



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Department

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 907-343-4355

URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 1, 2018

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Parks and Recreation Department

Project: **PRC 2018-17: Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Dogs and Other Domestic Animals at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area**

Proposal and Background

The Parks and Recreation Commission is asked to consider and make a recommendation regarding a proposal to amend the Anchorage Municipal Code to prohibit dogs and other domestic animals at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA), a municipal park in southwest Anchorage.

The proposed amendment is submitted by the Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge ("FAR"), a non-profit organization to "protect the integrity and biological diversity" of ACWR.

Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area, which adjoins the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, was acquired in 2010. A master plan for the park was approved in 2012. The land is subject to conservation easements held by the Great Land Trust and by the State of Alaska (Department of Natural Resources). Together these conservation easements and the park master plan establish priorities for protecting natural resource values including recreation or education, habitat, wildlife resources, water resources, forest and woodland resources, and scenic resources.

The master plan includes a "Dog and Domestic Animal Policy," for protection of wildlife. The policy states, in part, that as a management recommendation domestic animals be prohibited. It further states that the management recommendation would require the Assembly to adopt an ordinance to prohibit dogs and domestic animals on the property.

A park welcome sign includes rules to promote appreciation for CCENA, including a statement that dogs and other pets are not allowed. Municipal code prohibits harassing wildlife (AMC 25.70).

In consideration of the proposed ordinance banning dogs in CCENA, the state Dept. of Fish & Game notes that state regulations do not address dogs in the ACWR generally, though dogs are prohibited at some times and places at Potter Marsh. State statute prohibits harassing wildlife generally ("a loose dog chasing wildlife is considered harassment").

Nevertheless, Parks & Recreation understands that violation of the rule continues. FAR believes that an ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals, with associated fines, would be a more effective deterrent. A result would be more effective preservation of the resource values of the park as intended.

Bayshore/Klatt, Sand Lake, and Spenard Community Councils have passed and approved resolutions supporting such an ordinance.

Attached is a letter from the Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge describing the background and conditions at CCENA. Attached to the letter are copies of the community council resolutions, other letters of support including a letter from the Great Land Trust, and additional background information ("reference documents") as listed.

Analysis and Findings

The Parks and Recreation Department generally concurs with many of the findings stated by FAR in the letter of 4/20/18 and supports efforts to protect and preserve the conservation values and other objectives of the CCENA Master Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Department believes that the ordinance would reinforce the administrative rule banning dogs and other pets from this specific, sensitive area. As such the Department believes that a code amendment would be a deterrent to at least some violations and provide at least marginal protection for wildlife at CCENA and preservation of natural character of the area.

At this time the Parks and Recreation Department understands that the Anchorage Police Department would be responsible for enforcement of the proposed law. Given the priorities and limited resources of APD, the level of compliance and the extent of resulting improvement in wildlife and habitat protection are uncertain.

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt the attached resolution in support of a proposed amendment to the municipal code to prohibit domestic animals at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area.

Attachments:

Letter dated 4/20/18 from Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, with attachments
[Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Master Plan \(October 2012\)](#)
Map of Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge in Vicinity of CCENA

[Link to Conservation Easements](#)



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Commission

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519



PRC Resolution No. 2018-11

Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Dogs and Other Domestic Animals at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area, part of the Anchorage municipal park system, is an area of approximately 60.7 acres at the outlet of Campbell Creek adjacent to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, the area is subject to conservation easements to protect and preserve natural resource values; and

WHEREAS, a Master Plan was adopted in 2012 to provide guidance for the limited development and long-term use of the area, consistent with the conservation easements while enhancing access by Anchorage residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan sets forth policies and rules intended to maintain the quality and regulate the character of the area, including a recommendation to prohibit dogs and other domestic animals, which may adversely affect wildlife and the quality of the park experience; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan suggested the need for legislation to implement this policy, and signage and other documented efforts to promote voluntary compliance with rules prohibiting domestic animals have been inadequate; and

WHEREAS, the Bayshore/Klatt, Sand Lake, and Spenard Community Councils have passed and approved resolutions supporting an ordinance to amend Anchorage Municipal Code to prohibit domestic animals at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed records of stewardship efforts as well as endorsements from interested organizations in support of such an ordinance; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Anchorage Assembly amend the Municipal Code as necessary to prohibit domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 10th day of May, 2018.

