

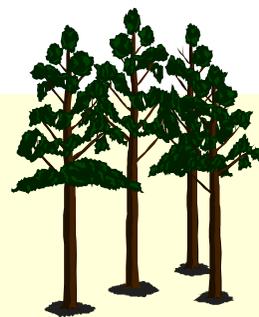
Rabbit Creek Community Council

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

<http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/27.html>

Rabbit Creek Community Council * P.O. Box 112354 * Anchorage, AK 99511-2354

CONTACT Mike Kenney, Chair 345-8046, mkenny@attalascouncil.net



Comments from the Chair:

Another reminder last week, that natural events are likely to trigger the ever useful Alaskan traits of resourcefulness and patience, without much notice. A trip to the auto parts shop and to the hosiery counter moved to the front burner. **The Anchorage Emergency Conditions Information Line is at 343-7401 & The Anchorage Municipality air quality hotline is 907-343-4899.**

Your Council made comments to the Heritage Land Bank on their 2010-2014 Management Plan. There were some open space parcels adjoining Legacy Pointe that were listed for possible sale; the 12 acres that were to be traded to the Mental Health Trust for a possible school site should be listed once again in the HLB open space parcel. We added clarification on three parcels in the south portion of Potter Valley, especially in regards to access to Chugach State Park.

We commented in favor of the Moen platting case.

Other items of possible interest:

- If you are a biking enthusiast and have ideas of improving the experience and connectivity in our end of town, you'll want to be attending our RCCC meeting Thursday, April 9th. Public Review ends April 30th. Or call Mike at 345-8046.
- Three web sites for emergency preparedness:
 - www.muni.org/oem
 - www.ak-prepared.com
 - www.ready.gov
- Education/Training
 - Septic System class(free); 5-9pm, April 29, UAA, 786.6341
 - HAM Radio class (free); 6-9pm, 4/06 to 4/29, 343.1402
 - Trash to Cash-Recycling Business Development Forum, past but information may be available at 632-6382
 - Public Involvement Training (\$1650 for full suite); This course offers an IAP certificate. Scheduled for May 4 thru 8, 8:30 am-4:30pm. Courses may be taken individually, 561-5700.
- Public participation and input on the 5-year Parks Strategic Action Plan for our district will be April 1, at Spring Hill Elementary School. Of course the chances are that it will have taken place by the time you read this, so perhaps a call to 343.4586 will yield some information.
- The youth employment in Parks program has applications available, call 350.9482 for details.

Those little volcanic particulates can cause big problems. Be careful....

Be Well,

Mike Kenney

Chair, Rabbit Creek Community Council

Draft Agenda for Thursday, Apr. 9, 2009 Community Council Meeting Goldenview Middle School

- ❖ Call to order, introduction – Please sign in and indicate if you would like to receive e-mails from the Federation of Community Councils
- ❖ Approval of previous minutes
- ❖ Treasurer's Report
- ❖ Announcements & Comments from the floor
- Legislative Reports
 - ❖ State Legislators
 - ❖ Assembly members
- Guest Speakers (tentative)
 - ❖ Heritage Land Bank
 - ❖ Bear Valley Community Council
- Ongoing Business (there may be no new information)
 - ❖ Legacy Pointe-updates if available
 - ❖ Hillside District Plan – updates if available
 - ❖ Title 21 – status of zoning code changes
- New Business
 - ❖ Capital Improvement Projects discussion
 - ❖ Bike Plan_AMATS
 - ❖ Lions Club Tax Exempt Status
 - ❖ Adopt-a- Park (Storck) with Bear Valley Community Council
 - ❖ Bubble Barn issue
 - ❖ Strategies to acquire missing pieces of RCCC area greenbelt and trail systems
- Reports
 - ❖ Neighborhood Association reports
 - ❖ Federation of Community Council (FCC) report
 - ❖ Limited Road Service Area (LRSA) reports

9:00 pm Adjourn

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. If enough registered members attend to make the required quorum, the meeting will be a General Meeting. Otherwise, a Board Meeting is called. A quorum is 20% of membership.

