



Rabbit Creek Community Council <rabbitcreekcc@gmail.com>

Requesting your support for the Oceanview Bluff to Potter Marsh trail - when there is a funding opportunity

1 message

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Thu, Apr 6, 2023 at 3:04 PM

To: Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov, Senator.Bill.Wielechowski@akleg.gov, Representative.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov, representative.laddie.shaw@akleg.gov, senator.gary.stevens@akleg.gov, representative.cathy.tilton@akleg.gov, representative.dan.saddler@akleg.gov, representative.calvin.schrage@akleg.gov

Cc: Beth@anchorageparkfoundation.org, Ann Rappoport <annr.rccc@gmail.com>, JOHN RILEY <johnr.rccc@gmail.com>, "Sulte, Randy" <randy.sulte@anchorageak.gov>, Suzanne LaFrance <suzanne.lafrance@anchorageak.gov>

Dear Legislators:

We realize that the state is currently in the red so the opportunity to add projects to the capital budget does not exist, when we are struggling to fund basic essential services like education and ensuring all Alaskans have enough food to eat and access to health care.

However we would like to speak in favor of a project that has been presented to the Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) and submitted in the CAPSIS: TPS Number 66547, "Connect Oceanview Bluff Park to Potter Marsh" (attached). RCCC members voted to support this trail project at our March 9th, 2023, meeting with a vote of 21 ayes, 1 nay, and 2 abstentions.

Should federal or other grant funds become available, this would be an excellent project, allowing an important 'urban braid' segment for the Alaska Long Trail to be undertaken. The Alaska Long Trail promises to be a superb connection of existing trails and trail additions through our state from Seward to Fairbanks, resulting in world class recreation opportunities for Alaskans, and an economic boon to the state as a unique short or long adventure for visitors. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is currently in the midst of designing the Safer Seward Highway project, Milepost 118 (the northern end of Potter Marsh and one end of the Oceanview Bluff project) to MP 98.5. That project is to include a pedestrian/bike path, thus making the Oceanview Bluff Park to Potter Marsh the next logical step to fully connect Anchorage to Girdwood.

We recognize that some Oceanview neighbors and others have spoken in opposition to this project. Concerns about neighbors' privacy, parking, sanitation, and maintaining the integrity of the wildlife resources and the adjacent Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge are valid. However, we believe these can and should be addressed during the actual planning and route selection for this project which is in the very earliest stages. Project design should include siting, timing, and other measures to eliminate or minimize disturbances or habitat degradation to the important wildlife and scenic resources of the adjacent Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.

Thank you for your consideration of how this project may fit future funding opportunities.

Sincerely,
Ann Rappoport & John Riley, Co-chairs

Rabbit Creek Community Council
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