

Municipality of Anchorage

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<http://www.muni.org/gbos>

Suzanne LaFrance Mayor



GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Mike Edgington & Jennifer Wingard, Co-Chairs
Briana Sullivan, Brian Burnett, Kellie Okonek

Resolution 2025-23

Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors **REQUESTING CONDITIONS ON PLANNING CASE 2026-0005 REGARDING THE MIDDLE IDITAROD TRAIL**

WHEREAS, the 2025 Girdwood Comprehensive Plan identifies Goal R4 as “*Girdwood’s trails and open spaces are integrated into the community*” and Policy R4.2 as “*New development (e.g. housing, transportation) is consistent with ensuring access and protection of trails and open spaces.*”; and

WHEREAS, maintaining community connectivity to the Girdwood Iditarod National Historic Trail is fundamental to the pedestrian-friendly recreation-based community of Girdwood; and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Iditarod National Historic Trail is a trail of unique cultural and historic significance in Girdwood and for Southcentral Alaska well documented in the [Girdwood-Iditarod Trail Route Study](#), a cooperative planning effort between the community, city, state and federal agencies that was completed and adopted by the Anchorage Assembly in 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Iditarod Trail Route Study recommendations have informed the Girdwood Trails Management Plan (2020) and the Girdwood Trails Master Plan (2024) and provided guidance for Girdwood Parks and Recreation and the Girdwood Trails Committee in restoring and developing the trail thus far; and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood trail segments of the Iditarod National Historic Trail are included in the 1986 Iditarod National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan and trail management recommendations include preservation, trail easements, and route maintenance; and

WHEREAS, proposed development of the Holtan Hills Subdivision requires that some portions of the trail be re-routed, as presented on the proposed plat and with construction of the new off-site improvements to the project that have impacted trailhead location and connectivity to the Athabaskan Environmental Physics Trail (AEP), which connects the Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail to the Girdwood pre-K-8 school; and

WHEREAS, the Winner Creek Trail was similarly impacted when the Alyeska Resort Master Plan (2008) proposed development along the 1969 Jr. National Nordic Trail, which was resolved by developer acquisition of a trail easement and payment to realign the trail, maintaining traditional community connectivity to the Winner Creek Trail via the Winner Creek Extension Trail.

THEREFORE, GBOS recommends the following conditions regarding the Girdwood Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail be added to Planning Case 2026-0005, to be paid for by the development partners:

- Establish a realignment of the Girdwood Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail through Phase 1 in consultation with Girdwood Valley Service Area
- Plat of the realigned trail with a 25' non-disturbance easement either side of the centerline
- Perform any resultant trail improvements in accordance with established practices in the Girdwood Trails Master Plan (2024) and Girdwood Trails Management Plan (2020).

PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed this 15th day of December 2025.

Mike Edgington

Mike Edgington
GBOS Co-Chair

Brian Burnett

Brian Burnett
Girdwood Parks and Recreation Supervisor