2009 Membership Form

Return to: Rabbit Creek Community Council, PO Box 112354, Anchorage, AK 99511

Dues (circle one): \$3 /person or \$5 /couple

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Location of property or rental within RC area _____

E-mail _____

To receive the newsletter, circle the preferred format: **e-mail, U.S. Postage, none**

Note: E-mail reduces paper use and saves your community council money

E-Mail Only: Check if you wish to receive other notices from Municipality of Anchorage

Rabbit Creek Community Council

2009 BOARD

Chair: Mike Kenny 345-8046

Vice Chair: Joan Diamond 345-6192

Secretary: Dick Tremaine

Treasurer: Patty Rothwell

Other Board Members

Mike Edelmann

Keith Guyer

John Isby

Mark Schimscheiner

Ramona Schimscheiner

Mark Slaughter

David Sterling

Please visit our website for maps and hot topics information at <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/27.html>

Bike Summit, Calling All Bicycling Enthusiasts

Bicycle Commuters of Anchorage, the State's Safe Routes to Schools Program, the Alaska Injury Prevention Center, Off the Chain and several others are hosting the 2009 Alaska Bike Summit from April 23rd to the 25th. We have pulled together experts from across the country as well as here in Alaska to discuss what cities are doing to become more bicycle friendly. This is the first statewide Bike Summit since 2001.

The Bike Summit aims to bring together bicycle advocates, planners, transportation staff, and anyone interested in bicycle transportation issues to learn about ongoing successful efforts across the United States as well as share ideas and experiences here in Alaska. We also hope to build strong relationships to further support the Alaska Bicycling Community.

If you are interested in attending the first two days of the Bike Summit, which are a part of the Annual Alaska Recreation & Parks Association Conference you can find more information and the conference registration at http://www.alaskarpa.org/?page_id=74. The third day of the Summit is free and open to the public and no pre-registration is necessary.

The Conference/Bike Summit will be held in Anchorage at the Hilton Hotel downtown April 23-25th, 2009. Hotel Information can either be found on the conference page or the Hilton Hotel Anchorage Website:

http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/ANCAHHF-Hilton-Anchorage-Alaska/index.do

Heritage Work Plan Would Short Change Southeast Anchorage

The city owns many parcels of land in our area and the Heritage Land Bank (HLB) manages them. These parcels have been designated for a variety of uses from residential, open space, Potter Marsh protection, to road access. Citizens helped categorize these land uses in the late 1990s through an ordinance (AO99-144) called the Potter Valley Land Use Analysis (PVLUA).

The HLB is bound to honor these land use designations in their plans for disposal including their Five-Year Work Plan, which is currently being revised. The Council found out that the HLB draft Work Plan is not following the conditions of the PVLUA.

Parcels south of Potter Creek that will be offered for sale do not include prior conditions for open space and public trail access. Nor is it acknowledged that there should be an agreement between HLB and the Mental Health Trust for public access through certain parcels in order to ensure access to Chugach State Park—something of interest to citizens across the city.

Other omissions in the HLB Work Plan involve incorrect designations and conditions for lands west of Legacy Pointe (the potential site for senior housing) along the bluff of Potter Marsh. Some of these parcels were to go to DOT and ADF&GF for protection of the marsh, while others—designated for open space—have not been transferred to the city Parks Department.

The Council brought these deficiencies before the membership for a vote in March and subsequently submitted comments to the HLB. Other issues with the HLB Work Plan include: 1. ignoring good business practices by offering lands for sale when the market is not right; 2. ignoring goals of our 2020 Comprehensive Plan by selling lands that put pressure on politicians for new infrastructure and services rather than striving for efficient infill and redevelopment; 3. ignoring the need to keep land to trade for missing greenbelt segments, public facilities, and other identified needs in our city's adopted plans.

Please be alert to the opportunity to testify before the Assembly in the near future when the HBL Work Plan comes before them.

