



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Parks & Recreation Department

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 12, 2020

To: Michelle McNulty, Director, MOA Planning Department

From: Steve Rafuse, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Department

Subject: Elderberry Park – Resubmittal for Major Site Plan Review

Overview

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department is updating the site plan for Elderberry Park and will be resubmitting the plan to the MOA Planning Department and the Urban Design Commission (UDC) for a Major Site Plan Review. The Department is revising the site plan to include new ADA access to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail.

Background and Purpose

On June 10th, the Parks and Recreation Department presented the Elderberry Park project to the Urban Design Commission (case 2020-0076). The site plan identified a new access point to the Coastal Trail from M Street near the current location of the Oscar Anderson House. This new alignment was identified in the 2015 Elderberry Park Master Plan. The intent was to separate park and trail activities to reduce conflicts between fast moving cyclists cutting through the park and families and visitors enjoying more passive recreation.

At the time of the June 10th UDC meeting, the Department anticipated that the new access to the Coastal Trail would be constructed as part of upgrades proposed for M Street in coordination with the Municipality's Project Management and Engineering Department.

Following the UDC meeting, the Department conducted further design and engineering efforts that revealed that ADA access to the Coastal Trail from M Street could not be achieved without significant disturbance to the park, due to existing elevation and grade changes.

Proposed Site Plan Changes

The Department has revised the site plan to provide for new ADA access to the Coastal Trail from within the park and will be resubmitting the site plan to the Planning Department and UDC for review.

The updated site plan re-aligns the access to the Coastal Trail from the 5th Avenue parking lot. This trail alignment utilizes grade changes that meet ADA accessibility standards and provides for separation of park and trail facilities. To accommodate this, the updated site plan shifts the playground and plaza area 10-15' to the northeast.

The Department has evaluated a range of options through the site design process and believes that the proposed trail alignment and updated site plan, meets the intent of the 2015 master plan.

Next Steps

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to engaging Anchorage residents in the development of their parks and trails. The Department proposes the following next steps in the process for a Major Site Plan Review:

1. September 2020: South Addition Community Council presentation/public meeting
2. October 2020: Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing; Major Site Plan Review submittal to MOA Planning Department
3. December 2020: Urban Design Commission public hearing
4. Summer 2021: Anticipated Construction

CC: Josh Durand, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

Dave Whitfield, Planning Manager, MOA Planning Department