

Correspondence



RABBIT CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL (RCCC) A Forum for Respectful Communication & Community Relations



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

January 19, 2023

Dear Anchorage Assembly Members –

The Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) has advocated for improved access to Chugach State Park for some time, e.g., in CAPSIS proposals with the Legislature last year, and repeatedly in our responses to the Municipality's annual Capital Improvement Program survey. Therefore, we were pleased to learn of the Assembly's Memorandum of January 10, 2023, and accompanying proposed ordinance, to create an Anchorage Bowl Chugach State Park Access Service Area (ABCSPASA).

As the number of visitors to Chugach State Park (CSP) continues to increase, the wear and tear from increased traffic on access roads maintained by local and rural road service areas has become unsustainable for those areas' members to support. Nor is it fair for small numbers of local residents to solely maintain roads used by so many others, both Anchorage residents and tourism industry visitors who are a valuable part of both Anchorage and state economies.

The proposed ordinance would not levy any taxes, rather it would create a new service area, ABCSPASA, providing the opportunity for all voters in the Anchorage Municipality (exclusive of Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Girdwood, and Turnagain Arm) to subsequently vote on bond propositions to maintain and improve CSP access roads, trailheads, and parking. If such a bond proposition is approved, then taxes could be levied on all residents within this new service area, and spent for a specific project(s), in conjunction with potential federal and state grants which would likely not otherwise be available. Additionally, this proposal would implement Policy 14-C from the adopted 2010 Hillside District Plan.

At our January 12, 2023, monthly meeting, RCCC members voted to support passage of the approved ordinance by a vote of 14 yeas, 3 nays, and 1 abstention. We also request that the Assembly gather additional information on the advisability of including the Turnagain Arm communities of Rainbow, Indian, and Bird – IF THOSE COMMUNITIES CONCUR – due to the similarly increasing uses at trailheads and parking for CSP in their communities.

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport, Co-Chair

John Riley, Co-chair

cc: Ben Corwin, Superintendent, CSP
Cathy Giessel, State Senator
Michael Packard, President, Turnagain Arm CC
Meredith Gutierrez, Vice-President, Turnagain Arm CC

Ricky Gease, Director, Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Laddie Shaw, State Representative