Internet links: www.muni.org/iceimages/hlb/DRAFT.2009.Chapter.4.pdf and
www.muni.org/iceimages/hlb/2009.Appendix.A.pdf

Contact Rabbit Creek Community Council

e-mail: RabbitCreekCC@gmail.com

mail: P.O. Box 112354, Anchorage, 99511-2354

Assembly members for Rabbit Creek

Jennifer Johnston, 346-1087, jjohnston@gci.net

Chris Birch, 346-3265, chrisbirch@gci.net

State Legislature

Con Bunde, 800-892-4843;

Senator.Con.Bunde@legis.state.ak.us

Rep. Michael C. Hawker, 800-478-4950,

Rep.Mike.Hawker@legis.state.ak.us

Road Service Area Maintenance

South Goldenview RRSA

Marcia Hansen, 677-6947

Birchtree/Elmore LRSA

Ed Bosco, 345-4530

**For information on
municipal planning issues, go to
munimaps.muni.org/planning/home3.htm,
or call 343-7943 (Zoning), or
343-7942 (Platting).**

Creek Cleanup, May 9th

Join Anchorage Waterways Council and hundreds of volunteers for the Creek Cleanup on Saturday Morning, May 9th. Here's a great opportunity for individuals and teams to pitch in with a few morning hours to restore fish and wildlife habitat around the Anchorage creeks, clean things up and create a fresh start for summer. With over 17 volunteer stations throughout the Municipality, there's a location in every neighborhood (Little Rabbit Creek included). The cleanup ends at noon with a festive, free and fun BBQ celebration at Valley of the Moon park with great prizes, trash awards, music and games for kids. Email creekcleanup@anchoragecreeks.org to sign up or for more information.

Volunteers are needed to be a "Creek Honcho", which entails picking up supplies in advance and being stationed at a local park for the morning to meet and greet volunteers. Teams and

individuals are needed to stop by the stations between 9-noon to get gloves, bags and instructions for cleaning. Prizes are awarded for trash that wins awards in a number of categories including the strangest, well traveled colorful and funniest trash. The Celebration at the Valley of the Moon Park between 12-3pm is always a highlight- with expanded program activities this year!

Anchorage Waterways Council has been orchestrating this event for 25 years, providing an opportunity to Anchorage residents to steward the important natural resources in the community. AWC monitors and advocates for creeks in Anchorage. See www.anchoragecreeks.org for more information about Creek Cleanup and Anchorage Waterways Council or call 272-7335.

Every Day is Tag Day

Without a voice, and without a tag, your pet may never find his way home

Go to the Animal Care and Control Center at 4711 Elmore Road or your local veterinary clinic to license your pet. Call 343-8122 for more information.

Anchorage Animal Care and Control Center (AACCC) does everything it can to reunite lost pets with their owners. But when the pets aren't wearing tags or identification, they may never get home.

On April 4, AACCC will join the American Humane Association in celebrating "Every Day Is Tag Day"™. Tag Day encourages all pet owners to tag or microchip their companion animals. Pet care is more than providing food, water and shelter. Pet care also includes tagging your pet.

According to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, about 1 million dogs and half a million cats are taken into U.S. animal shelters as strays each year. Sadly, only 15 percent of those dogs and 2 percent of those cats are reunited with their owners. Why? Their owners failed to put identification on their animals. Even the most responsible pet owners can be accidentally or unexpectedly separated from their pets.

The Municipality of Anchorage requires all dogs and cats to be bearing identification when off private property and have current rabies vaccinations. Dogs also are required to have a current license. Municipal dog licenses are available at AACCC, as well as many local veterinary clinics, and can be purchased for one, two or three years.

Do your part to reduce the number of stray animals entering the Anchorage Animal Care & Control Center by keeping a tag on your pet!

Comments on the Anchorage Draft Bicycle Plan Due by April 30, 2009 – Does it Work for Rabbit Creek?

Anyone who uses bikes in the Rabbit Creek area should take a look at the Anchorage Bike Plan and see if trail connections are made that help commuters safely bike from Rabbit Creek to other parts of town.

