



Resolution 2024-03

Regarding: SUPPORTING AN UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE CHUGACH STATE PARK
ACCESS FEASIBILITY/IMPACT STUDY

WHEREAS, public access to Chugach State Park (CSP) is of high value to Anchorage residents;

WHEREAS, human use of CSP is not the only value; wildlife and wilderness values must be considered:

WHEREAS, expanding access and parking at the existing Peters Creek trail entrance has repeatedly been identified in numerous government planning documents for over 30 years, without updated environmental assessments;

WHEREAS, the Peters Creek trailhead and first stretch of the “traditional use” portion of the Peters Creek Valley Trail are on private property, said property is not for sale and owners are opposed to a parking lot;

WHEREAS, the existing Peters Creek trail entrance is in a residential neighborhood, and residents are opposed to a parking lot in the neighborhood;

WHEREAS, a parking lot might alleviate parking congestion temporarily, but the existence of a parking lot will attract greater numbers of park users, and, based on other neighborhoods’ experiences, eventually exceed supply;

WHEREAS, recommendations to locate the parking lot on State Park land on the far side of the private parcel would create an unmonitored attractive nuisance, and the neighborhood already has an unmonitored parking problem at the end of Thornton Street which is regularly littered with graffiti and trash as well as hypodermic needles and used condoms, both bio hazards;

WHEREAS, there are significant safety issues associated with any trail development:

- a. The road from the highway to the trailhead is steep and substandard - it does not meet code for required grade, width, guard rails, seismic stability etc.;
- b. School buses do not come up this hill; mail is not delivered up this hill and now even newspapers are not delivered up this hill- all because of road safety concerns.
- c. During the 2018 earthquake the road failed significantly in three places, and the steepest section of Chugach Park Drive was reduced to one lane for over a year; furthermore during the Bear Mountain fire in the 1990s Peters Creek Subdivision was emergency evacuated.
- d. This substandard road is the only access for emergency vehicles and the only entrance and exit off the mountain for more than 60 residences; during winter

months large portions of the road are reduced to a single lane because of snow accumulation.

- e. Near the “No Outlet” sign on Chugach Park Drive another sign warns “Winter Warning: 4 Wheel Drive or Chains Recommended” which is regularly ignored: stuck cars and jack-knifed trailers block traffic multiple times a year during icy and snowy winter months; and

WHEREAS, any increase in traffic to the Peters Creek trailhead would be unwise and would pose significant hazards to residents and visitors;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Chugiak Community Council supports the Alaska State Parks Department or any other involved government agency budgeting for, and expending, funds to produce an updated CSP Access Comprehensive Plan assessing all possible alternatives for CSP access throughout the entire area between Eagle River and Thunderbird Falls that includes feasibility and impacts to existing neighborhoods.

This resolution was passed on 16 May 2024 by a vote of ____ yea, and ____ nay.

Darryl Parks
President
Chugiak Community Council