

GTC Member Proposed Amendments to the Girdwood Trails Master Plan Jan 18 2022.  
Proposed changes may not be addressed in the order shown.

Amendment #1 (Raymond-Yakoubian)  
Proposed Motion: Vote to adopt the Girdwood Trails Master Plan as it is now (i.e. after incorporation of the votes on recommendations ending at the January 4, 2022 meeting), and add any new proposals that are voted on and accepted by GTC as an additional appendix to the Plan.

Motion: GTC Moves to adopt Amendment 1: approve the Girdwood Trails Master Plan as it is now (i.e. after incorporation of the votes on recommendations ending at the January 4, 2022 meeting), and add any new proposals that are voted on and accepted by GTC as an additional appendix to the Plan.

Motion by Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Halverson

Group votes by roll call, chat and polling:

Roll call: 3 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstain

Chat: 10 in favor, 17 opposed, 1 abstain

Poll: 15 in favor, 26 opposed, 9 abstain \*

Total: 28 in favor, 51 opposed, 10 abstain

Motion fails

**Motion fails 3/1/22**

Amendment #2 (Tenny)  
Proposed change: Title - Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead. Keep bullet points 1,2,3  
Add bullet point 4: Upon completion of the study and review of the suggested alternatives by GTC there will be implementation of the preferred option.

Motion: GTC moves to approve Amendment #2 to Virgin Creek Falls Trailhead. Add bullet point 4: Upon completion of the study and review of the suggested alternatives by GTC there will be implementation of the preferred option.

Motion by Michelle Tenny, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kate Sandberg

Group votes by roll call, chat and polling:

Roll Call: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain

Chat: 15 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstain

Poll: 33 in favor, 2 opposed, 5 abstain\*

Total: 51 in favor, 4 opposed, 8 abstain

Motion carries

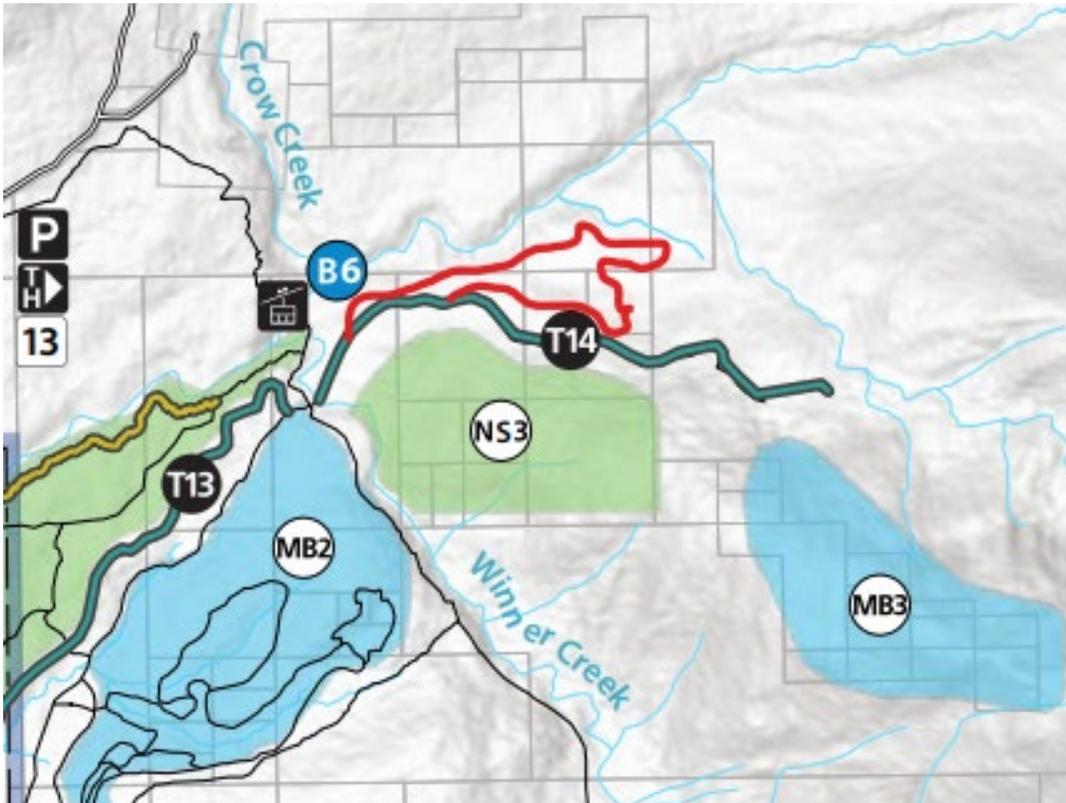
Motion passes 3/1/22

Amendment #3 (Thomas)  
Proposed change: Add 3-5k loop class 4 trail north of T14. (see map below)

Motion:

GTC moves to approve proposed addition of a 3-5K loop class 4 trail north of T14 (Cat Trail).

Motion by Justin Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kalie Harrison  
Group votes by roll call, chat and poll:  
Roll call: 3 in favor, 2 opposed  
Chat: 13 in favor, 16 opposed, 1 abstain  
Poll: 22 in favor, 21 opposed, 6 abstain\*  
Total: 38 in favor, 39 opposed, 7 abstain  
Motion fails  
Motion fails 3/1/22 vote is upheld 3.22.22



#### Amendment #4

(Boone/Harrison)

Trailheads on residential streets should be pedestrian/bike access only (i.e., trailhead parking not allowed on residential roads). The 2014 Girdwood South Townsite Master Plan encourages transportation modes other than automobile. This has also been a common theme for Girdwood planning in general, including in this Trails Plan, so it makes sense to apply it to trailheads in areas where traffic and vehicles have a negative impact on residents and visitors. Traffic on residential streets is a longstanding common complaint amongst residents. Additionally, in some cases, space does not allow for a parking lot in these residential areas. This applies to Virgin Creek Falls (end of Timberline) and any other future neighborhood trailheads. Alternatives for visitors to access these trails are: getting dropped off by shuttle or private vehicle, or parking at the nearest parking lot, such as the Daylodge. References to this topic in the plan: Page 32, "Improving & Managing Trail Access"; Page 26, "Access: Trailheads & Parking"

Motion:

GTC moves to accept Amendment #4: Trailhead on residential streets should be pedestrian/bike access only.

