

Birchwood Community Council
P.O. Box 670984, Chugiak, AK 99567-0984
birchwoodcouncil@gmail.com

RESOLUTION AO 2011-70
BEACH LAKE REGIONAL MASTER PLAN
#2023-03-02 (Version 2)

Whereas, Birchwood Community Council supports the 2011 updated Beach Lake Regional Master Plan AO 2011-70

Whereas, the mushing trails in Beach Lake Park are the only seasonally “dedicated” safe trail system for dog mushers in the Municipality of Anchorage. Because of the loss of trails, the Beach Lake Master Plan which protects the mushing trails, has to specifically be followed.

Whereas, the Chugiak Eagle River Parks and Recreation Department is considering permitting and constructing a seasonal multi-use trail that will intersect the dedicated mushing trails to allow access to Cook Inlet.

Whereas, the Chugiak Eagle River Parks and Recreation Department acknowledges that this seasonal trail has the potential to interfere with the permitted use of the designated mushing trails, that the non-permitted use of the mushing trails is already occurring and due to lack of funding the grade separated trail is unlikely to be built in the next few years.

Therefore, Birchwood Community Council strongly requests that the Chugiak Eagle River Parks and Recreation Department pursue funding for the grade separated trail as planned in the Beach Lake Regional Master Plan. Dog mushing trails need to be kept separate from incompatible use trails to keep all parties safe through grade-separated trails and signage, as well as any proposed changes need to follow a full public process. While Birchwood Community Council supports the initial construction of the seasonal multi-use trails for the study of future year-round use, the Chugiak Eagle River Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to set aside funding for the build out of the grade separated trail as soon as possible as approved and put into law by the assembly, and which is clearly described in the Beach Lake Regional Master Plan.

2022-2023 board: Debbie Ossiander, Co-Chair, CERAB Chair, Matt Cruickshank, Co-Chair, Road Board Rep, Carol Perkins, FCC, Barbara Trost, Parks and Rec rep, Patty Friend, Member at Large, Val Jokela, Secretary-Treasurer