN 2013**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Commission is established to advocate in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and the City Council on the problems and development of parks, recreation facilities and public beaches within the City.

*STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE COMMISSION* – What is the focus for the commission?

**General Goals of the Commission**

- Advocate for obtaining open and green space
- Receive notification of future land disposals with attention to park and recreation needs
- Keep existing green space and public open space
- Preserve areas of natural beauty and access
- Receive notification of vacations of public access
- Receive report on City cemetery maintenance costs, future land use, budget orientation funds, how many plots and where the revenues are applied from plot sales
- Improve Public Outreach for Parks, Recreation and trails opportunities, possibly with a brochure

*STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION* – Must have achievable results, an action statement.

**3-5 Year Projects**

- Advocate for a Parks and Recreation Department
  - Focus on Department Only (separate from community rec center discussion)
  - Talking Points for Commissioners to Speak to Council with Assurance and Confidence
- Plan and Develop Footpaths in the Town Center Area
- Construct a Bike/Pedestrian Path Along Kachemak Drive
- Create a long term plan for a multiuse community facility
- Explore the idea of a Recreational Service Area
- Mariner Park Site Improvements – Level parking Area, delineation of Day Use Area and Camping Area, Define and Improve Campsites and relocate Kiosk, increase number of spaces and revenues

**1-2 Year Projects**

- Develop a Kayak Launch for the Water Trail @ the Pier 1 lot
- Develop and Create a Dog Park
- Diamond Creek Recreational Improvement Plan – Support the plan’s adoption by the City Council.
  - o Next Steps, Trails improvements, Trail head parking lot
- Plan and build Woodard Creek Trail
- Continue work on Karen Hornaday park drainage, the parking lot, and master plan implementation. Immediate goal of completing already funded projects and applying for new funds.
- Increase the city budget for parks and recreation
- Improve pedestrian access to Mariner Park from the Homer Spit Road and the bike path
- Extend the Bike path on Ocean Drive loop to connect to Homer Spit Road (around the bend)
- Create an overall uniform sign design for city parks and recreation areas.
- Review Town Center Plan to Identify Short Term Projects
- Explore what should be done with the HERC building

*ACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION –Who will do what, when and how?*

- Have a committee go to City Council with recommendations, action plan and time frame.
- Every time there is a memo from the Commission to City Council a Commissioner should go to the meeting and speak about it.
- A commissioner should attend every council meeting to speak with council and keep them informed about what they are working on.
- One member of the Commission attend meetings of other user groups – skiing, co-host, etc. Create better working relationship and communication with user groups.
- Educate other city commissions, committees and boards
- Staff to send notice of commission projects

*SHARED ACTIONS STAFF/COMMISSION*

- Focus and monitor the HNMTP implementation
- Research and create best use plans for all parks, with WKFL being the next park.



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Natural Resources**

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1380  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561  
Main: 907.269.8700  
Fax: 907.269.8907

March 7, 2013

Walt Wrede, City Manager  
City of Homer  
491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, AK 99603

Re: Notification of Award  
Land and Water Conservation Fund

Dear Mr. Wrede:

Congratulations! The preliminary application submitted by the City of Homer for a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has been recommended for funding. During this open cycle, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) received five preliminary applications from local entities. One was disqualified due to lack of site control.

On February 27, 2013, the Outdoor Recreation Trails Advisory Board met to discuss and recommend ranking of the applications to the DPOR director, who also serves as the State Liaison Officer for LWCF. The application from the City of Homer, requesting \$75,000 for improvements to Karen Hornaday Park, ranked highest. Only the top three ranking applicants were recommended for full funding of their requests.

As you may know, this is only the first step in the process. We now invite the city to submit a full application, which we combine with required DPOR documents and ultimately submit to the National Park Service for approval. The full application is available on our Website (see below) or I could e-mail you an electronic version, if you prefer. <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm>

We look forward to coordinating with the city to create a successful application for this worthy project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [jean.ayers@alaska.gov](mailto:jean.ayers@alaska.gov) or 269-8694.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jean Ayers in cursive script.  
Jean Ayers  
Grants Administrator







# City of Homer Planning & Zoning

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603-7645

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*Fax* (907) 235-3118  
*E-mail* [Planning@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:Planning@ci.homer.ak.us)  
*Web Site* [www.ci.homer.ak.us](http://www.ci.homer.ak.us)

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## MEMORANDUM 13-

To: Mayor Wythe and Homer City Council  
From: Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician  
Date: March 13, 2013  
RE: Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Land Allocation Recommendations

At the February 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 Regular Park and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting, the Commission made the following recommendations on the Land Allocation Plan.