Motion by Eryn Boone, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jonathan Lee

18 in favor, 33 opposed, 6 abstain

Motion fails

#### Amendment #5

(Boone/Harrison)

Recommendation to differentiate between activities allowed during winter/summer in Areas for Primitive Trails/Natural Space Areas. Main area of concern is in Natural Space area NS1 (Virgin Creek Natural Space), which is currently frequented in winter by people riding fat bikes, when conditions allow. Need to consider allowing different uses winter/summer seasons to accommodate this. Currently bikes are considered mechanized and not allowed in Natural Spaces, if I understand it right. Winter travel allows multiple paths to be made in the snow if desired for different activities (biking, skiing, snow shoeing, etc.), without impact to the environment after freeze-up and with adequate snow cover. The conditions that have to be present in order for a person to be able to ride a fat bike include a compacted snow surface, which protects from damage to the environment. The speed of fat biking is much slower than regular summer biking, and the sounds generated by fat biking are similar to snowshoeing or skiing on fish-scale skis. References to this topic in the plan: Page 35, "Natural Spaces"; Page 20, "Seasonal Trails"

Motion: GTC moves to accept Amendment 5: GTP should differentiate between activities during winter/summer use in the trails plan.

Motion by Eryn Boone/2<sup>nd</sup> by Julie Jonas

Motion postponed to next meeting by assent vote 3.22.22

Motion pulled by petitioner at 4.12.22 meeting.

Item is to be addressed in update of the Trails Management Plan.

#### Amendment #6

(Thomas)

Amend description of primitive trails as follows in red.

Areas for Primitive Trails: One way in which this plan improves the balance and diversity of Girdwood's trail system is by identifying areas where primitive trails are desired. Areas that prioritize primitive trails without prohibiting other uses serve a variety of purposes, including both conservation and recreation, non-mechanized recreation activities like trail walking, running, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, foraging, wildlife viewing, education, solitude, and meditation are the primary uses.

Motion: GTC moves to adopt the language proposed above.

Motion by Justin Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul Crews

Amended motion: GTC moves to amend the language as follows into the paragraph above:

"without prohibiting other developed trail uses"

Amended motion by Paul Crews, no 2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion tabled until Amendment 8 is discussed. 4.12.22.

Amendment #7

(P Crews)

Proposed Motion: Amend the approved recommended change of Natural Spaces description on P 35, **Areas For Primitive Trails** by adding the following sentence: **Primitive Trails should be routed or rerouted onto sustainable alignments and hardened when necessary to assure trail sustainability.**

Amendment #8

(Essex)

Proposed Motion: Vote to remove all primitive trail areas from the maps.

We all agree that un-developed areas are critical for wildlife and to everyone's enjoyment of the Girdwood Valley and its trail system. However, designating these specific areas will make it difficult to appropriately respond to increased use in any of these areas or address issues with infrastructure concerning altering use patterns. Inability to address these kind of issues could ultimately cause damage to the natural areas, wetlands, and trails that we all agree are so important. I ask that we focus on designating the trails – primitive through developed – with signage including trail names, maps, allowed uses, and distances.

Designating specific areas as primitive trail areas' is a land use topic, not a trail subcommittee topic. Our task at hand was to create a Master Trail Plan. I was on the subcommittee and feel that we definitely fell short on our responsibility to create a dynamic plan of an expanding trail system to address increased usage, GTC goals of additional trail connection, signage, climate change impacts, access, and the positive economic impact of trail users. We should focus on trailhead signage including uses of the trails to keep the primitive trails and wetlands protected.

**Area 1)** Doesn't allow for trail connection to neighborhoods from Town Center and between established trails. Leaving ones vehicle in the driveway is a key value in Girdwood, and having trails in our backyard have been stated as a value repeatedly. Well, this is our backyard. Let's focus on protecting the wetlands and primitive trails in the lower valley while connecting a neighborhood route in the upper Timberline area from Alyeska Highway to Virgin Creek Trail to bypass the roads.

**Area 2)** Isn't in alignment with previous land use plans referenced in Master Plan nor congruent with the Girdwood public surveys. The current primitive trail area inclusion in this Master Plan does not align with the GNCS's mission to build and maintain a year-round multi-use trail system as it restricts the majority of uplands in the upper valley to primitive trails only - no groomed trails and no

biking – summer or winter. Never before has this restriction been submitted in a land use plan, trails plan, parks and open space plan, transportation plan, or Resort development plan in Girdwood. Previous plans and future plan should recognize this as a recreation corridor.

**Area 3)** Isn't in alignment with previous land use plans referenced in this Master Plan. This area is flanked by two extremely well-known primitive trails in the Girdwood Valley (Berry Pass and Crow Pass). This area has been defined in previous plans as a future recreational area and commercial recreational area. This was not discussed at any length in the GTP committee.

**Amendment #9 (Essex) – Motion pulled Essex via email 2.21.22**

**Proposed Motion: Vote to connect the Upper Joe Danich trail with the Virgin Creek Trail. (Essex).**

This would be in response to the community's comments and help alleviate Timberline traffic and over-crowded trailheads from the Timberline and Virgin Creek neighborhoods. A sustainable trail loop within this Timberline / Virgin Creek area could provide a safe connection to Hightower Town Square for the neighborhood, and from the Town Square parking to the Falls. Historically, as a community grows, more trails are created for both transportation and recreation. When these needs are not met, social trails start to pop up and the well-maintained trails in place are overloaded. This is where we are in Girdwood. The majority of our trails were not designed for recreation, but are the remnants of old mining and logging roads. It would be ideal to keep the Lower Danich and Wagon Trail primitive, and to connect the Upper Danich and Upper Virgin Creek Trail up to the Falls.



Amendment #10 \*

(P Crews)

Proposed Motion: Add to the draft plan a new class 3 trail traversing parcel 6-036 and other nearby lands generally following the route that is indicated on the attached map.

See map next page

Amendment #11 \*

(P Crews)

Proposed Motion: Add to the draft plan a new site to locate bridge 1. Remove from the draft plan the old location of bridge 1. Select the new location of bridge 1 to correspond with the southern termination of the trail described in motion 1. (eg Amendment 11)

