

West Anchorage District Plan
Ecosystem Quality Focus Group Minutes
Friday, May 29, 2009, 1-3 pm
MOA Planning Department, Room 170

BOUNDARY DISCUSSION

Objectives

- Land Use and Design:
 - Plan should highlight key corridor points
 - northern coast less ecological value to refuge and Kincaid, the second largest park
 - Connor's Bog – boarded by MOA Storm water treatment - long term ownership issues exist there.
 - Urban Runoff treatment opportunities
 - add to study
 - Strawberry Lake wetland area
 - Hood Creek needs new study to incorporate appropriate landscapes to design standards
 - 2020 Open space map – achieve these systems
 - MOA/Great Land Trust – Update on properties
 - AWWU – Incinerator, Chlorine, Odor
 - On-site systems in Sand Lake are affected by surface water – they need watershed plan
 - Mixed land use issues with onsite/AWUU (need to identify this area)
 - Important Urban Wildlife Area esp. by the refuge, Kincaid and airport fence
 - Pt. Woronzof needs mitigation from petroleum compost
 - Kincaid soil contaminants found at the new soccer fields
- Airport:
 - Airport Deicing Chemicals – Lake Hood/Inlet
 - Airport is weed/disease invasive. Vector Point (Dept. of Agriculture).
 - Recreation: Connectivity with Trail System – Loop connect South Coastal Trail & to Campbell Creek Trail
- Wildlife and Habitat:
 - Refer to relevant management plans: Forest Management Plan, Fish Creek Plan, USFWS Coastal Management Plan
 - Developers clear cut and replant inappropriate vegetation
 - Bear Areas – Address garbage 1/4th mile of bluff and neighborhoods around Kincaid
 - Campbell Lake has conflicts with float planes, helicopters and increased geese.
 - Important wildlife area especially near the refuge
 - Snow Geese
 - Movement corridor – moose check points
 - Create better buffer zones to reduce wildlife conflicts

- Animals are no animal zone in and outside boundary FAA Permit
- Look at decommission trails to wildlife conflict and social trails
- Maintain adequate habitat
- stocked lakes

Strengths & Values

- Recreation:
 - Kincaid Park provides:
 - Recreation - Water quality/wetlands
 - Destination - Buffer to noise
 - Habitat - Rural Quality
 - Old growth birch - Ecology, education
 - Coastal Trail – access
 - Connors Bog – all our needs are met there
- Convenient proximity to other parts of town
 - Lake Living / Lake Interface
 - Little Campbell Lake with park, not polluted
 - Viewshed at Pt. Woronzof and Earthquake Park
 - Northwood Park – will have forest education trail soon
- Airport:
 - Not all of West Anchorage is impacted by planes
- Land Use & Design
 - Relatively low density on bluff – keep it low density residential or park lands; there is a pinch point at Dimond bluff; we need to protect critical habitat there

Issues, Weaknesses & Problems

- Land Use and Development:
 - Bluff development in Bayshore – bluffs eroded causing bare slopes
 - Gravel pit closures – how it is happening
 - Sedimentation in lakes is effecting general aviation by making lakes shallower
 - Scraping top soils, spreading invasive plants
- Airport:
 - Small Airport Pollutants – Sand Lake canals
 - Noise
- Recreation:
 - Pt. Woronzoff Park trash
- Wildlife and Habitat:
 - Linking corridors to avoid wildlife crossing roads; there are a lot of collisions with moose at Raspberry and Sand Lake (there is state land at this intersection so maybe the state could be engaged in a solution)
 - Bears and trash black bears, just ¼ mile
 - Anywhere planes park, hazardous/toxic fluids are associated
 - Geese – numbers are down now which is good to avoid plane strikes

- Riparian Invasives in Fish Creek
- Invasive plants – State got its first staff person to work on this issues this year (our State is behind on this issue); Best Management Practices need to be incorporated

Trends

- Airport
 - Airport Expansions – fill in west side
 - Economic impacts – Airport expansion/contraction becomes moving target
 - Large project federal funding will decrease
- Commercial Development
 - Fire Island development – causeway?
 - Anchorage export/import industry will continue to increase
- Wildlife and Habitat- We'll need to reduce impacts to the extent possible
- Land Use and Design:
 - Sustainable development practices
 - Complete streets
 - Design elements
 - Improved transit

Solutions

- Land Use and Design
 - Soil type will dictate appropriate development
 - Put in plan the impacted areas
 - Strengthen M.A.S.S. Specs
 - Design Criteria Manual
 - Strengthen Title 21/Landscaping
 - Use appropriate vegetation type,
 - Add lake and creek setbacks with objective criteria, not one generic set-back distance for all scenarios
 - Other appropriate buffers
 - Don't aggravate wildlife pinch points
- Airport:
 - Airport master plan – designate permanent protection areas including Coastal Trail
- Recreation:
 - Designate natural open space within parks – determine them off-limits / non-developed
 - Put undeveloped natural open space in all parks' master plans
 - Write Master Plans for all Anchorage parks
 - Tally what percentage is being developed