The Public Review Draft of the Anchorage Bicycle Plan, March 2009 is available now. You can download the Public Review Draft of the Anchorage Bicycle Plan, March 2009 at http://www.muni.org/iceimages/transplan/Anchorage%20Bicycle%20Plan_Public%20Review%20Draft_March%202009.pdf

Download the Anchorage Bicycle Network Map at <http://www.muni.org/iceimages/transplan/ACF6F.pdf>

Comments will be accepted through April 30, 2009 at bikes@muni.org. Or contact Lori Schanche, Non-Motorized Transportation Coordinator, (907)343-8368 or e-mail schanchele@muni.org.

Act Locally — Storck Park Needs You!

Bear Valley & Rabbit Creek Community Council's in partnership with Anchorage Parks & Recreation are taking a proactive approach to our community park as Adopt-A-Park sponsors. Ray E. Storck Homestead Park is located along the boundary of both councils and is considered a Regional Park located at Rabbit Creek Road and Clark's Road.

In recent years this park has degraded due to weather and usage. However, more significant is the vandalism of signs, wind-break panels, graffiti, and other illegal activities. BVCC & RCCC are taking back our park. To do so we have formed a Storck Park Patrol Committee. Ideally we need 19 volunteers for 2009. We are asking for volunteers who are willing to commit to a two-week rotating shift of either being the primary or back-up person locking the gate at 10:00pm (can be later) or unlocking at 7:00am (can be earlier). While doing so surveying the condition of the park and noting any new maintenance or safety issues, including vandalism or litter and reporting them to the Committee Coordinator. Volunteers will participate in clean-up and graffiti busters as necessary.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Committee Coordinator, Cheri Lipps - BVCC Chair at bvcc@alaska.net or 345-1378.

Open Letter Regarding Neighborhood Crime Watch for Bear Valley

Greetings Bear Valley Residents,

I have had a significant amount of correspondence these last few weeks with numerous residents from all areas of our community of Bear Valley, regarding increased crime in our area.

Many have seen, experienced or heard reports of assault and battery, vandalism of public and private property, graffiti, mail theft, stray animals, an animal hit and run, weapons misconduct, and speeding is a constant issue. All this in the 2 ½ months of 2009.

We've maintained a loose network of email and other communication between concerned neighbors since I was appointed a NWP Community Coordinator several years ago. Perhaps it's time to have a more formal Neighborhood Watch Program and give new residents a chance to participate. This includes free street signage and window decals for our homes. The NWP will show you tips on how to secure your home and valuables. You can participate as little or as much as you want to. All of this program is FREE.

We can have as many NWP groups in Bear Valley as we warranted. Certain areas of the community can work as one group, some more isolated areas can be their own, we can even go by street or block. It only requires that there is a minimum 50%

participation within a certain area. As an example we've been a NWP home as we have only two neighbors from Heights Hill to a bit of a distance up Nickleen. It's that simple.

If you would like to participate in Neighborhood Watch Program please reply back and let me know so that we can notify the Representatives from APD's Neighborhood Crime Watch Program to schedule and so that they can bring enough materials.

We have three options for an introductory presentation:

1. BVCC meeting on Wednesday, April 8th
2. For those unable to attend the BVCC, we can schedule an evening at our home
3. Or a resident willing to host at their home with your immediate neighbors who are interested in forming a group (please note if you are interested in hosting a presentation at your home)

****If you opt for choice # 2 or 3 please indicate preferred time and weeknight so that we can coordinate groups based on availability

Thank you, Cheri Lipps, Chair - BVCC

15601 Nickleen St. Anchorage, AK 99516 345-1378
bvcc@alaska.net

What is Neighborhood Crime Watch?

Neighborhood Crime Watch is a Crime Prevention Program of the Anchorage Police Department. It is one of the most effective and least costly ways of reducing and/or preventing residential property crimes. It is a citizen involvement, neighborhood and community based effort designed to assist citizens and the police in reducing crime and increasing an overall sense of peace, safety and security in the neighborhood.

The program's success is hinged on

1. Improving communications between neighbors and achieving and sustaining an appropriate level of neighbor involvement. In other words, we are looking out for each other. This is the key.
2. Inventory of personal property (kept private) but helps to recover property if stolen.