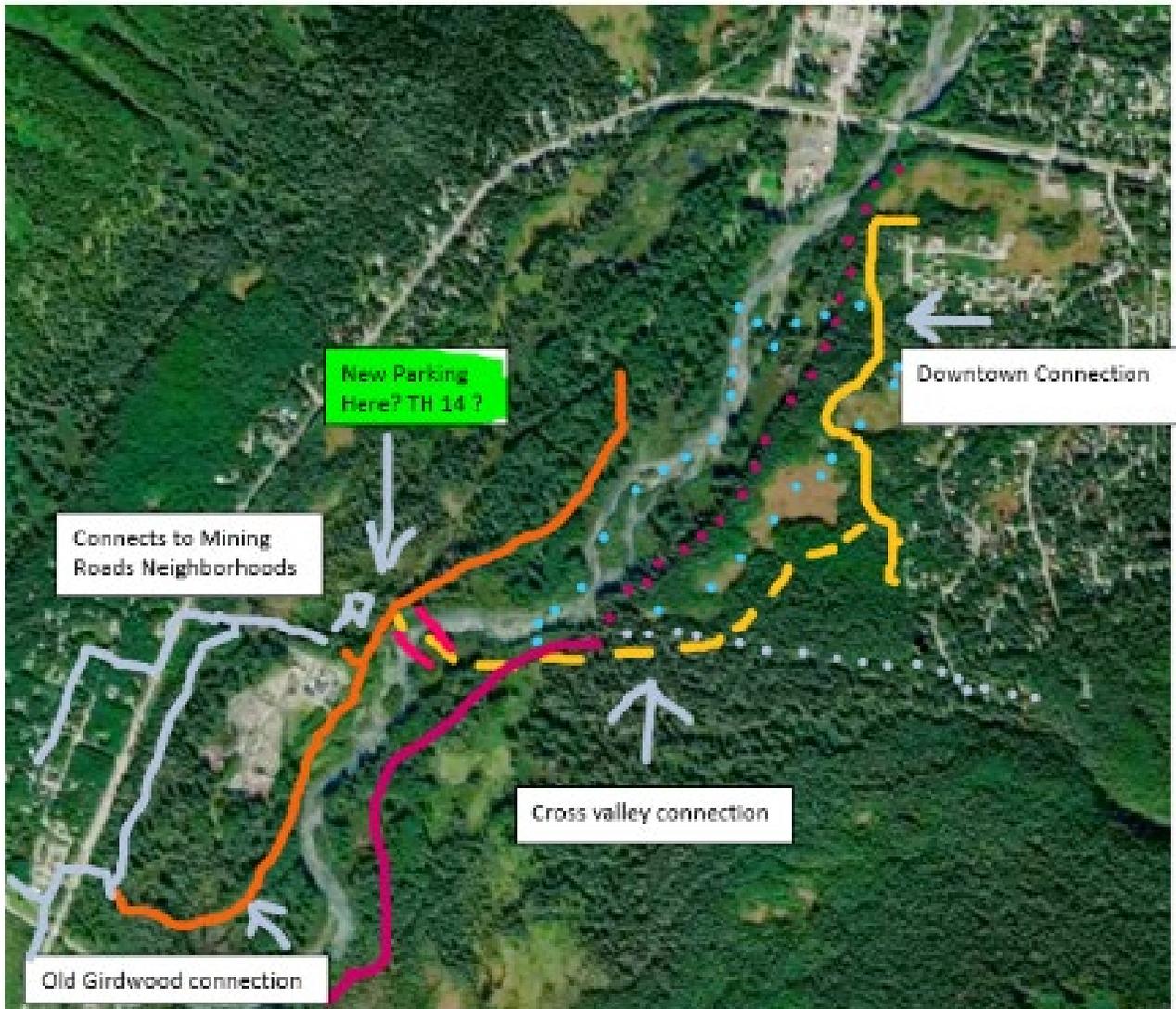
See map next page

Amendment #12 \*

(P Crews)

Proposed Motion: Add new trailhead parking #14 near the southern termination of the trail described in motion #1. (eg Amendment 11)

See map next page



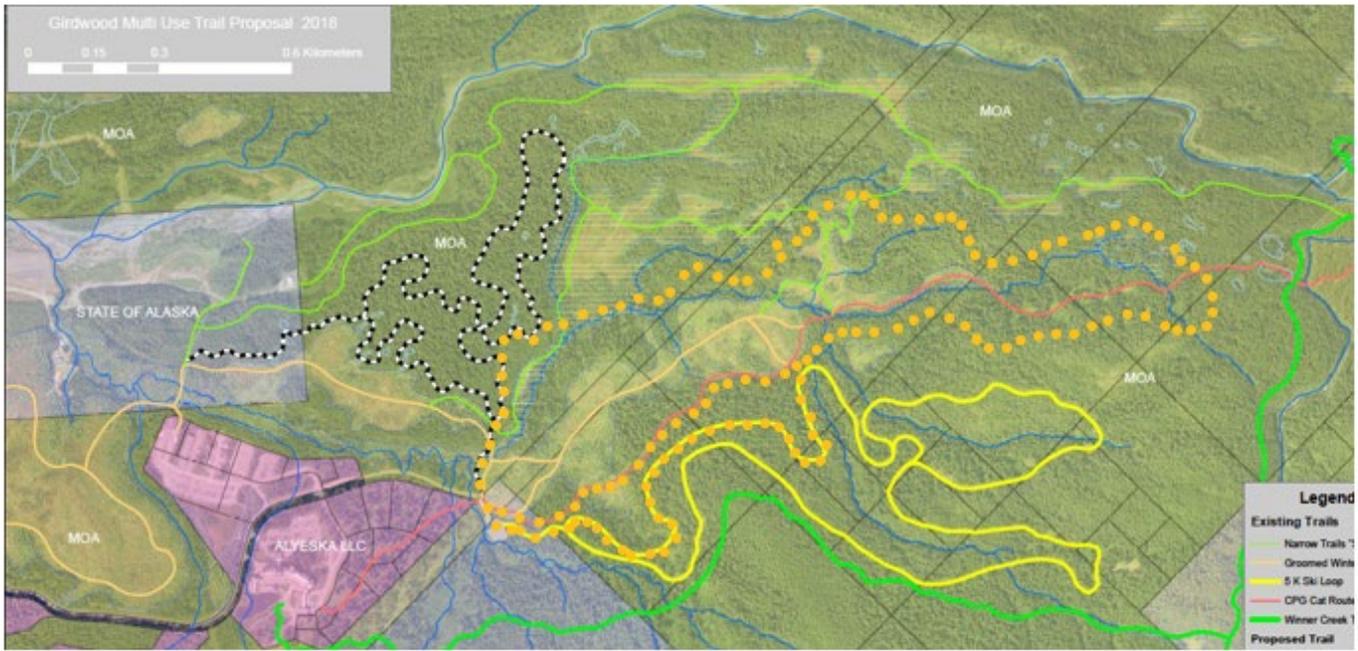
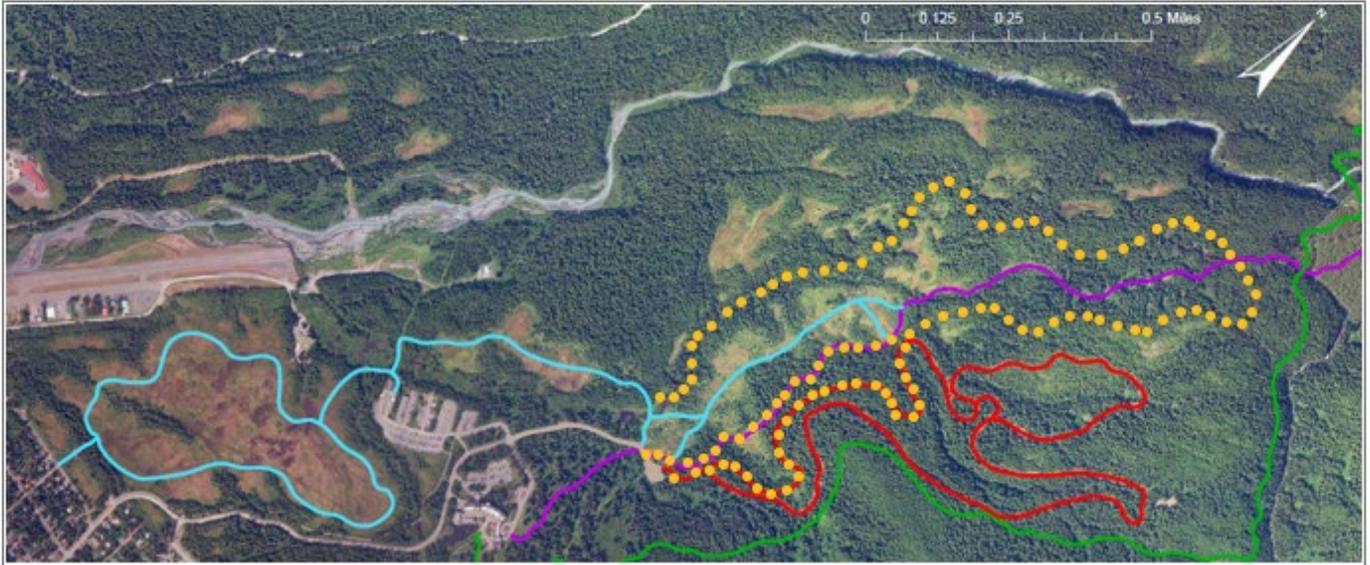
1) **Amendment #13:**

(Essex)

Proposed Motion: add back an Upper Valley Connector from the Forest Loop to the CPG CAT Track near the CAT Track Bridge. (see maps below)

While the exact area of the connector trail can be discussed in the future, showing a Class 4 year-round looped trail system is congruent with the community survey results and Girdwood Master Plan comments. The trail originally included in the plan was removed because people commented the space was crowded. Yet, if you look at the summer map the GTC created (shown below), no summer trails exist in this area. This area has been repeatedly zoned and defined as Open Space and Recreation Zone. In 2006, HLB commissioned a trail feasibility study to determine where to add 20 Kilometers of multi-use trails to this area. I agree that the primitive trails should remain primitive, but I disagree with this proposed primitive area covering all of the uplands of the Girdwood valley west of the CAT track, thus prohibiting a future multi-use trail system development that includes summer or winter bike travel.





Amendment #14

(Essex)

Proposed Motion: delete the "Primitive Trail Experience" paragraph on page 24 of the Master Plan.

This is a false narrative. Girdwood's existing trails were not more primitive as stated in the document, but in fact were once utility roads/ trails built for mining, hunting, and logging. (Abe's, California Creek, Winner Creek, Danich, Virgin Creek, Crow Creek, Beaver Pond) These trails have been vanishing back into the forest (including the 1969 cross country ski race trail) or have to be constantly brushed to remain open.

The remaining amendment proposals are from Barb Crews:

Amendment #15

**Amend T3:**

*Build a trail connection in the uplands, where possible, between [the Lower Iditarod trailhead and Ruane Road](#) ~~California Creek and the Alyeska Highway~~. This new lower valley trail would provide a loop in the lower valley east of the Alyeska Highway, improving connectivity and providing an alternate, unpaved looped route for lower valley residents. The trail should be constructed to Class 3 Bicycle design parameters. ~~For the most ideal trail experience, the utility easement should be avoided. Structures are permitted to traverse wetlands.~~ The trail should be located on HLB lands zoned GOS.*

Amendment #16

**Amend T5:**

*Construct an east/west trail connection in the lower valley [between the Beaver Pond Trail and the Alyeska Highway Bike Path](#). This trail would allow users to access and exit the Beaver Pond trail about midway, creating a shorter option for those who do not wish to go the entire length of Beaver Pond trail. It would provide trail connectivity for residents of a possible future [development of HLB Tract 18A](#). T5 would be constructed to Class 3 Biking design parameters. The trail alignment should use the existing Juniper Drive easement. If the trail is constructed before parcels 6-010 and/or 6-040 are developed, the trail and associated easement *may need* to be relocated when the HLB parcels are subdivided and developed.*

Amendment #17

**Amend T6:**

*~~Provide a trail connection from the neighborhoods of the middle valley to town center.~~ This proposed trail ~~connection~~ would provide a more direct trail connection to town center from the Alyeska Basin Subdivision by shortening the amount of time pedestrians and trail users would have to travel on roads. Avoid wetlands when possible. Boardwalk structures can be used where staying out of wetlands is not feasible. This trail should be kept outside of natural area 1 (NA1) using HLB land zoned GOS and/or GCR-1. Designed to Class 3 bicycle design parameters. Trail would tie [into the Alyeska Hwy Bike Path after crossing under the Alyeska Hwy Glacier Creek bridge](#) ~~existing trails before crossing the highway~~.*

Amendment #18

**Amend T7:**

Change the sentence from “...the trail...*will be relocated*...” to “...the trail...*may need to be relocated* ...”. Hopefully, possible future development will be anticipated during the trail design process so that relocation is not necessary.

Amendment #19

**Amend T8:**

*This trail is shown on many trail plans and forms a natural connection between the Beaver Pond Trail on the south, and the Iditarod on the north crossing Ragged Top Trail on the way. The route traverses an area of old growth rainforest, open marshes, small stream courses and waterfalls. The trail would require a bridge to cross over California Creek to join up with Beaver Pond Trail. This bridge could be built in coordination with the Girdwood Cemetery, whose Master Plan also shows a bridge in this area. This trail connection T8 would provide an important link in the Circum-Valley Loop. Trail would be constructed to Class 2 Hiking design parameters. The proposed route traverses HLB lands zoned both GOS and gR-3. If the trail is constructed before parcel 6-010, zoned gR-3 is developed, the trail and associated easement may need to be will be relocated when/if the HLB parcel is subdivided and developed. This trail is identified in the Crow Creek Neighborhood Land Use Study.*

Amendment #20

**Amend T9:**

Change the sentence from “...the trail...*will be relocated*...” to “...the trail...*may need to be relocated* ...”.

Amendment #21

**Amend T11:**

Add trail class in this trail description.

