

# Potter Marsh Watershed Park



Great Land Trust (GLT), with the support of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), is working to create a new 300-acre park immediately adjacent to Potter Marsh. GLT is purchasing 200 acres of undeveloped land from GCI and is working with the MOA to dedicate the GCI property and 100 acres of adjacent MOA Heritage Land Bank (HLB) property for parkland and conservation.

The creation of the new park will conserve the natural and recreational values of the streams and wetlands on the hillside above Potter Marsh. Streams on the property provide the south end of Potter Marsh with over 75% of its fresh water. Potter Marsh Watershed Park, with its miles of new trails and scenic overlooks, will be owned, operated, and maintained by the MOA Parks and Recreation Department.

## Community Plans

The Potter Marsh Watershed Park project is consistent with over ten different Municipality of Anchorage planning documents:

- Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan (2017)
- Potter Valley Land Use Analysis (1999)
- Anchorage 2020 Anchorage Bowl Comprehensive Plan (2001)
- Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource and Recreation Facility Plan (2006)
- Hillside District Plan (2010)
- Heritage Land Bank Five Year Management Plan (2019)
- Public trails development to provide additional recreational opportunities as identified in multiple municipal planning documents including the Hillside District Plan and the Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource and Recreation Facility Plan.
- Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge Management Plan (1991)
- Chugach State Park Management Plan (2016)

## Project Benefits

Some of the benefits of the Potter Marsh Watershed Park project include:

- Providing Anchorage residents new opportunities for outdoor recreation and education;
- Conserving resources that support salmon, migratory birds, and other wildlife; and
- Securing essential fresh water for one of Anchorage's most iconic tourism assets and critical habitats, Potter Marsh.

## Potter Marsh

Potter Marsh was created in 1917 with the construction of the Alaska Railroad embankment. It is part of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, which includes intertidal wetlands, creek estuaries, and the waters of the inlet. The refuge stretches along 16 miles of coastline, from Point Woronzof to Potter Creek.

Over 200,000 people visit Potter Marsh annually, making it one of Anchorage's most popular and easily accessible tourist destinations. An iconic wetland habitat that garners international attention as a prime location for birdwatching, locals and visitors alike value Potter Marsh for photography, nature education, and recreation. Summertime recreation includes nature walks and wildlife viewing. In the winter, Potter Marsh is also a popular ice-skating destination. Fresh water inputs from the Potter Marsh Watershed Park streams are critical for maintaining the Potter Marsh wetland habitat we all enjoy so much.

## Great Land Trust

Great Land Trust is a nonprofit organization founded by Alaskans in 1995 to conserve and steward lands and waters essential to the quality of life and economic health of Alaskans.

GLT works in partnership with willing landowners, agencies, communities and other partners throughout Southcentral Alaska with a focus on the Municipality of Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough, Copper River Valley, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak to protect the integrity of natural ecosystems, wetlands and streams, public access to recreational lands, and conserve lands important for towns and cities.

[www.greatlandtrust.org](http://www.greatlandtrust.org)

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# Potter Marsh Watershed Park Concept Plan

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

