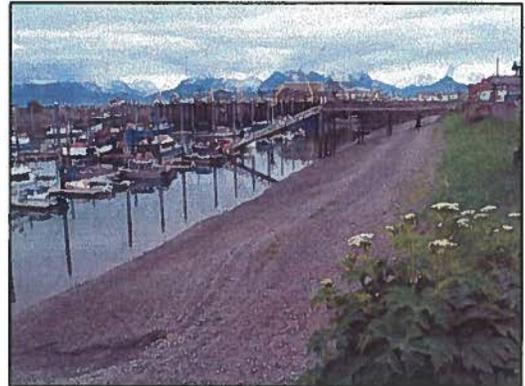


CHAPTER 3 COMMUNITY VALUES

The previous chapter describes the growth and change occurring in Homer and surrounding areas along with the resulting opportunities and challenges facing the community. Chapters 4-8 present goals and strategies to respond to the impact of this growth and change. This chapter presents a general summary of the broad values of the Homer community. This material comes from the 1999 Comprehensive Plan Update and feedback received from the community in the preparation of this plan.

Listed below are qualities of Homer that are strongly valued by residents. The items listed were repeatedly articulated during the comprehensive plan update process.

- Keep Homer a lively, vital community that effectively responds to change and growth while retaining what is best about Homer's character.
- A strong interest in political matters; a desire to guide the future growth and development of Homer
- Appreciation of Homer's spectacular natural setting, its great views, interesting topography, as well as a tradition of concern about the quality of natural resources and the environment
- Support for a diverse economy, including many small, independent home-based businesses
- Desire for ready access to open space, parks, and recreation
- Pride and support for local arts
- Strong commitment to encouraging a wide range of high quality medical and health-promoting services and facilities, both conventional and nontraditional
- Support for the robust network of nonprofit and volunteer organizations giving to the community in many ways
- Interest in lifelong learning and opportunities for access to education
- A strong tradition of commercial fishing and a strong community bond to the marine environment and resources
- Desire for a mix of rural and main-street character – with many residents living on larger parcels with



space between neighbors – coupled with a desire to create a new “heart of Homer” – a lively town center offering the pleasures and conveniences of a thriving downtown.