

Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska Parks & Recreation Department

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630 P.O. Box 196650 Anchorage, AK 99519 Tel 907-343-4355 URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



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MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2017

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

Cc: Josh Durand, Parks Superintendent

From: Tom Korosei, Park Planner

PRC 2017–08 AWWU Reservoir 6 Drainage Improvements (Proj. No. 7055)

Project: Including Trail Upgrade—Hillside/Far North Bicentennial Park

PROJECT OVERVIEW—FLOOD-CONTROL BERM AND NEIGBORHOOD TRAIL

Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility is preparing to construct a berm approximately 700 feet long, 20 feet wide, and two feet high, within Hillside Park and extending into Far North Bicentennial Park. The purpose of the berm is to prevent potential flooding damage to property adjoining the westerly boundary of the Park north of Trailside Elementary School. As proposed the berm may include a trail along the top.

AWWU determined a potential for flooding and consequent property damage from draining the 10-million-gallon Water Reservoir No. 6 (Service High School), in an emergency. AWWU approached staff with alternative proposed solutions, including relocation of the drainage outfall, and different berm locations. The current outfall at the boundary of Trailside Elementary School discharges into the park.

The proposed berm was considered to be cost effective and have the least potential impact on the park, much of which is classified wetland. The placement of the fill material in this wetland area was approved by the Corps of Engineers under Nationwide Permit #39.

The alignment of the berm traverses an area characterized by relatively sparse vegetation, generally coinciding with a social trail that connects the neighborhood to the trail system within FNBP. The trail is not managed by the Municipality but appears to have considerable local use, with neighborhood additions such as wood planks in wetter areas. Because of apparent interest in continued public use of the trail, AWWU has incorporated a replacement of the trail in its berm design.

The Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Improvements Plan (Jan. 2011) does not propose improvement of this trail. The trail does not appear in the Areawide Trails Plan (1997); however, it was shown as a "Winter Only" trail on a "Far North Bicentennial Park and Campbell Tract Trails" map (2005) released by Parks & Recreation and BLM.

Besides aligning the berm to minimize disturbance of vegetation, the design incorporates other features to further minimize impacts to the area. The plan will salvage the organic mat in the berm area and replace it on the berm. Restoration will include supplemental topsoil and infill with appropriate seeding to facilitate revegetation. The project calls for varying the clearing limits as well as the specific alignment and "toe" of the berm to minimize clearing and provide a more natural contour and appearance.

PRC 2017-08 AWWU Reservoir 6 Drainage Improvements February 8, 2017 Page 2 of 2

AWWU has obtained public support for the project, including trail reconstruction, from residents in the neighborhood.

AWWU presented the proposed project to the Abbott Loop Community Council at its meeting January 26, 2017. Parks and Recreation staff presented the proposed project to the Far North Bicentennial Park Users Group at its meeting January 11, 2017.

Both of the Community Council and User Group generally support the project including trail improvements. As proposed the trail surface would be gravel, approximately 5 feet wide, similar to a Class 3 or Class 4 trail as described in the *Trail Improvements Plan*. Only the section that is incorporated as part of AWWU's drainage improvements would be improved at this time. The Parks and Recreation Department currently has no plan or funds to improve other portions of the trail to fully upgrade the trail connection.

Additional information about the project is attached.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Department requests that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the attached resolution of support for the proposed trail upgrade including construction of the portion as proposed by AWWU as part of its Reservoir 6 Drainage Improvements project.

Cc: Robin Ward, MOA Real Estate Dept. Will O'Malley, AWWU



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska

Parks & Recreation Commission

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630 P.O. Box 196650 Anchorage, AK 99519



Resolution No. 2017-02

Request for Approval of Proposed Trail Improvements as Part of Proposed Reservoir 6 Drainage Improvements, Hillside Park/Far North Bicentennial Park

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, the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility is proposing improvements to the drainage system for municipal Reservoir 6 (Service High), which system is also used by Trailside Elementary School and discharges water into Hillside Park; and

WHEREAS, proposed drainage improvements include construction of an earthen berm to control potential surface water flooding in the event of emergency draining of Reservoir 6; and

WHEREAS, the berm as proposed would coincide with a portion of an existing, informal, neighborhood trail that is not managed by the Municipality and is not identified for improvement as part of the Far North Bicentennial Park Trails Improvement Plan (2011); and

WHEREAS, the design and construction of the berm may include reconstruction of the informal trail using standards similar to Class 3 or 4 as described in the *Trails Plan*; and

WHEREAS, the Far North Bicentennial Park Users Group and Abbott Loop Community Council at their respective meetings in January 2017, as well as park area residents previously, have considered the AWWU drainage improvement plans including proposed trail improvements; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned groups generally support the plans and in particular support proposed trail improvements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports in principle the improvement and maintenance of the subject informal "non-managed" trail within Hillside Park and Far North Bicentennial Park, and supports construction of a portion of the trail as part of AWWU drainage improvements, to connect the Sahalee Subdivision and Trailside Elementary School area to the Homestead Trail.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 9th day of February 2017.

| ATTEST: | Chair Parks and Recreation Commission |
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| John H. Rodda, Director Parks & Recreation Department | |

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