



## MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

### Parks & Recreation Department

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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** October 5, 2016

**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

**From:** Josh Durand, Parks Superintendent

**Project:** PRC 16-30: Fish Creek Trail Improvements Project

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The trail improvement project for Fish Creek Trail will address two segments: the northern section starting at 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and extending south to Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, and the southern section from Taft Street to West 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Preliminary information about the project was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission in November 2015.

This project is part of the Anchorage Areawide Trails Project established by AMATS for the purpose of rehabilitating Anchorage's trails and pathways. The rehabilitation is intended to increase safety and connectivity as part of the Proposed Bicycle Network of the Anchorage Bicycle Plan.

This is the first project to be considered for improvements under the program. The mile-long project includes upgrades to a southern section of the trail between 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Red Bridge Park) and the Taft Street/West Tudor Road intersection (near Ure Park) and a northern section between Kiwanis Fish Creek Park and Barbara Street Park.

The trail was selected for upgrades because:

- The trail surface is in poor condition with cracked and uneven pavement which is a safety concern and increases maintenance costs.
- The lighting system is in poor shape, with some of the poles damaged, missing or leaning significantly.
- Four bridges along the trail show significant signs of deterioration and require frequent maintenance.

Planned improvements to the Fish Creek Trail include:

- Reconstruction of the trail subgrade and replacement of the pavement surfacing;
- Replacement of the four Fish Creek bridges including raised surfaces and elevated approaches to reduce potential flood exposure;
- Replacement of the lighting system;
- Minor improvements to the trail grade and alignment;
- Repair and/or construction of retaining walls/structures;

- Removal of certain nearby trees and installation of root barriers to reduce future pavement damage caused by root intrusion.

A feature of the project is a standardized bridge design using a uniform prefabricated structure to simplify construction and reduce cost. The preliminary construction plans show a steel-framed structure; however, it is understood that the specific structure will be selected at a later design stage, and the opportunity should be taken to consider designs that may enhance the aesthetic character of the trail and nearby parks while addressing funding constraints.

Similarly, the railing for the multiple elevated walkway sections has not been determined and the visual character of the railings as well other visible elements of the project should complement a park environment.

The estimated cost of the improvements is \$2.0 to \$2.3 million, including design, permitting, and construction for both sections of the Fish Creek Trail. Funding is primarily from the State of Alaska and includes a 9% match from the Municipality of Anchorage.

Construction is expected to begin on the northern segment during the summer of 2017 with completion by mid-October 2017. Depending on contract costs and availability of funding, the southern segment may be completed as a later phase.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department believes that the Project will rehabilitate a neglected trail corridor that provides neighborhood and park connections for both the Turnagain and Spenard communities.

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of the Fish Creek Trail Improvement Project subject to staff review and approval of final design of key elements including bridges, railings, and landscaping.



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

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**PRC RES NO. 2016-24**  
**Fish Creek Trail Improvements**

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, CRW Engineering Group, LLC, has done extensive research and engineering to identify needed improvements to the Fish Creek Trail that include lighting, bridges, subgrade, and surfacing; and

WHEREAS, the project encompasses two segments: a northerly segment to Barbara Street Park and a southerly segment to Red Bridge Park; and

WHEREAS, the renovated trail as presented will provide comprehensive trail repairs aimed at addressing safety and security concerns on the Fish Creek Trail;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Fish Creek Trail improvements generally as proposed.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of October, 2016.

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Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

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John Rodda, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department

# AMATS Anchorage Areawide Trails Rehabilitation

## Fish Creek Trail Improvements



***Contact a team member or visit the project website:***

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