

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS NEAR POTTER MARSH FOR PARK PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Assembly of the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, a local non-profit conservation organization, has worked in partnership with the Municipality since 1995 to identify properties within the boundaries of the Municipality that have high natural resource and public purpose value; and

WHEREAS, the Great Land Trust is seeking to purchase a privately owned 200-acre upland parcel in south Anchorage east of Potter Marsh and to donate the land to the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the proposed acquisition adjoins approximately 100 acres of Municipal land now managed by the MOA Heritage Land Bank primarily for public open space for protection of water quality and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Land Bank seeks to transfer to the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department said 100 acres, in conjunction with the proposed Great Land Trust 200-acre acquisition to establish the Potter Marsh Watershed Park; and

WHEREAS, said 300 acres combined contain wetlands and streams identified in the *Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan (2014)* that are of value for flood and stormwater attenuation, water quality, habitat and open space aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, said 300 acres contain inherent watershed, conservation, and recreation value in and of themselves while also containing value as a key portion of the watershed drainage for Potter Marsh; and

WHEREAS, the *Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource, and Recreation Facility Plan* recommends protecting key drainages of the Potter Marsh Watershed; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust is currently raising the funds to purchase the 200-acre parcel and transfer title to the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust will negotiate and establish a conservation easement on the property that will allow for public access and limited trail, interpretive, and other possible recreation uses while emphasizing natural resource conservation; and

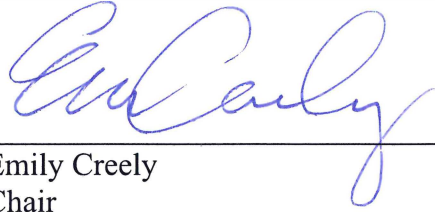
WHEREAS, Great Land Trust will also raise funding for a stewardship endowment to ensure that the property is monitored to maintain conservation values at no cost to the Municipality; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission supports Great Land Trust in its efforts to purchase the privately owned 200-acre parcel and finalize the details of the transfer of the privately owned 200-acre parcel and the 100-acre Heritage Land Bank parcel to the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department for future use as a Park.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Anchorage Watershed and Natural Resources Advisory Commission on this 20th day of December, 2023.



Craig H. Lyon
Planning Director



Emily Creely
Chair