Amendment #22

**Amend T12:**

*This proposed trail creates an upland route between Stumpy’s Summer Trail and the Glacier Canyon Rim between the southern portion and northern portions of Stumpy’s Summer Trail. It would replace the sections of Stumpy’s Summer trail that traverse the wetlands of Perpetual, Island, and Last Meadows. The trail would create a loop option for hikers on the Winner Creek and Snowcat trails. The proposed trail should be is a primitive, non-mechanized trail constructed to Class 2 Hiking design parameters. Because the trail is located in an Area of Primitive Trails, bikes and other mechanized uses would not be allowed on the trail. The trail should be hardened as necessary would be unhardened as much as possible, however it could hardening is minimally allowed to avoid braiding of trails, resource damage, and to achieve trail sustainability if desired.*

Amendment #23

**Amend T13:**

Add a conceptual version of the previously approved Forest Loop Trail that addresses the changes needed based on Alyeska Village development.

Amendment #24

**Amend T14:**

T14 is listed as 4 miles long in the Existing Trails chart on p. 20. The Draft Trail Master Plan says “improvements should be considered on both sides of Winner Creek trail” (p. 39). Then in the chart on p. 40, T14 is listed as 1.21 miles long. Does this mean that only 1.21 miles out of the 4 mile long trail are going to be upgraded from Class 1 to Class 4?

Next to last sentence:

On the north side of Winner Creek a separate, down route for bikes should be constructed separate from the multi-use ~~T14 T13~~ and connecting MB3 to the bottom of the hill.

Amendment #25

**Amend B3:**

*Identify a location for a trail bridge to cross Virgin Creek. A bridge would provide a safe, legal, and sustainable connection between lower Virgin Creek and the Wagon Trail ~~and complete a loop in the lower Valley.~~ This project must be pursued in concert with the Virgin Creek Access Study (TH4).*

Amendment #26

**Add B7:** (this is a new bridge that I propose be added to the Plan)

*Construct a pedestrian trail bridge across California Creek as part of the T8 trail project connecting Beaver Pond Trail to the Toe Slope Trail. This bridge is also included in the Girdwood Cemetery Master Plan, so bridge planning and construction could be shared between the GTC and the Girdwood Cemetery.*

Amendment #27

**Amend TH5 & TH6:** (this is a variation on TH5 and TH6)

Combine TH6 and TH5 (Kariolus) into a TH by the ballfields.

Amendment #28

**RE: TH8:** (Beaver Pond Trailhead)

*The Beaver Pond trailhead is often full. Implementing ~~other simple trailhead~~ improvements at other trailheads (Town Square, Girdwood PreK-8 School, Girdwood Cemetery, and improved signage and wayfinding), may reduce the demand for on-street parking in this location. As required, coordinate with AK DOT&PF to investigate the feasibility of an official trailhead in this location.*

Amendment #29

**Amend TH9:**

*Pursue an official parking agreement with Anchorage School District ~~Girdwood PreK-8 School~~ to*

provide authorized trail parking in *the dirt lot adjacent to the AWWU road. ~~this location.~~* Install trailhead, wayfinding, and informational signage as authorized. *A trail should be constructed that connects this parking lot to the Middle Iditarod trail. This new connector trail should be located off of the AWWU road, given the planned development of the Holtan Hills subdivision. Perhaps this trail connection could be built as part of the Holtan Hills development.*

Amendment #30

**Amend TH11:**

Propose an additional 30 spots at a minimum.

Amendment #31

**Amend Natural Space Description on Page 35:**

*Areas for Primitive Trails: One way in which this plan improves the balance and diversity of Girdwood's trail system is by identifying areas where primitive trails are desired. *Trails in these areas would be limited to class 2 standards unless use of trails within these areas warrants improved trail tread to protect the surrounding environment.* Areas that prioritize primitive trails serve a variety of purposes, including both conservation and recreation, where non-mechanized recreation activities like trail walking, running, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, foraging, wildlife viewing, education, solitude, and meditation are the primary uses. Mechanized trail use, *such as bikes or one wheels,* is not authorized.*

Amendment #32

**Amend language in NS1(Virgin Creek Area of Primitive Trails)  
(NS2 and NS3 also should adopt this amendment):**

*Create a natural space in the Virgin Creek area that is kept in its primitive natural state. Allowed uses include primitive, non-mechanized recreation activities like trail walking, running, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, foraging, wildlife viewing, education, solitude, and meditation. Mechanized trail use, *such as bikes or one wheels,* is not authorized. *Trails in these areas would be limited to class 2 standards unless use of trails within these areas warrants improved trail tread to protect the surrounding area. ~~Trails in the area should be kept to Class 1 and Class 2 Design Parameters.~~* Trail boardwalk or bridge structures are authorized to avoid wetlands and streams. Signage should be kept to a minimum. ~~Parking for this level of development would be required either via TH9, TH10, or TH2.~~*

Amendment #33

**Amendment 1 to NS1:** (wording from the staff recommendation for NS1)  
Recommend adjusting the east boundary of NS1 to include the Wagon Trail.

Amendment #34:

**Amendment 2 to NS1:** (wording from the staff recommendation for NS1 with my modifications in blue)

The western boundary should be adjusted to remove the Lower Joe Danich Trail from NS1. This would allow the Lower Danich Trail to be upgraded to a Class 3 trail IF AND ONLY IF:

- B1 is ever built and
- a Class 3 connector trail from Lower Danich to Turin and/or Carlina Drive cul-de-sacs is built.

Because this connector trail would be a Class 3 trail within NS1, it would have to be granted an exception to the NS conditions stipulating primitive trails and no mechanized travel.

Upper Joe Danich would remain in NS1.

Amendment #35

**Amendment 3 to NS1:**

Construct a neighborhood connector trail (Class 3, bicycle design parameters) in uplands from the Turin and/or Carlina Drive cul-de-sacs to connect to T6, the Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway Connector. Because this connector trail would be a Class 3 trail within NS1, it would have to be granted an exception to the NS conditions stipulating primitive trails and no mechanized travel.

Amendment #36

**Amendment 4 to NS1:**

Bikes are allowed on the Lower Danich only during the winter.