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

John Rodda, Director
Parks & Recreation Department



**FRIENDS OF
THE
ANCHORAGE
COASTAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE (FAR)**

PO Box 220196
Anchorage, AK
99522-0196

Phone: 907-248-2503
Fax: 907-248-3159
email: bc@farak.org

Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission
Tom Korosei
Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department
632 W 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Via email: KoroseiTJ@ci.anchorage.ak.us

Subject: Request MOA Ordinance Prohibiting Dogs and Other Domestic Animals at CCENA

2018.4.20

Dear Chair Jonathan Dyson, Co-Chair Alison Smith, and Commissioners:

What: I seek your support for an ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA), as recommended in the CCENA Master Plan, approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission (October 2012) and adopted by the Assembly (December 2012). I am president and executive director of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR). Note map at end of attachments (2j).

Why: The ordinance is necessary because since the time CCENA was opened to the public in 2013 irresponsible dog and cat owners have brought or allowed their animals to roam at CCENA, despite the posted rules and reminders (2b i, ii, iii). This degrades the resource, displaces wildlife, and diminishes the enjoyment of visitors who appreciate the values upon which CCENA was established. After the Camper Hosts let us know in November 2017 that there had been an increase in dog walkers coming to CCENA, the FAR dog issue committee met to reconsider the issue and decided that we have done what we can to ameliorate the situation. To see an increase when there had been a problem that has persisted despite our efforts for five years is not a good thing. After communicating again with the manager, Municipal Parks and Recreation staff, FAR met with Great Land Trust (GLT) to review and discuss the issue. If we do nothing, CCENA will lose the attributes that make it special. To be clear, although CCENA is managed by MOA Parks and Recreation, it is a *natural area*, not a park. The name was chosen carefully to help make that distinction to support management.

How did this happen? When I testified to the Parks and Recreation Commission in support of the MOA accepting the CCENA Master Plan with conditions (2 h, i), I asked them if the recommended ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals could be enacted before CCENA was opened to the public. The Commission turned to Parks and Recreation Director, John Rodda for discussion. He stated, words to the effect that he would rather wait and see if it is necessary for a law, because it could be hard to enforce.

Status: FAR, GLT, and MOA worked with State Parks and others to develop a Master Plan and interpretive and regulatory signage that would help manage the natural area in the absence of staff or rangers. There are rules posted, but there currently is no law prohibiting domestic animals at CCENA.

The project signs were mindfully designed by and vetted by GLT, MOA, and FAR. We strove to make the best of this unique opportunity to provide access to the public to CCENA while honoring the guidelines to protect preservation and conservation lands and the wildlife that depends on it. This is important because if this is not done carefully, there will be nothing left to observe or appreciate. CCENA would be just another unregulated open area, instead of, as the welcome sign at one of the kiosks says, 'a quiet place to observe nature, and, most of all, to respect it.' The 2nd rule posted is "Dogs and other pets are not allowed at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area." There is a sign at the gate that says, "Please help protect sensitive habitat at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area: NO DOGS allowed." A few yards down the entrance trail there is another reminder, and an explanation. As recently as March 23, 2018 when doing sign reconnaissance following up on CCENA tasks, we picked up at least seven piles of dog poop left after the last snow.

History: CCENA was purchased using conservation funds with the encumbrance of a Conservation Easement by Great Land Trust (GLT) and given to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) who entered into this legally binding agreement when they accepted CCENA. The MOA link to the CCENA Master Plan is here: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/CampbellCreekEstuaryMP.aspx> Click on "Adopted Plan." Page 18 references guidance for this problem under the "Dog and Domestic Animals Policy":

"Due to the sensitive habitat it is recommended that domestic animals be prohibited. Doing so would maintain the goals of the vision statement and Conservation Easement by protecting wildlife and would reflect the public's desire as determined through public involvement. This management recommendation will require an additional MOA legislative process-namely, the Assembly will have to adopt an ordinance to prohibit dogs and domestic animals on the property." [Emphasis added.] There are many reasons to prohibit domestic animals in a designated natural area and article by Tom Chester, 2001, a dog owner himself, lists the main reasons as direct predation, indirect predation, disease transmission, competition for resources, addition of nitrogen to the soil, the question of scent distraction, and decreasing the quality of experience. (2f).

