
APPENDIX 1 — PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The goal of the public participation process for the update of the Areawide Trails Plan was to develop a range of choices that would integrate diverse opinions and perceptions with the facts. Through comparative evaluation of the varying opinions, a picture was created that focused on the pro's and con's for each proposed trail project. The process had six different features.

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION SURVEY

A professional survey firm conducted a randomized, statistically valid survey of the residents of the Municipality of Anchorage as to their thoughts and ideas about trails. A copy of the survey form is found in Appendix 2.

II. INCORPORATION OF THE ASSEMBLY'S TRAIL USERS COMMITTEE WORK

The Assembly Trail Users Committee held public meetings and developed a list of issues and concerns that were used as input to this Plan. Also, there was representation from the committee on the Trails Focus Group.

III. TRAILS FOCUS GROUP

The Trails Focus Group was designed to review the information from the consultants and to evaluate the alternatives that were suggested. The group met twice.

The first meeting was held in concert with a public meeting to establish a “*vision*” for trails in the Anchorage area over the next 20 years. The kinds of questions asked at that meeting were: what role will trails play in Anchorage? Do we want to facilitate the use of trails as a mode for public transportation? What kind of commitment to trails exists in the community?

The second meeting was an all-day meeting that broke down into smaller groups to focus on specific issues and to develop solutions.

The members of the Trails Focus Group included:

- Panthea Redwood, Project Manager, Planning
- Bob Kniefel, Project Coordinator, Transportation Planning
- Dwayne Adams — Land Design North
- Pat Abney — Assembly
- Ron Blake — Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Jim Cantor — Eagle River-Chugiak Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Rose Chillcoat — then with National Park Service
- Fred Dyson — Eagle River
- Dave Gardner — Parks and Recreation
- Jody Karcz — Transit
- Rusty Kendall — Girdwood Board of Supervisors
- Dave Mumford — Traffic Engineering
- Jim Von Bose — Assembly Trails Users Committee

IV. PUBLIC MEETINGS

Six public meetings were held. The first was held in the Anchorage Bowl and was a “*visioning*” meeting, held with the Trails Focus Group.

The next three were held in Chugiak-Eagle River, the Anchorage Bowl (North Star Elementary School) and in Girdwood. The purpose of these meetings was to identify:

1. trails that were inaccurately shown on the planned maps,
2. trails that should be shown, but that weren't,
3. additional trail needs,
4. conflicting uses,
5. possible solutions to conflict, and
6. trail priorities.

A fifth public meeting to review the work done to identify trails needs, locations of trails, and trail conflicts was held in the Anchorage Bowl.

A sixth public meeting was held at Chester Valley school with residents of the Cheney Lake area to discuss alternative locations for a connecting trail from the Chester Creek trail to Cheney Lake Park. A consensus was arrived at which is shown on the trail maps.

V. INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS

Individual meetings were held with affected user groups, some community councils, and with several affected agencies including the Anchorage International Airport, the Alaska Railroad Corporation, Elmendorf AFB, Bureau of Land Management, and the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Commission.

VI. TRAILS PLAN REVIEW GROUP

After an initial draft was created, a Trails Plan Review Group (TPRG) was formed to go over the draft to make recommendations for changes, to review the staff recommendations, and to develop priorities for trail construction.

The TPRG met over a period of seven months. An extensive review of the draft was done and recommendations for changes were made. Two new chapters were added and priorities for trail construction were made. A presentation of the trail priorities and a discussion of the process used to determine those priorities is found in Chapter 10.

The Trails Plan Review Group included the following members:

- Panthea Redwood, Project Manager, Physical Planning, MOA
- Lance Wilber, Project Coordinator, Transportation Planning, MOA
- Dwayne Adams — Land Design North
- Jim Cantor — Sled Dog Musers
- Mary Cary — Equestrians
- Ron Crenshaw — Anchorage Trails Users Group
- Linda Cyra-Korsgaard — Landscape Architect
- Dave Gardner — Parks and Recreation Division
- Joe Gauna — Anchorage Snowmobile Club
- Larry Holmes — Girdwood Trails Committee
- Bob Kniefel — Transit
- Al Meiners — Chugach State Park
- Don Poulton — Chugiak-Eagle River
- Robert Stiles — Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission
- Chris Tower Zafren — Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage

