



**Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska**  
**Parks & Recreation Department**

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P.O. Box 196650  
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Tel 907-343-4355



**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** July 15, 2021

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**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

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**Cc:** Josh Durand, Director

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**From:** Brad Muir, Natural Resource Manager

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**Project:** **PRC 21-13 New ASDRA Sled Dog Trail Connection in Far North Bicentennial Park**

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**OVERVIEW**

The Alaskan Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA) is proposing a new trail connection in Far North Bicentennial Park to support the future re-location of ASDRA headquarters. The new ASDRA headquarters will be located on MLK Blvd. and will back up to FNBP approximately ¾ mile east of the existing Tozier Track. New trail connections are necessary to connect the new headquarters to the existing sled dog trail system and ensure safe circulation into and out of the new facility. The proposed trail improvements are consistent with community priorities outlined in the FNBP Trail Improvement Plan.

This agenda item presents the Commission with a review of a new trail connection between the future ASDRA headquarters and the existing sled dog trails located in Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP). The future ASDRA site plan is included in this report to the Commission for reference. However, the future headquarters will be located on property to be owned by ASDRA and is not subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**BACKGROUND**

Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP) is a 4,000-acre park located in east Anchorage. The park is home to roughly 100 miles of multi-use trails, as well as 20-plus miles of sled dog trails. In 1949, the Alaskan Sled Dog and Racing Association (ASDRA) was formed to promote and preserve the great Alaskan tradition of dog mushing. ASDRA's committed volunteers have developed and maintained the dedicated sled dog trails in Far North Bicentennial Park and the Campbell Tract for 70 years. The non-profit club puts on internationally recognized races from January 1 through the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous in February of each year. Race fees and trail fees are used to maintain the club trailhead facilities and groom the trails in Far North Bicentennial Park.

Currently, dog sledding trails begin and end at the Tozier Track, a 10-acre site located off Tudor Road between Piper Street and Elmore Road. The Tozier Track is owned and operated by ASDRA. The Municipal Real Estate Department, the Heritage Land Bank (HLB), is considering future development of the Tudor-

Elmore area and is currently in negotiations with ASDRA to transfer ownership of the Tozier Track to the Municipality of Anchorage. As part of this transaction, HLB will provide ASDRA with land for a new headquarters. The new headquarters will be located south of MLK Jr. Blvd directly east of the Tour of Anchorage Trail and will back up to Far North Bicentennial Park and existing sled dog trails. A new trail connection to this site will be necessary to connect to the existing sled dog trail system and ensure safe circulation in and out of the facility.

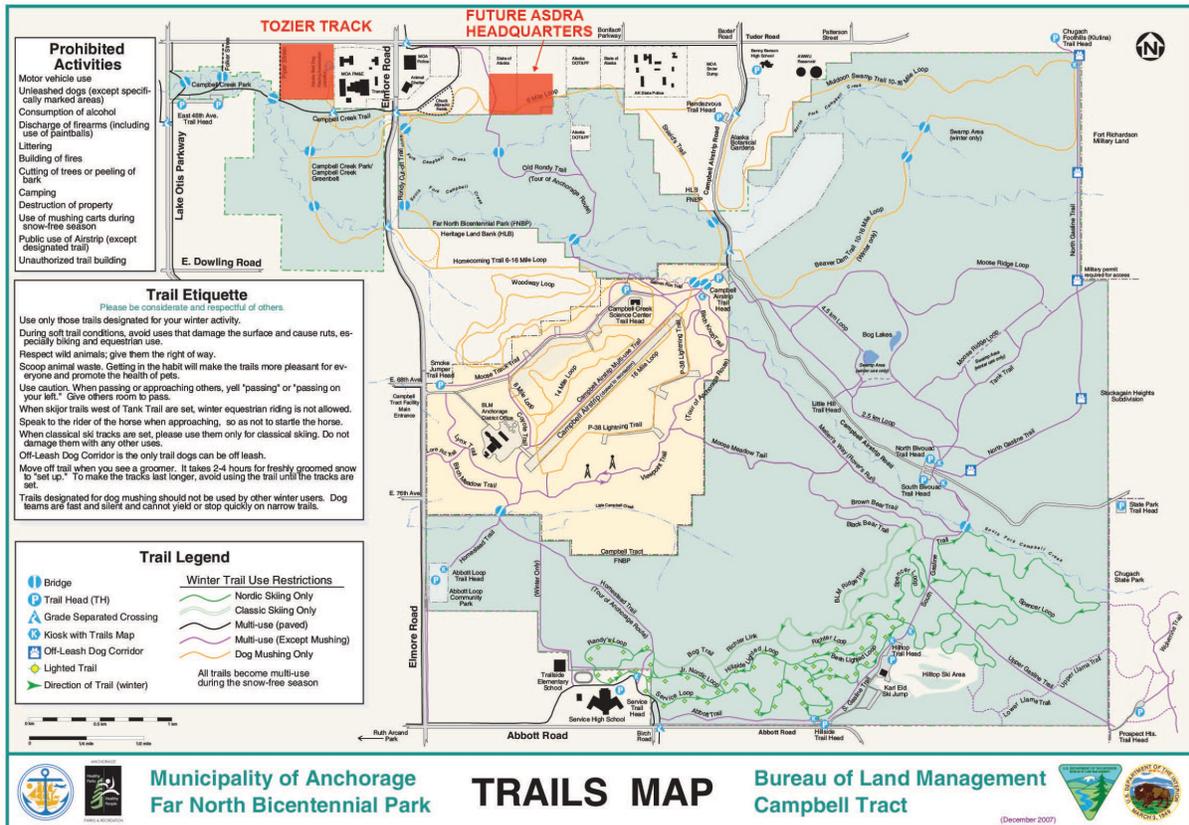


Figure 1: Trails Map of Far North Bicentennial Park

### PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The Alaskan Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA) is proposing a new trail connection to the west of the future ASDRA headquarters in Far North Bicentennial Park. It is intended to facilitate safe circulation patterns into and out of the facility. The new trail connection will be approximately 1,000 feet long, of which 700 feet will utilize an old existing sled dog trail corridor and will require minimal clearing. The remaining 300-foot section of trail will be new construction to link the facility to the old and existing trail. This section will cross the Tour of Anchorage Trail roughly 75-100 feet south of an existing sled dog trail intersection.

