



Mid-Hillside & Hillside East Community Councils  
401 E. Northern Lights, Ste. 204  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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[www.communitycouncils.org/hillmid.html](http://www.communitycouncils.org/hillmid.html)

## SOCIAL TRAILS STEAM PARK PLANNERS

If you head off for adventure in Bicentennial Park and turn off the established trails to see what is there, you are ruining a park planner's day! Those footsteps you leave may be followed by another, then another and in a few years you have a little skinny trail going who knows where. That is a "social trail." These unplanned trails can develop in ways that create runoff problems and a proliferation of these paths frighten some people.

So imagine the surprise at a meeting of park trail users when park planners introduced a new map of Bicentennial Park trails with a nonexistent trail! The "Wolverine Trail" is clearly marked as a multiple use trail linking Chugach State Park's Prospect Heights Trail head with the Spencer Loop!

So what will happen here? People will get this map and travel out expecting this trail to be there. This is a recipe for plenty of social trails. Alternatively, park developers might hurry to build an identifiable trail to circumvent those social trails. This would presumably dump a multi use trail onto the "ski only" Spencer Loop. That could be a problem in some months.

An irony here is that the map was unveiled at a meeting of a group that presumably exists to create a well planned network of trails in Far North Bicentennial Park!

well and septic location and road wear and tear.

Harder to grab hold of is the "character of the neighborhood." People can oppose a development that is drastically out of character with the neighborhood. The case of this church is a puzzle. It is a huge development compared to the homes along Baronik. But it borders another church on O'Malley. And as we travel O'Malley, it is crowded with churches and related facilities. Looking at it that way, it is a perfect fit.

This church site is just outside our Council's borders so we've left the heavy lifting to the Huffman-O'Malley CC. Not that we won't deal with this kind of issue in the future. When the Council's boundaries changed a few years ago, we inherited from the Abbott Loop CC a similar issue with a church on Carlson Road off Abbott. These problems abound.

This kind of issue will be dealt with when we write the Hillside District Plan. The idea is that a proper plan would let developers know what would be expected so they won't get slammed after taking a few steps. And homeowners will know what they can reasonably expect.

**"DON'T CALL US, WE'LL CALL YOU,"** is the message a group of hillsideers got when we went to the Muni with a plan to jump start the Hillside District Plan a year ago. Well, they've come calling! Case 2005-039 changes Municipal Code by adding a section "Procedure for creating and adopting a neighborhood or district plan."

The main features are a description of who may sponsor a neighborhood or district plan, the process by which such a plan shall be created, reviews and adopted and the form and content of the plan. You can take a look at it at [www.muni.org/zoning/index.cfm](http://www.muni.org/zoning/index.cfm). Hit the Cases Online link and type in the case number.

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on this on April 4.

This hit about the time Planning Director **Tom Nelson** announced that **Joanne Contreras** will be lead planner for the HDP. The bulk of the \$100k budgeted will cover just a work plan. A first step will be to define "Rural," then define a "Level Of Services" needed for a Rural area.

**Our next meeting is Thursday March 17 at 7:00 pm  
at O'Malley Elementary School.**