Amendment #37

**Amend MB1:**

*Provide purpose-built mountain biking flow trails (Class 2-3 bicycle design parameters) to the west of Abe's trail and Beaver Pond trail, in the area between the California Creek drainages. This mountain bike area would alleviate user conflicts around the Abe's Trail/Beaver Pond/California Creek area. Beaver Pond Trail (out of trailhead 20) and a new built up track would be the up route for bicycle traffic and the proposed T7 Crow Creek Road to Beaver Pond Trail would be the down route. Design intent is to mitigate user conflict in this area to the greatest extent possible by providing purpose-built mountain biking trails and removing faster-speed bicycle traffic from multi-use trails built for hiking. Trailhead access for this area would be located at Town Center, the improved Beaver Pond Trailhead, Cemetery trailhead, or Girdwood Pre-K-8 School ~~Four Valleys Community School.~~*

Amendment #38

**Amend MB2:**

*Provide purpose-built mountain biking flow trails (Class 2-3 bicycle design parameters) within and around the 5K Nordic Ski Loop. All trails in MB2 should minimize impacts to the Winner Creek Trail viewshed. Trailhead access to the area is from the Arlberg Trailhead, Alyeska Resort for resort guests, Alyeska Resort for the general public if a parking agreement is in place, and the Winner Creek Gorge Trailhead once the bridge over Glacier Creek at the Hand Tram is in place.*

~~Additional trails in MB2 will not be authorized until a parking agreement is in place, Arlberg is expanded, or another parking solution is identified.~~

Amendment #39

**Amend Population description p. 13**

*Population*

*The original people of the Girdwood Valley were the Dena'ina Athabascan who may have visited the valley ~~used the land~~ to trap, hunt, and fish. (in our research for the Iditarod signs, we learned that it is doubtful an Dena'ina lived in the Girdwood valley). The town of Girdwood was established by goldminers in 1896, and by 1906 had grown to 1500 goldminers and railroad workers. In the 1950's the population of the Girdwood Valley was low and mostly supportive of ~~rail and~~ (the ARR was completed in 1923) highway construction efforts after gold mining ended during WW2. As Alaska began to develop its resources throughout the state, the population began to increase. After the Alyeska Hotel was completed in the mid-1990's population growth slowed as development became constricted by lack of land and available local jobs. During peak times, population in the town can reach 4000 people – double ~~???? something's missing here!~~*

Amendment #40  
 Amend p. 15 with revised chart



Amendment #41

Amend p. 16 to remove reference to the Hand Tram from the Existing Physical Conditions section.

Amendment #42

Amend p. 26 to remove references to the Hand Tram from the Connectivity section.

Amendment #43

Amend Access section:

*Parking for trail access is available **year-round** at the USFS Ranger District Office, Beaver Pond Trail, **Arlberg Lot** and Moose Meadows Ski Trails. The following parking options are only accessible during summer: Crow Pass, **Winner Creek Gorge**, **Middle Iditarod**, and ~~Upper Iditarod Trail~~, Upper Virgin Creek Trail.*

Amendment #44

Amend p.35 as follows, under Areas of Primitive Trails description

*One way in which this plan improves the balance and diversity of Girdwood's trail system is by identifying areas where primitive trails are desired. **Trails in these areas would be limited to class 2 standards unless use of trails within these areas warrants improved trail tread to protect the surrounding environment.** Areas that prioritize primitive trails serve a variety of purposes, including both conservation and recreation, where non-mechanized recreation activities like trail walking, running, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, foraging, wildlife viewing, education, solitude, and meditation are the primary uses. **Mechanized trail use, such as bikes or one wheels, is not authorized.***

Amendment #45

Amend p. 40 to allow biking on the Toe Slope Trail.

## **Virgin Creek Area:**

Combination of amendments by Paul and Barbara Crews and Deb Essex.

The goal of this edit is to put all the amendments regarding the Virgin Creek area into one coordinated idea. The hope was that this consolidation would make it easier to see the overall plan and to avoid repeat or conflicting votes.

As a result of this edit, I have eliminated 3 of my amendments and consolidated 1 page of my writing, 1 page of Deb's writing and 8 pages of Paul's writing down to one page.

I have included the January 18 text in red. I have included who wrote the original text and what motion it was, in case you want to cross-reference my citations. While it is true the words are not exactly the same, the proposed ideas are the same. Please read over them and decide if you agree.

These are the only modifications from the original text.

- Two of Paul's motions have been broken down into two separate motions, so that it is possible to vote on only one idea at a time.
- Timberline to Downtown Access Trail went from "class 3 trail" in Paul's motion and a "class 3 bicycle design" in Barb's motion to a "class 3 walking only" trail.
- To protect the Upper Joe Danich route, the first half of the Virgin Creek Access Trail is to use the alignment proposed by Paul in the Timberline to Downtown Access Trail rather than Deb's original idea (however, the trail alignment looks the same on Deb's original map and the consolidated map). Also, the trail is now listed explicitly as class 3 hiking only trail.

Each of the 7 amendments proposed below is to be voted on separately.

**Original text from January 18**

### **Timberline to Downtown Access Trail**

Create a class 3 walking only commuter trail from Turin/Karolinus through the uplands to T6 (the new trail from Barren Ave to Alyeska Hwy). This trail is on a different alignment from the Upper Danich, and combined with the Timberline to Ruane Trail, would essentially replace the Upper Danich, which is more a route than a trail.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 1, phase 1:

**Add to the draft plan a new class 3 trail traversing parcel 6-036 and other nearby lands generally following the route that is indicated on the attached map.**

January 18 text from Barb, amendment 3 to NS1:

**Construct a neighborhood connector trail (Class 3, bicycle design parameters) in uplands from the Turin and/or Carlina Drive cul-de-sacs to connect to T6, the Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway Connector. Because this connector trail would be a Class 3 trail within NS1, it would have to be granted an exception to the NS conditions stipulating primitive trails and no mechanized travel.**

Reasoning:

- Connects our neighborhoods; allows trail access to downtown without walking on city streets.
- This is to be an easy trail that all walkers can use.
- Moves trail users away from the river bluff and farther from wildlife zones.
- Provides Timberline residents convenient trail opportunities within walking distance of their homes, thereby reducing the number of parking spaces needed at our trailheads.

### **Virgin Creek Access Trail**

Extend the Timberline to Downtown Access Trail to Lower Virgin Creek Trail. This new Class 3 hiking trail would cross Virgin Creek at B3, continue up Virgin Creek on the southern bank, then cross Virgin Creek again to join up with the Virgin Creek Falls Trail.

January 18 text from Deb, motion 2:

I move to connect the Upper Joe Danich trail with the Virgin Creek Trail.

Reasoning:

- This would help alleviate Timberline traffic and over-crowding at Virgin Creek Falls trailhead.
- This trail loop could provide a safe connection to Hightower Town Square for the Virgin Creek area.

### **Timberline to Ruane Access Trail**

Create a Class 3 multi-use trail that connects Turin/Karolinus to Ruane Road. This trail would start at Turin and Karolinus, join up with Lower Virgin Creek Trail near its junction with Lower Danich Trail, then turn west and cross Glacier Creek on a new bridge near Ruane Road. This trail would only be built if the Ruane bridge is funded.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 1, phase 2:

Add to the draft plan a new class 3 trail traversing parcel 6-036 and other nearby lands generally following the route that is indicated on the attached map.

