

# Campbell Creek Estuary Master Plan

1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting  
Thursday, May 31, 2012

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**Location:**

Bayshore Clubhouse  
3131 Amber Bay Loop  
Anchorage, Alaska

**Brief Schedule:**

5:30pm – 7:00pm      Site walk  
7:00pm – 8:30pm      Group Discussion

**Attendees:**

Public

Representatives/Volunteers with:

- Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Anchorage Assembly
- Great Land Trust (GLT)
- Friends of the Anchorage Wildlife Refuge
- Municipality of Anchorage, Parks and Recreation
- Representative Craig Johnson
- Senator Lesil McGuire
- Various Community Councils
- USKH Inc.

**Summary:**

Over 100 people attended the May 31<sup>st</sup> public meeting to discuss the future of the Campbell Creek Estuary. The meeting was the first of two public meetings held to discuss the master plan. The public was notified through diverse means including door hangers, robo-calls, a face book invite, postings on websites and flyers.

Once arriving, attendees were shuttled via bus and car pool to the Campbell Creek Estuary property. There, the executive director of the Great Land Trust, Phil Shepard directed an hour long tour of the site. His route took the group down the existing road to the open meadow, along the bluff to the west edge of the meadow, then back with a stop at a bluff edge, a potential outlook location. Phil addressed specific questions along the walk which were further discussed during the later gathering at the clubhouse.

Once returning to the clubhouse the public met in a round table fashion with groups of five – ten people. Over the next hour groups discussed concerns and visions for the property. Main topics included: trails, outlook points, access, parking, habitat, and conservation.

The next public meeting will be held at the same location Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 6-8pm.

### **Additional Comments:**

The following are lists of key points brought up by the table groups and written on Input forms:

#### **1 - Trail/Outlook Points Comments**

- *Trail through multiple habitats (Multiple citations)*
- *Natural, curving trails as “tortuous” as possible (Multiple citations)*
- *Good to have some “leashed dog” trails, but trails near important habitat restricted, “no dogs beyond” with dates (Multiple citations)*
- *One (1) large loop trail and several smaller auxiliary trails (Multiple citations)*
- *Low impact, sustainable trail building (trails follow contour lines, less cut/fill) (Multiple citations)*
- *No trail between parking lots (Multiple citations)*
- *Trails to outlooks, loop trail*
- *Boardwalk outlook w/ step-down toward bluff*
- *Boardwalk trails (EX Potters Marsh)*
- *Benches at overlooks*
- *Ski trails*
- *Natural barriers, possibly using fencing*
- *Mix of ADA and single-track trails*
- *Overlooks will control access to bluff*
- *Built up platforms for two viewing areas.*
- *Trail surface, at least 2 people wide, some should be accessible*
- *Strollers and bikes will come, trails must consider continued maintenance*
- *Provide winter trails & way to get to the flats, “Direct the use or it will direct you”*
- *Trails in wild celery will be a maintenance problem*
- *Picnic Tables at lookouts*
- *No picnic tables*
- *No biking (except for winter biking)*
- *Elaborate decking w/ fences*
- *No lights*
- *No bathrooms*
- *No dumpster*
- *Clearing trees for the view*
- *Strongly believe that a trail should allow access to/at/or near tideline with stairway and rails*
- *I would hope there would be some access to the lower level land. I heard of it as an estuary not an upland meadow and woods*

## 2 – Access/Parking

- Buffer for adjacent properties **(Multiple citations)**
- Smaller parking lot to start, save room to expand, phased parking plan **(Multiple citations)**
- Gated lot **(Multiple citations)**
- Parking sized for school buses **(Multiple citations)**
- Bathrooms **(Multiple citations)**
- Only one (1) parking area on site **(Multiple citations)**
- Trash receptacles in lot
- Posted hours of use
- Keep foot traffic out of neighborhood by having only 1 lot.
- Use of wind and solar energy to power security cameras in Limited Development Area
- No exposed, non-supervised parking lots
- Spread out parking – more than one (1) lot
- Natural looking parking area (trees in parking lot)
- Plow one (1) lot in winter
- Maintained restroom @ parking lots
- Occasional programmed use
- Concerned about motorized access
- Figure out where snow-machines are accessing refuge
- Leashed dogs and bikes are ok
- Allow access to resource protection area
- Dog on leash only (or none) – “Not a dog park”
- Access streets can have too much traffic or “weird characters”
- Access from Lennox to old house site would disturb moose beds, would cross private drive (and tempt people to walk on drive)
- People tend to leave a trail and go places they shouldn’t
- Boardwalk/metal grating to control access down bluff
- Encourage “easy” and “appropriate” use
- Recycling
- Tourist bus
- Winter access to the water
- Tiered access
- Use Jewel Lake fishing area for parking and make sidewalk or trail to park area

## 3 – Habitat/Conservation

- Educational opportunity **(MULTIPLE CITATIONS)**
- Sand hill crane awareness **(Multiple citations)**
- Interpretive signs **(Multiple citations)**
- Share history of site (homesteading) through interpretive panels **(Multiple citations)**
- Maintain natural appearance **(Multiple citations)**
- Keep it natural – Example John’s park
- Analyze flora and fauna to protect
- Numbered posts with brochure in lieu of interpretive signs in Restricted Use Area
- Positive Signage
- Viewing blinds and webcams
- Keep meadow, maintain every 3 years to keep meadow a meadow
- Community forestry could use site for education
- Recognize estuary as final point of Campbell Creek greenbelt
- Keep and maintain park for community use

- *Display conservation in urban setting*
- *Infrastructure for education could help pay for maintenance/amenities (Ex: grants)*
- *Don't disturb sensitive wildlife. Includes moose bed-downs in winter.*
- *Looking but not touching*
- *Cater to eco-tourism*
- *Control misuse*

#### **4 – Other desired outcomes**

- *Trail watch supervision (homeless, teenagers) **(Multiple citations)***
- *Vandalism – how to address? Caretaker on property. **(Multiple citations)***
- *Staggered implementation*
- *Restriction on dog use*
- *Lack of parks' money is not a reason to refuse development of park needs*
- *Should be used by neighborhood (Example Johns Parks, Rabbit Creek Park)*
- *No lighting*
- *Amphitheater or pavilion for educational sessions*
- *Need to do a cultural resource study*
- *Need spruce bark beetle mitigation*
- *Study of archaeology of site*
- *Campground host/Park Ranger for security*
- *Consider closing park access in winter*
- *Repair Edinburgh Dr. road*
- *Webcam for wildlife*
- *Drinking water*
- *Doesn't need to be full use*