



Rabbit Creek Community Council

1057 W. Fireweed Ln, #100, Anchorage, AK 99503



April 24, 2017

Nicole Jones-Vogel, HLB
Tom Korosei, Parks Dep't
Municipality of Anchorage
PO Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650

RE: Acquisition of BLM parcel, 3030 Rabbit Creek Rd.

Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) voted at its April 13 meeting to renew our seven-year effort to get the MOA to acquire the remnant BLM parcel at the intersection of Rabbit Creek Road and the Old Seward Highway. BLM prefers not to manage this 1/3-acre property. The Council perceives opportunities for this parcel to be a gateway to our neighborhood and a staging area for recreation.

This lot serves several needs for our area:

1. It creates a first impression of the surrounding neighborhoods and, as a gateway location, we would like to ensure its use as a community focal point—visually and functionally.
2. It would allow parking and pedestrian access to the newly created Potter Marsh Access Trail on Chenoweth St. This is the first pedestrian connection from Rabbit Creek Road to the Marsh. Providing parking at the BLM parcel would allow people to access Chenoweth St. via a short, safe walk.
3. It would support existing recreational use of the Old Seward Highway. The Old Seward Highway is heavily used by runners, people with strollers, bird watchers, and bike racers in every season. Our Council area is highly deficient in recreational or commuter trails; Old Seward Highway serves this purpose. People who do not live adjacent to the Old Seward Highway need a safe place to park.
4. It will support visitor use of the Bird Treatment and Learning Center. The Bird TLC will soon have a prominent presence approximately 100 yards from the BLM property when they construct their treatment center and flight cages. Already, Bird TLC's special events at their site have required off-site parking. They welcome the use of the BLM land as a potential overflow parking area. Their director will send MOA a letter of support for public acquisition of the BLM parcel.

The MOA Parks Plan contains justifications supporting the acquisition of this parcel. Appendix B of the Plan calls for incremental and orderly improvements, the value of having neighborhood input for park development, fostering creative design solutions, and having parking suitably sized to meet needs (pages 1, 2, 3, 6).

RCCC has sent several letters over the years requesting that MOA acquire the BLM land, and our members affirmed this goal at our March 13 meeting. RCCC requests the Parks Department to move forward on the acquisition and recommends a point person be assigned. Additionally, the Council suggests that an outline for the transfer be developed, preferably with a transfer date within one year. We would appreciate sharing such an outline at our May 11 meeting. We look forward to hearing from you and working to support this transfer.

Sincerely,

Adam Lees, Chair

cc: Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, Assemblymember John Weddleton, and Assemblymember Suzanne LaFrance