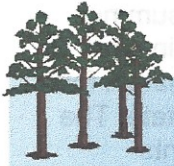
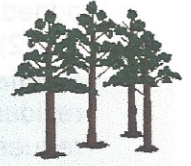


Correspondence



RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC)

A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100 / Anchorage, AK 99503

Senator Click Bishop, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
and other members of the
Senate Finance Committee

Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chair
Representative Kelly Merrick, Co-Chair
and other members of the
House Finance Committee

March 28, 2022

Dear Honorable Legislative Members:

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) has worked closely with our Legislative delegation, Representative Kaufman and Senator Holland, to submit and endorse a number of CAPSIS proposals for your consideration. The purpose of this letter is to highlight three of those submissions involving projects for which the RCCC has been advocating for a number of years:

1) Chugach State Park Access: This has ranked as one of the RCCC and other Community Councils highest priority capital funding proposals for several years. We've all seen, and been frustrated by, overflowing parking lots at the existing limited access points for Chugach State Park's world-class trails and accessible observation points, areas used by everyone in the Anchorage area, resident and visitor alike. The current FY23 CAPSIS request is for \$400,000; we respectfully request that the entire \$2.6 million project be funded in FY23. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources has a conceptual design for a midsized parking lot (50-75 vehicles, priced at \$2.4 million in 2021), location to be determined, along with small improvements at several existing trailheads. These improvements are critical to maintaining and expanding access to state parks.

Not only does this project benefit the residents of many Community Councils across the Hillside with borders along Chugach State Park, it will also benefit everyone across Anchorage, throughout Alaska, and hundreds of thousands of visitors. Visitors to Anchorage support many businesses and are major contributors to our local and state economies; trailhead improvements would provide additional reasons for them to extend their visits, increasing their contributions.

2) Disaster Evacuation Routes and Fire Prevention/Mitigation for the Anchorage Hillside: These two Resilience/Firewise proposals are also supported by Community Councils across Anchorage's Hillside, as well as the RCCC. Evacuation routes were identified as a priority community need in the 2010 Hillside District Plan. The McHugh Creek fire showed us how the need for these connections is long overdue and the recent avalanche stranding ~100 homes along Hiland Road reinforces the need for disaster preparedness. The requested \$250,000 will support planning and low-cost egress options for wildfire and other potential disasters, with additional funds later needed to fully satisfy this need. Another \$200,000 will address forest health on parklands, providing additional fire prevention and mitigation.

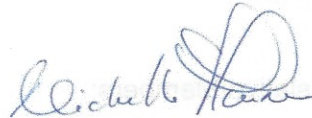
3) South Potter Marsh pullout amenities and improvements: This \$780,251 request would be added to a project that is already funded (\$1.7 million) and slated for construction this summer (2022) but where increased supply costs and changes in match requirements resulted in this shortfall. Potter Marsh within the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge is a popular destination for residents across Anchorage, as well as those from around Alaska, and visitors to our state. The requested funds would ensure essential health facilities (toilets) and safety improvements (pedestrian crossings including for kids accessing their school bus, boardwalk, parking) are not cut from the existing project.

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

Sincerely,



Ann Rappoport, Co-chair



Michelle Turner, Co-chair

cc: John Weddleton, Anchorage Assembly
Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly
Representative James Kaufman
Senator Roger Holland
Senator Josh Revak
Representative Laddie Shaw
Representative Calvin Schrage