

Proposed Support for the Potter Marsh Watershed Park

Potter Marsh:

- only feature of RCCC that all Anchorage/visitors know and appreciate;
- RCCC has voiced support for Potter Marsh/adjacent watersheds for over 25 years, and for adjacent compatible recreation opportunities.

Proposed Potter Marsh Watershed Park:

- 300 contiguous undeveloped acres - east of Potter Marsh at the south end, from Old Seward Highway uphill to Golden View Dr., with Potter Creek at the south edge.
- Critical watershed protection for Potter Marsh - sloping with wetlands, small streams providing over half the water for the south part of Potter Marsh.
- Only large undeveloped habitat connecting our coastal area to mid-Hillside.
- 100 ac Heritage Land Bank recommended for permanent conservation/open space.
- 200 acres private previously proposed for developments opposed by neighbors and RCCC; none achieved due to too many cost-prohibitive development constraints.

Great Land Trust is working to create Potter Marsh Watershed Park:

- GLT has acquired \$2.6 million federal grants, \$60 K local donations, further grants pending to purchase the 200-ac private parcel from willing seller.
- Park proposed to include ~3 miles non-motorized trails.
- GLT proven record of combining conservation and recreation values across southcentral Alaska. Anchorage projects include: Campbell Creek Estuary Park, Tanglewood Park, Klatt Bog wetlands, Little Campbell Creek Greenbelt, and projects providing access to Near Point and Rabbit Lake in Chugach State Park.
- Area has existing informal trails well-used for many years: gasoline from Potter Valley Road to the north side of it and Moen Homestead trail from Goldenview Drive to the west.
- Final trails/design through Muni Parks Dept. Park Master Plan with community input.

Questions/concerns – answers/potential remedies:

Fire breaks: few spruce trees, open meadows, with stand-alone mature trees, it has characteristics of a firebreak, which would not work in dangerous scenario of fire from SE

Fire egress: HDP special study area for possible E/W collector from Golden View for senior condominium development proposed then, with qualifiers:

- Creation of road/trail routes would hinge upon pace/location of future development.
- Routes need not be constructed in exact locations depicted on HDP map.

Without senior condos or other homes, is a connector road worth the cost and disruption?
LUTC looked at alternative routes for emergency egress, likely at lower cost.

Most entrapped neighborhoods: Potter Valley and Bear Valley – not helped by access here.

Most critical connection for Potter Valley:

- Improve Golden View Drive to Potter Valley Road connection: Bulgaria-Portugal-Finland
- Resilience Committee/Jen Schmidt's work for more info

For Golden View area, upgrade, manage, sign existing routes:

- E/W from Bettjean and East 164th , connect into Virgo to Tideview to Old Seward
- Bridgeview connections to South Park Bluff Road and Old Seward
- New/future connections E of Golden View to Mountain Air Drive; then Hillside/Rabbit Ck

Trail development:

- Existing informal trail network used for over 25 years
- Public participation trail design/management via development of Park Master Plan through Muni Parks and Recreation Department

Need for recreation access:

- South of O'Malley Road lack of developed trails/roadside pathways
- RCCC residents walk in roadways (dangerous) or they drive to Hillside/Kincaid

Parking and road maintenance to minimize neighborhood impacts:

- Existing parking areas at South Potter Marsh and Moen Park on Golden View Drive
- Neighborhood connection points are not slated for parking

Next Steps:

- Propose letter of support from Rabbit Creek Community Council for this Park.