City Parks & Recreation Asks Community to Help Plan Future

The Municipal Parks & Recreation Department invites the Anchorage community to participate in a series of four park district meetings to solicit public input on priorities for Parks & Recreation. This is one piece of a comprehensive public involvement initiative that began this fall with the [Anchorage Parks Report Card](#) project. The first meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, in the [Romig Middle School](#) multi-purpose room.

Community members will participate in facilitated discussions to plan future improvements to the park and trail system and provide input on neighborhood priorities. The Parks & Recreation Department will use this input and information to update its five-year strategic action plan in order to set goals and prioritize municipal resources. The strategic action plan provides a short list

of actions, consistent with the Anchorage Parks Plan, that the public, parks staff and park professionals agree are doable, needed and appropriate.

"From Kincaid Park to our neighborhood parks and playgrounds, Anchorage parks are valuable community assets," Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Dillon said. "We want to ensure that our department focuses its efforts on community-identified priorities. We want to hear what you have to say."

Meetings will be held in the four parks management districts over the next two weeks. They are open to the public and will include activities for children and refreshments.

Contact Beth Nordlund, 350-9482 or Suzanne Little, 343-4586.

Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Improvement Plan

Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP) is Anchorage's largest Community and Natural Resource Park, providing year-round outdoor recreation opportunities for the entire Anchorage and its surrounding communities. The park is home to the Hilltop Ski Area and over 100 miles of multi-use trails, and important connections to Chugach State Park. The park has over 1 million visitors each year, contributing to the social, economic and the ecological well being of Anchorage. As trail use increases, trail maintenance needs increase. Trail user conflicts, both during winter and summer, also continue to increase. The FNBP Trail Improvements Plan evaluates the trails within FNBP to determine their condition and current use, and develops classifications and specifications for various types of trails. The Plan also evaluates the need for new trails and trail improvements; trailhead and parking upgrades; increased way finding and interpretive signage; and other public amenities that will enhance the park as a four-season recreation facility. The outcome will be a comprehensive trail improvement project list.

Goals for this project include:

- Maintain an undeveloped and rural feel within the park;
- Accommodate all types of non-motorized users;
- Provide a wide variety of experiences, via many different types of trails;
- Provide opportunities for bicycle and other commuters to efficiently pass through the park;
- Respect wildlife and its known or discovered wildlife corridors;
- Create a set of construction and maintenance guidelines, allowing the Municipality to manage these activities (regardless of who does the actual work);
- Gather information on existing trail conditions, to determine how those trails should be managed into the future;
- Determine funding sources for future management, including construction and maintenance;
- Create a general plan for additional trails within the park; and
- Establish a framework which can be applied to trails throughout the Municipality's jurisdiction.

Project Progress to Date

January 2008 Baseline information was gathered through extensive stakeholder meetings with various trail user groups, adjacent landowners and the general public. A steering committee was formed and met for the first time.

March 2008 The project team compiled all information collected in January and presented this information to the public for review and comment. Meetings were also held with the steering committee, a technical advisory committee and adjacent landowners. Additional ideas and comments were received and incorporated.

August, 2008 P&R hired a summer intern to collect field data on existing trail conditions in FNBP for a development of a GIS system to facilitate trail management.

September 8, 2008 Open House Public Meeting as part of the FNBP User Group Meeting The project team gave an update to the user groups and the public regarding the status of the Plan. The public was encouraged to comment on the current version during the public comment period.

To view any materials presented at open houses or meeting notes, please visit <http://www.muni.org/parks/FNBPTrailsPlanDocs.cfm>

Remaining Project Schedule

March 2, 2009 The Draft Trail Improvements Plan will be released for public review on March 2. The steering committee has met previously to discuss the Draft Trail Improvements Plan and outreach plan and provide feedback to the project team. The project team will present the draft plan to the FNBP User Group and the public on **March 2**, at the **Campbell Creek Science Center** at **6:20 p.m.** Written comments on the draft plan will be accepted through April 29.

April 9, 2009 The Project Team will present the Draft Trail Improvements Plan to the Parks & Recreation Commission as an information item on **April 9**. There will be no public testimony at this meeting.

