



Rabbit Creek Community Council <rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com>

A few additional comments from Rabbit Creek Community Council on the HLB Annual Work Program for 2022

1 message

Rabbit Creek Community Council <rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com> Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 9:14 PM
To: Heritage Land Bank <www.hlb@muni.org>, "Rowton, Shelley A." <shelley.rowton@anchorageak.gov>
Cc: dianne.rccc@gmail.com, "Pease, Nancy" <nancypease2@gmail.com>, michelle.turner.rccc@gmail.com

Dear Heritage Land Bank Commissioners and Ms. Rowton -

As you know, the Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) regularly reviews and comments on the Heritage Land Bank's (HLB) annual work program and 5-year management plans, as numerous HLB parcels are within our Council area; other parcels are regularly accessed by Council members. RCCC provided comments, December 22, 2021, on HLB's Draft 2022 Annual Work Program (attached for easy reference), and has now reviewed the slightly updated work program for 2022. Following are a few additional comments which were discussed and approved at the RCCC meeting, March 10, 2022. Also, our March 23rd email to update you on our "Schools on Trails" program which could eventually involve HLB parcel 2-126, follows this one, as another point pertinent to the 2022 Draft Work Program.

Regarding parcel #2-144A-D, we urge HLB to consult with the Municipality's Planning Department because we believe the rezone was completed accurately. The parcels designated for open space and park should be so dedicated. If HLB can initiate that action, the RCCC will be happy to provide our support.

If parcel #2-146 is to be rezoned, RCCC urges coordination for access with the Mental Health Trust Authority whose property sits between parcels 2-144 and 2-146. Access would not only open up land for development but it would come closer to Chugach State Park which lacks sufficient public access. With the support of our State Representative Kaufman, RCCC has been advocating for increased access for Chugach State Park in a CAPSIS proposal that has been submitted to the State Senate Finance Committee.

A transfer of in-holding #2-124C (MOA Communications) to the Municipality's Real Estate Services program is logical, if it will reduce redundancy among programs. Of concern, however, is that the road leading to the in-holding should remain public per the original easement. While a gate helps reduce trespassing and vandalism, the lower (southern) portion that abuts Clark's Road, comprising a few hundred feet, is important to the Section 36 Park Master Plan as a potential trail head for the portion on the far northern side of the park.

Thank you for your attention to these additional comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Ann Rappoport, Co-chair

Rabbit Creek Community Council
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Ste. 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rabbit Creek Community Council** <rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 23, 2022 at 2:12 PM
Subject: Wanted to update you on a RCCC initiative - Schools on Trails - with bearing on HLB parcel 2-126!
To: Rowton, Shelley A. <shelley.rowton@anchorageak.gov>
Cc: Pease, Nancy <nancypease2@gmail.com>, <michelle.turner.rccc@gmail.com>, <dianne.rccc@gmail.com>

Hi Shelley -

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) notes that the Heritage Land Bank (HLB) Advisory Commission has scheduled a work session for March 24th. RCCC would like to ensure that the Commission has information regarding a RCCC neighborhood connectivity project, Schools on Trails, that will involve HLB-managed land Parcel 2-126 within Section 36. RCCC has been working on Schools on Trails for several years, and we are aiming for trail construction in 2023. Therefore, we want to make sure HLB is aware of this effort, and ideally, can add this in addressing Parcel 2-126 in the 2022 Annual Work Program and the associated 5-year Plan. This project is currently encompassed within the 'Hidden Treasures - Stranded Pedestrian Easements' CAPSIS proposal submitted by our State Legislators, Representative Kaufman and Senator Holland. The RCCC has also submitted proposals to advance this project via both the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, and the Anchorage Park Foundation's Community Challenge Grant program. We hope that you can introduce this project to the Advisory Commission at their March 24th Work Session as described below. We expect to provide more detailed comments on the revised, February 15th, 2022 Work Plan in time for the April HLB hearing.

Under Chapter 3, 2022 Potential Disposals, Exchanges & Transfers, we request the following addition:

Parcel 2-126

2022 Work Program. Initiate the process for issuing non-motorized trail easements for non-motorized connectivity as part of the Schools on Trails project initiated by Rabbit Creek Community Council. Work to identify the location for a replacement pedestrian bridge over Little Rabbit Creek.

2022-2026 Work Plan. Issue trail easements for non-motorized soft-surface pathways and a replacement pedestrian bridge that will connect schools and neighborhoods. The construction of the trails and bridge through a community initiative will remedy a safety hazard, mitigate damage from social trails, and achieve connectivity to schools and neighborhoods.

Background for this request regarding Parcel 2-126:

Rabbit Creek Community Council has been working since 2020 on a project called Schools on Trails: to construct a greenway trail connecting Bear Valley Elementary School and Goldenview Middle School to neighborhoods and parks. The intent is to relocate existing social trails into platted easements, including potential new trail easements across the southwest corner of Section 36 Park (HLB Parcel 2-126). HLB will benefit from this Schools on Trails project because trail improvements are needed to mitigate current resource damage from social trails on Parcel 2-126. In addition, the Schools on Trails project proposes to replace an unsafe pedestrian bridge across a branch of Little Rabbit Creek.

Rabbit Creek Community Council is actively soliciting technical and agency collaboration, with a goal of trail and bridge construction in 2023. Recently, RCCC has applied for: (1) technical planning assistance from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program of the National Park Service, and (2) funding through the Community Challenge Grant program of the Anchorage Park Foundation. Letters of support for this project have been received from Goldenview Middle School (Physical Education teacher, coach, and Parent-Teacher-Student Organization), Bear Valley Elementary School Community Association, a local subdivision developer, and numerous neighbors. RCCC has asked municipal agencies to define the process for activating undeveloped pedestrian easements. RCCC is herein also asking HLB to include the analysis and approval of trail easements and a bridge in Section 2-126 in the HLB 2022 and 2023 work programs.

A location map for the Schools on Trails Project is attached.

If you have any questions or are interested in seeing any of our Schools on Trails proposals for more project details, please contact:

Ann Rappoport, RCCC Co-Chair, rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com

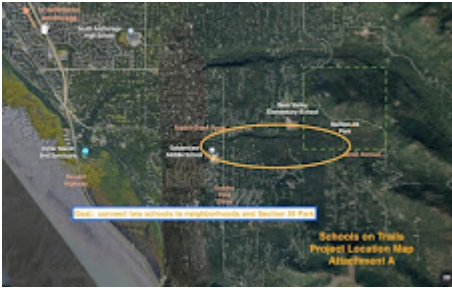
Nancy Pease, RCCC Land Use and Transportation Committee Co-chair, nancypease2@gmail.com

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2 attachments

A - Schools on Trails_Project Location Map.jpeg
122K



 **2021-21 RCCC Comments Draft HLB 2022 Annual Work Program.pdf**
3438K