

Municipality of Anchorage



PO Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org>
Mark Begich, Mayor

GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Tracey Knutson, Chair;
Victor Duncan, Jim Henderson, John Gallup, Nick Danger

2006 Capital Improvements Project List

1. Girdwood Library/ Community Hall - For a number of years the Girdwood Community has been working to build a community center. Currently there is a task force established to work on this project. Girdwood has no building, beyond the elementary school suitable for office space and classes, meetings, etc. The current library space is outdated and too small; the place that meetings are now held is really a converted garage with heat and sound challenges. The community wants to have a facility near the fire station to provide for each of these purposes and something, which is modern and large enough for the community to grow.
2. Chip-sealing of Roads throughout Girdwood - Girdwood has 13.7 miles of main roadway in Girdwood. These roads require year round scarfing and grading and several applications of calcium chloride as dust control during the summer. Half to two thirds of Girdwood's yearly roads budget is spent on grading and dust control; the dust is a significant health concern for mainly residents and we receive lots of complaints on this issue. We received an estimate from Denali Materials Inc. for an average price of \$75,000 per mile for a total of approximately \$1,027,500. In order to upgrade the roads we will also have to reestablish drainage and bring in enough material to crown the surface of the roads that need this treatment. We do not yet have an estimate for the cost of crowning the roads. We have begun some preliminary talks with the Municipal Engineer, Howard Holtan, on this issue.
3. Girdwood Town Square Renovation - In 2003 Senator Stevens delivered an earmark appropriation to Girdwood of just over 10 million dollars for economic development. A portion of this will be to pave Crow Creek Road and the rest, which is being administered by the Muni under Howard Holton and a consultant by the name of Jacques Boutet, is being used to pave the four roads around the Town Square area and add amenities such as lighting and sidewalks. This will go a long way towards revitalizing the Town Center area. However, the original intent was to use some of the monies the Municipality is administering to build a small community park with the confines of the four roads that are being paved (Hightower, Linblad, Girdwood Place and Holmgren). We recently discovered, however, that due to flood plane issues we will have to use the monies set aside for the parks treatment on flood mitigation measures. We would really like to recover the park aspect to the Town Square area development to really complete this area.
4. Alyeska Highway Bike Trail/ Walkway upgrade/ Improvements - we would like to resurface the existing bike path that runs parallel to the Alyeska Highway between Crow Creek Road and the pedestrian overpass that crosses the railroad tracks by the Seward Highway. The surface of the bike path is so weathered and rutted that many people now resort to using the shoulders of the Alyeska Highway for pedestrian activities, which presents significant safety issues and actually defeats the purpose of the bike path. We'd really like to reclaim this wonderful asset for our community.
5. Existing Recreational Facilities Upgrades/Renovations: Forest Fair Park, Including playground equipment, Ball Field complex, Soccer Field, Tennis Courts - currently we have task forces working on improving the old skateboard park and the Little Bears playground - both of which are situated in front of the Fire Station and across the Alyeska Highway from the Town Square area. Both of these areas/facilities are severely degraded and in great need up updating, cleaning and structural repairs. With regard to some of the skateboard ramps and even some of the playground equipment we actually have some safety concerns over the integrity of some of the equipment. These are integral pieces for the young folks here in Girdwood as they do not have access to all of the other recreational options that kids in Anchorage have (lots of parks, pools, etc.)

6. Girdwood Campground - due to the Forest fair and to the number of travelers that come through Girdwood in the summer we greatly need affordable family style camping facilities. We currently have a campground area mapped out, but need the facilities to construct some of the campground infrastructure.
7. Aerial ladder Quint fire truck - this is an obvious upgrade to the equipment that our area fire department has. With the size of the structures currently being built in Girdwood, not to mention the hotel, we need to be able to respond to larger fires in larger structures.
8. Traffic calming at the intersection of Alyeska Highway and Crow Creek Road.
9. Iditarod Trail upgrades
10. Girdwood Trailhead Acquisition