April 29, 2009 Comments received by **April 29** will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission on May 14, 2009. The Draft Trail Improvements Plan will be slated as an action item at the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on **May 14**. Public comments received prior to April 29 will be discussed at this meeting. The Parks & Recreation Commission will take oral public comment on the draft plan at the May 14 meeting.

Summer 2009 The Trail Improvement Projects will be finalized based on direction from the Parks & Recreation Commission. Implementation of the Plan will begin.

Project Comments

The Parks & Recreation Department encourages the public to submit written comments on the Draft Trail Improvements Plan by April 29 so that they can be reviewed and discussed with the Parks & Recreation Commission on May 14. We encourage Community Councils to schedule the plan for discussion in March and April so that any comments can be submitted by April 29.

Comments will continue to be accepted until April 29.

Comments can be made by e-mail, fnbp@dowl.com, by fax at (907)563-3953 or by submitting a written comment to:

DOWL HKM
Attn: Alison Lohrke
4041 B Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

Draft Minutes of Rabbit Creek Community Council Meeting March 12, 2009 Goldenview Middle School

Present: Dick Tremaine, John Isby, Mike Edelman, Joan Diamond, David Sterling, Mark Slaughter, Mike Kenny, and Patti Rothwell and 16 additional members present.

Begun 7:05 pm, quorum present.

Motion by Dianne Holmes to donate \$100 to Rabbit Creek Community Church for space use, 2nd Joan Diamond, unanimous.

No legislators or Assembly members present.

Anchorage School District Bond presentation – Jeff Friedman (School Board) and others. 1st bond (\$70 million) is Service HS and 2nd (\$28 million) is major (not ongoing) capital maintenance projects. Jeff explained what the bonds would be used for and how the legislature is expected to pay either 60 or 70% for debt reimbursements. More square footage in Service than both convention centers and the performing arts center combined. Change to Service bond has reduced costs by leaving cafeteria and library where they are and move auditorium to front of building. Also little gym will be renovated rather than rebuilt. Cost information was finalized in January. In addition, this year the district will retire ~\$46 million in debt.

Anchorage Tomorrow, Lori Davies – The roads on the bond are not in most of the RCCC area and we will not have to pay taxes for their construction and maintenance. However, since the full municipality pledges for the bonds the ballot measure is on everyone's ballot. Both those who will pay and the entire municipality must approve the measure if it is to pass. Parks bonds, emergency services, library and transit bonds are also on the ballot. Some of these bonds have federal matching dollars. All projects are shovel ready.

Old Business

164th and BettiJean – Drainage diversion process is at a standstill. City is not sure how to address the issue since the neighborhood groups are not working it out.

Hillside District Plan is back to staff after public comments and will come out sometime for more public comment.

Title 21 (zoning codes) are still under discussion now 5 years on. Some commercial developers are resisting the requirement to provide large site drainage plans. Likewise public open space may no longer be required from developers.

New Business

Last of Moen homestead, 25 acres, is proposed for subdivision into 3 large lots one of which will be a flag lot. New road will be privately constructed and maintained with a variance requested to postpone construction until development. The property is zoned for 2.5 acre parcels but will be divided into 2 of five acres and one of fifteen. Motion to support the subdivision by Dick Tremaine, second by Patti Rothwell, passed unanimously.

Platting proposal south of Paine Road. Resolution for RCCC to request natural vegetation be retained to 70% or more and to ensure onsite retention of drainage. Motion by Dianne Holmes second by Maureen McCrea. Passed unanimously.

Eric Croft – candidate for Mayor presentation and answered public questions.

Title 21 – Hearing at Planning & Zoning Commission on placing overhead electric lines underground.

HLB 5 year work plan – Some parcels that were originally designated for parks in Potter Valley Land Use Analysis are now being redesignated for housing. This includes parcel at curve on Potter Valley Road that was reserved to fix curve if needed. Motion to remind HBL to correct 5 year plan to follow existing plans and other corrections as set forth in handout. Motion by Dianne Holmes, second by Joan Diamond. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.