1. Designation of "Park" for End of the Road Park on page E-35
2. Designate the area currently designated for short term leases as a rest area. (A-6)
3. Designate the parcels described on page C-9 as public recreation
4. Designation of two parcels for a future park on page E-6
5. Designation of Public Recreation for the parcel used for Mariner Park (E-26)

Attachments: Draft Minutes of the February 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes





## B. Land Allocation Plan 2013

Chair Bremicker read the title for the record.

Ms. Engebretsen stated that she would like the Commission to comment on three things

- End of the Road Park, page E-35, or page 205 of the packet is not designated as a park
- Area designated for Short-term Leases across Ramps 3-5 are incompatible with the Proposed Spit Trail
- Any recommendations the commissioners would like to make comments on leasing out any portions of Pier 1 parcels

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve designation of "park" for End of the Road Park

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The motion was approved by consensus of the Commission.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the designation of the area for short term leases and making a recommendation on a preferred designation as a rest area.

LOWNEY/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO DESIGNATE THE AREA CURRENTLY DESIGNATED FOR SHORT TERM LEASES AS A REST AREA.

There was no further discussion.

The motion was approved by consensus of the Commission.

Chair Bremicker asked for recommendations on the Pier 1 parcel. Chair Bremicker did note that he should not vote on this matter since he had a conflict. Staff acknowledged the prior vote on his conflict. Chair Bremicker noted the previous resolutions and then he commented on a proposal he personally submitted regarding the use for this parcel.

Commissioner Archibald requested direction from staff of what action was needed from the commission. He further commented that they previously forwarded recommendations.

There was further discussion on whether they could designate for RFP and could they limit it to non-profits, reiterating the prior recommendations; that it has to fit within the current zoning of marine industrial, the definition of Marine Industrial, attendance by a commissioner at the worksession.

Staff recapped her understanding of what the commissioners wanted; supports the Wooden Boat Society request; and continued use of the property for a campground.

Commissioner Lillibridge confirmed what she was to report at the meeting. Chair Bremicker inquired about the Barge Haul Out.

Staff recommended that stating the commission supports the use as a campground will alleviate a host of issues on other uses for the property. Not discounting other options too.

Commissioner Lowney was concerned about the accommodation for Barge Haul Out in the winter and camping in the summer, she has the same concerns with the placement of the dredge materials. They try to use these sites for recreational and then they are used for industrial and it really doesn't blend. Commissioner Archibald did not want Homer to become a home for wrecking boats but they need to strongly recommend that the whole pier one area stays recreational.

Chair Bremicker asked if this recommendation could be postponed to the next meeting. Staff explained that it would not be timely for Council action.

Commissioner Archibald made the following recommendations:

- Page 145, C-9, designate as Park Land or Public Recreation

A Brief discussion ensued on those parcels and the value of assigning a designation to them.

ARCHIBALD/LOWNEY MOVED TO RECOMMEND DESIGNATING THE PARCELS AS DESCRIBED ON PAGE C-9 AS PUBLIC RECREATION.

There was no further discussion.

The motion was approved by consensus of the Commission.

Commissioner Archibald noted that information hasn't been confirmed.

A brief discussion noted that the City has retained ownership longer than EVOS. Staff explained that designations for this section of land could be conservation (Mud Bay side) and open space recreation.

The commission agreed by consensus to support the staff designation recommendation.

Commissioner Archibald recommended designation of two parcels for a future park on page E-6.

Staff recommended designating two-thirds or two parcels within the area for park land.

The commission agreed by consensus on the Staff recommendation.

Commissioner Lowney requested clarification on the small parcel known as Woodard Park. She did not believe it was still there, and Botts Street has been vacated it is no longer there. Staff explained that there is enough space in Woodard Park that could support a swing set, bench, etc.

Commissioner Lowney then had some questions on the James Sherry Pocket Park. Discussion by staff and Commissioners explained the intent to retain that property, utilities present, possible location for a park bench.

Commissioner Archibald inquired about the Ben Walters Park and ice skating park. Staff was unaware of any information. Commissioner Lowney also commented on Ben Walters Park for a Dog park which would clean it up and maybe eliminate an unsavory reputation.

Commissioner Archibald recommended designation of Public recreation for the parcel used for Mariner Park. There was no opposition to the recommendation.

Commissioners talked about a small parcel along the tideline; page E-34, south from Coal Point Park/Ice Dock Road that is used during the summer by campers. They expressed concern about having long term campers which would negate any other users especially if the Spit Trail is projected along that path. There has been an issue with the easement along there and Public Works is working with the Lessees.