The timeline for development is to be determined and will likely coincide with future development of the ASDRA headquarters. Trail development is anticipated to be funded by ASDRA. All vegetation management on wetlands will occur in winter months.

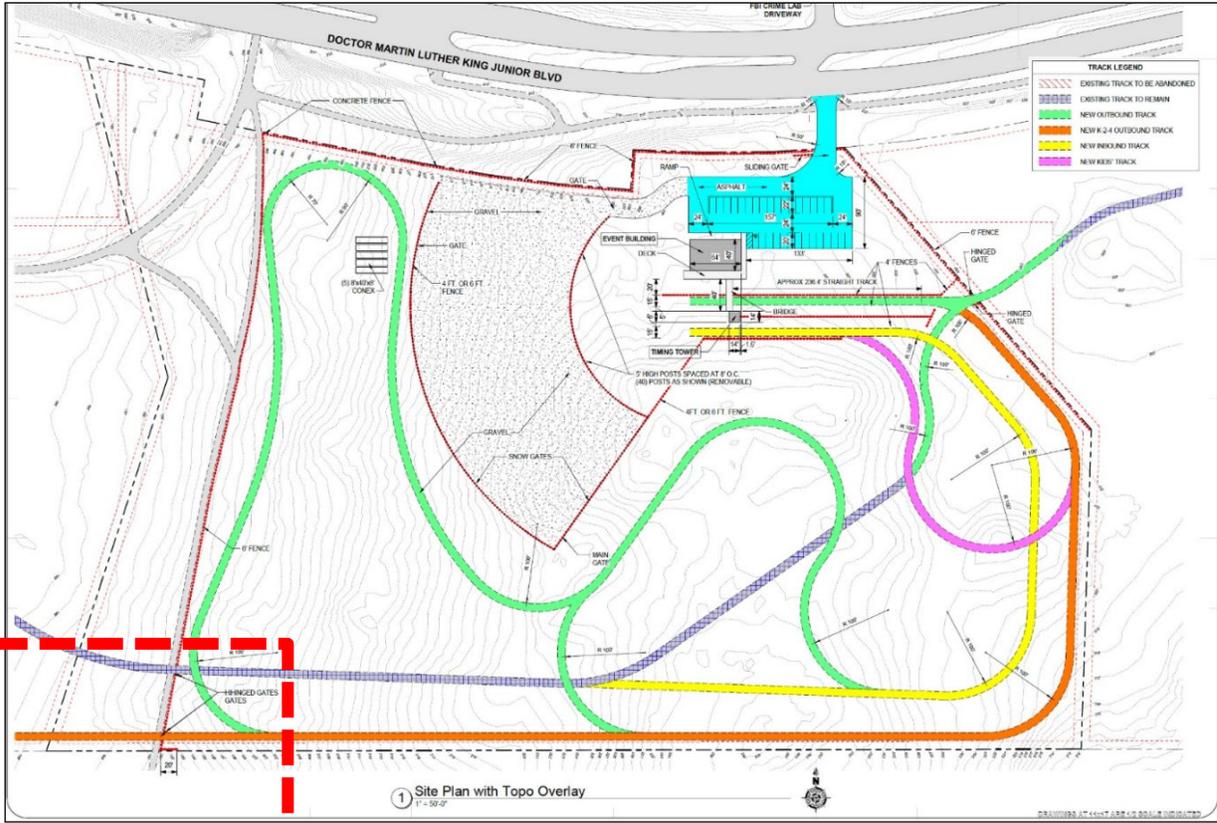


Figure 2: Future ASDRA Headquarters Site Plan



Figure 3: New and Proposed Trails (approximate area shown in red above)

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of the proposed trail connection from the future Alaskan Sled Dog and Racing Association (ASDRA) headquarters to the existing sled dog trail system in Far North Bicentennial Park. This trail connection is intended to provide safe circulation into and out of the facility.



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URL [www.muni.org/departments/parks](http://www.muni.org/departments/parks)



**PRC RES NO. 2021-10**

**New ASDRA Trail Connection in Far North Bicentennial Park**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, the Alaskan Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA) formed in 1949 to promote and preserve the great Alaskan tradition of dog mushing in Far North Bicentennial Park and Campbell Tract; and

WHEREAS, the Alaskan Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA) is in negotiations with the Heritage Land Bank to exchange the Tozier Track for a property located on MLK Jr. Blvd.; and

WHEREAS, the Alaskan Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA) is proposing a new trail connection in Far North Bicentennial Park to support the future re-location of ASDRA headquarters; and

WHEREAS, a new trail connection is necessary to connect the new headquarters to the existing sled dog trail system and ensure safe circulation into and out of the new facility; and

WHEREAS, the new trail connection will be approximately 1,000 feet long and will cross the Tour of Anchorage Trail roughly 75-100 feet south of an existing sled dog trail intersection; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed sled dog trail connections for Far North Bicentennial Park as submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 15th day of July, 2021.

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Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

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Josh Durand, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department