Reasoning:

- Creates a new cross valley link and shortens the pedestrian travel distance between Turin Drive and Hottentot Road by half.
- Designating the trail and bridge as a pedestrian corridor may open funding opportunities.

### **Ruane Bridge Addition**

This bridge is a component of the Timberline to Ruane Access Trail. The bridge at Ruane would replace B1 down at the RR area.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 2:

Add to the draft plan a new site to locate bridge 1. Select the new location of bridge 1 to correspond with the southern termination of the trail described in motion 1.

Reasoning:

- Creates an emergency access route in case of a catastrophic Ayleska Highway bridge failure.

### **New Mid Valley Trailhead at Ruane**

Add new trailhead parking near the Transfer Site at the southern end of the Timberline to Ruane Access Trail. This parking lot would only be built if the bridge at Ruane is funded.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 3:

Add new trailhead parking #14 near the southern termination of the trail described in motion 1.

Reasoning:

- Parking adjacent to the Transfer Site would be easy to find and would attract our out-of-town users. It would reduce parking pressure at the Forest Service, Downtown, and Karolius Trailheads as well as reducing traffic farther up valley.

### **Lower Valley Bridge Deletion**

Delete B1 from the Draft Plan.

January 18 text from Paul, motion 2:

Remove from the draft plan the old location of bridge 1.

Reasoning:

- With the Lower Danich Trail being Class 1 and the T2 connections to Wagon Trail being eliminated, funding for this bridge is not likely to be feasible. It would be better to direct our resources elsewhere.

### **PT1 Expansion to Wagon Trail**

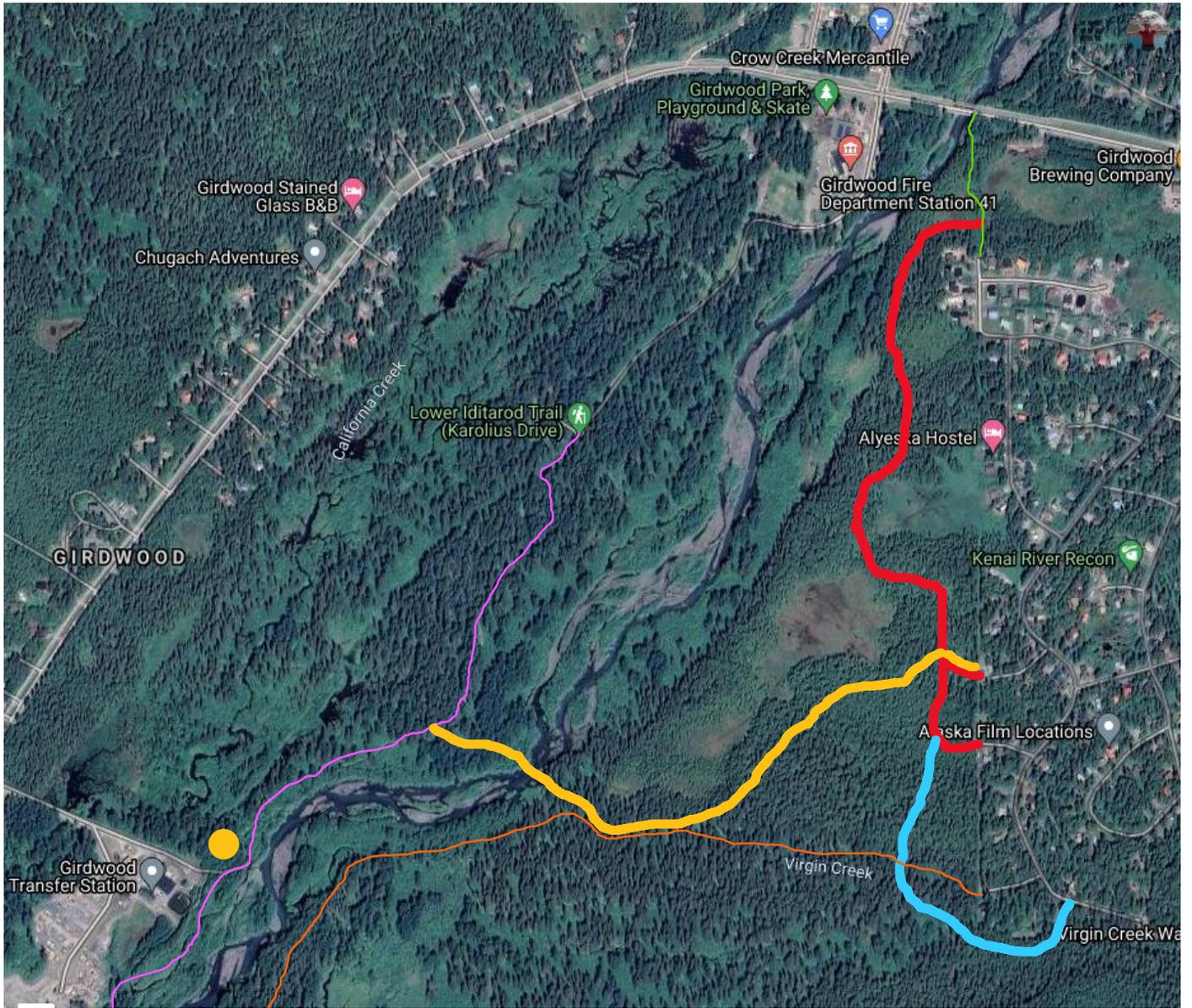
Expand PT1 east to include Wagon Trail.

January 18 text from Barb, amendment 1 to NS1:

Recommend adjusting the boundary of NS1. The eastern boundary should extend and include Wagon Trail.

Reasoning:

- Wagon Trail is a Class 1 trail and would be a good landmark to delineate the eastern boundary of PT1.



- Timberline to Downtown Access Trail (Class 3 hiking only)
- Virgin Creek Access Trail (Class 3 hiking only)
- Timberline to Ruane Access Trail (Class 3 multi-use)
- T5 Barren Avenue to Alyeska Highway (proposed in Trails Master Plan)
- Lower Virgin Creek/Lower Danich Trails (existing)
- Lower Iditarod Trail (existing)
- Ruane Road Trailhead Parking

**GIRDWOOD TRAILS COMMITTEE  
OPERATING PROCEDURES  
Proposed Revision 2022**

**Statement of Purpose** - The Girdwood Trails Committee (GTC) advocates for, protects, and maintains trails according to the guidelines of the Girdwood Trails Management Plan. The GTC reports to the Girdwood Board of Supervisors.

**Meetings** - Regular meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, unless a national holiday or other important event conflicts.

Format for meeting is an open forum; Robert's Rules of Order are followed when necessary. Discussion is to be held in a respectful manner. The same Standards of Conduct followed in GBOS meetings will also apply to Girdwood Trails Committee meetings. These can be found at [muni.org/gbos](http://muni.org/gbos).

Quorum required to act on any business is five (5) qualified voting members.

Meetings will start at the published time and will adjourn no more than two (2) hours later; however, the meeting may be extended up to an hour by a majority vote of the Members present.

Meeting materials, as practicable, will be assembled and made available to the public at least twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting.

The Chair, Vice-Chair or designee leads the meeting; The Girdwood Valley Service Area (GVSA), or designee, takes minutes, publishes the agenda and minutes for the meeting on the website [muni.org/gbos](http://muni.org/gbos), as well as posting them at the Girdwood Library, Community Room and Post Office bulletin boards.

A previously published agenda is followed at each meeting. The agenda may be amended at the beginning of the meeting by a majority vote of the Members present.

Each agenda item is limited to a maximum of sixty (60) minutes of discussion unless the duration is extended by a majority vote of the Members present. There shall be an established public comment period during every meeting to allow the public to address items not on the agenda. Individual public comment will be limited to three minutes per person.

Issues requiring a vote require a minimum of two presentations at two different meetings at least one month apart. An exception may be an issue of extreme importance of a ~~time-sensitive~~ nature beyond the control of the principals and/or representatives, in which case only one meeting is necessary. Such an exception shall be granted by a 2/3 vote of the Members present. Petitioners pursuing exception of the two meeting requirement shall prepare a written statement to the GTC prior to the meeting addressing the following:

- What is the due date for this action?
- When did you become aware of the need for this action and the due date?
- Why do you need relief from the GVSA 2 meeting requirement for action on your item?

Girdwood Trails Committee is subject to the Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 – Public Meetings.

**Members** – A voting member is any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who has attended one or more Trails Committee meetings in the last 12 months, and is:

- a) a current resident and/or property owner, business owner or designated representative of a non-profit association; and
- b) who has resided in, owned property in, owned a business located in, or operated as a non-profit association for the preceding ninety (90) days or longer in Girdwood Valley.

Attendance is verified through a sign-in sheet available at each meeting, or equivalent process.

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Voting members must attend the meeting, either in the room or on-line, in order to vote. Absent members may send comments to the chair prior to the meeting. These comments will be included in the meeting packet.

**Elections and Officers** – The Girdwood Trails Committee Officers are Chair, Two (2) Vice-Chairs, Treasurer. Officers must meet Girdwood Trails Committee voting membership requirements.

The Chair shall preside over all Girdwood Trails Committee meetings, help develop monthly agendas, and assign tasks as needed.

Vice-Chairs are responsible for presiding over any meetings for which the Chair is absent. For any Girdwood Trails Committee correspondence other than meeting minutes, a draft document will be written by the Vice-Chair, or a person appointed by the Vice-Chair. Draft will be sent to the GVSA Administrative Officer, who will collect and incorporate comments into the document, and submit the final draft to the Chair for a signature.

The Treasurer is responsible for a monthly financial report.

All Girdwood Trails Committee Officers will make themselves available to represent GTC at LUC and GBOS meetings as necessary.

Elections will be held once a calendar year, preferably in January.

**Subcommittees** - The Girdwood Trails Committee may designate Ad Hoc Subcommittees for the purpose of working on special projects in detail and depth. Ad Hoc Subcommittees are temporary groups that will retire once the project is complete, or the concept is tabled by the Girdwood Trails Committee.

**Funds** – Per agreement, Girdwood Trails Committee monies are held in a designated account with Girdwood, Inc.

Girdwood Parks and Recreation Staff or Girdwood Trails Committee Chair may request funds from Girdwood, Inc by using the required form and accompanied by a receipt or documentation.

**Modification to this Document** – Voting members may modify this document with a majority vote.

Girdwood Trails Committee  
PO Box 390  
Girdwood, AK 99587

Adopted April 2008  
Modified February 2010, September 2014, March 2015, May 2018, September 2021



## May 2022 Report Girdwood Trails Committee

### Updates and other business:

- **Girdwood Trails Management Plan Subcommittee:** updated version is posted on the GBOS website. Management Plan meetings are on hold until Trails Master Plan is complete.
- **Girdwood Trails Master Plan** subcommittee has completed their work. Draft plan is in discussion at GTC.
- **Imagine! Girdwood** Imagine! Girdwood is focused on technical analysis and next steps. Funds are needed to continue the effort. Visit [imaginegirdwood.org](http://imaginegirdwood.org)
- Financial Report – Current Report below, no change in activity in last month.

### Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report

As of February 23, 2022

Account with Girdwood Inc.

\$42,065.57

Last Report 12/31/2021

No transactions this account to date

Account Balance

February 23, 2022

\$42,065.57

No Amounts Reserved at this time

### Grants Status report:

Rasmuson Tier II Grant: GVSA was invited to apply for \$250,000 Rasmuson Tier II Grant for the suspension bridge on Winner Creek Trail to span Glacier Creek. Application submitted April 27. Bridge project is included in Governor Dunleavy's State Capital budget. We'll be watching this throughout the Legislative Session.

KMTA 2022 Grant cycle: Grant application submitted March 11 for Hand Tram Interpretive signs.

Anchorage Park Foundation: Grant application submitted March 17 for Lions Club Park Pavilion was declined. GBOS approved funding for engineering and design in April. Having a shovel-ready project will make this more fundable through grant programs.

KMTA Stumpy's Winter Trail Interp sign: Received 1:1 matching grant requested from KMTA for Stumpy's signs. Fine-tuning the information in the signs, ordering soon for summer 2022 installation.

RTP \$75,000 for INHT Phase 2 from Industrial Park to Karolius & interp signs: awarded with 90:10 match, started work in July. Reimbursement of \$3702.56 has been submitted and approved. Final reimbursement and closeout of project is pending.

KMTA Virgin Creek Falls Trail: \$7,300 awarded with 1:1 match, Section 106 review complete. Work is 95% complete through summer parks and rec crew in 2020 and 2021 as well as 3 member SCA crew. Pending is some gravel distribution at the top of the trail and fabrication and completion/installation of Trailhead Interp sign (Summer 2022). Reimbursement will be initiated shortly.

### Other Girdwood Trail Partners Updates

**Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm Heritage Area (KMTA):** Spring meeting scheduled for May 6. Grant submissions will be reviewed and voted on at this meeting.

**Girdwood Nordic Ski Club (GNSC):** Grooming in meadows has ended; grooming continues on 5K. Thanks to all the volunteers who groom and thanks to Shane Bowlin for working on the machines!

### Bikewood:

### Friends of Girdwood Trails:

Land Use and Girdwood Board of Supervisors: Review minutes on line at: [www.muni.org/gbos](http://www.muni.org/gbos).