FAR helps the MOA and GLT take care of the property by arranging for volunteer stewards to walk the trails, providing a welcoming presence and helping educate the public and enhancing their appreciation and enjoyment of the habitats, wildlife, and scenic views. We pick up trash, repair and help replace vandalized signs, and help keep an eye out for criminal activity. We work with the on site Camper Hosts to do whatever we are able to make sure that the values upon which CCENA was established are honored so that visitors will be able to enjoy the waters, habitats, wildlife, and scenic views in perpetuity.

For the first year after opening CCENA FAR provided 6 reports to MOA Parks & Recreation, GLT, and others, to help make sure that unfinished items were being completed and that issues could be discussed and addressed. (2d) The attachments are included to show the effort that has gone into trying to take care of CCENA without the support of a law. CCENA needs the support of this law. After the first year we ceased the formal reports and communicated with MOA & GLT on a needs basis, for example, to alert about a bear sighting, dog issues, a large amounts of trash, vandalism or other crime. We walk the annual conservation easement inspection with GLT and MOA, which is helpful because we are out there often and know a lot about CCENA. We are partners in helping care for this very special place.

During early stewardship shifts it became immediately apparent that a number of visitors were ignoring or were not aware of the “no dogs or other pets” rule posted at the entry kiosks and the reminder signs posted elsewhere on the site. In spring of 2014 I contacted Parks and Recreation staff and worked with Tom Korosei and GLT’s Phil Shephard to hone CCENA Stewardship Guidelines developed by FAR and to confirm that we had support for what we were doing to take care of the property. (2a) The CCENA stewards and Camper Hosts explain to people who do not understand why there is a rule disallowing dogs and other domestic animals on site. It is because birds and other wildlife consider even the friendliest dog on a leash a predator. Cats are known to kill or injure many birds and small mammals. With dogs and cats around birds and other wildlife are less likely to forage, nest, and raise their young where we can see and enjoy them. That is why there are no dogs or other domestic animals allowed in this natural area. Many people thank us for the explanation and walk their dogs elsewhere, coming back to CCENA to enjoy it without them, but *other visitors have been reminded repeatedly and defiantly insist on bringing their dogs to CCENA.*

Anchorage is a dog-friendly town. In fact, most FAR owners have at least one dog, and many own cats, but we do not bring them to CCENA.

One may walk their dogs just about anywhere else they wish in and around Anchorage (as long as they follow the leash and scoop the poop laws). The City has 7 Off-leash dog parks and two that are nearby are Connors Bog off Jewel Lake Road and the South Anchorage Sports Park off West Klatt and Timberline. There is no need to walk dogs at CCENA.

GLT raised more than \$7.7 million to purchase and spearhead the development of the CCENA Master Plan. Part of those funds were conservation and preservation money establishing an unambiguous purpose for the property. (2f)

Support to date as documented with the attached statement, resolutions and letters are the following: Great Land Trust, Bayshore/Klatt Community Council, Anchorage Waterways Council, Anchorage Audubon Society, Sand Lake Community Council, Audubon Alaska, the Alaska Center (used to include “for the Environment), Spenard Community Council, and the Wildflower Garden Club. (1a, b, c)

FAR asserts that to properly take care of this treasure the City needs an ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA. We believe that if fines are attached to the ordinance it will help deter visitors from disregarding the rule, backed up by MOA Code. Some people are repeat offenders, so graduated fines for first, second, third, and subsequent offences are appropriate. FAR respectfully requests that the MOA enact an ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA to help preserve in perpetuity the values upon which the natural area was established.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara Švarný Carlson

Barbara Švarný Carlson

President and Executive Director

Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

cc: John Rodda, Director, MOA Parks and Recreation
Josh Durand, Superintendent, MOA Parks and Recreation

Attachments:

1. Documents of Support
 - a. Statement of Support (GLT)
 - b. Resolutions of Support (BKCC, AAS, SLCC, SCC, ACAB (only CCs are identical))
 - c. Letters of Support (AWC (this one is different than others), AA, TAC, WfGC (all signed same letter)
2. Reference Documents for PRC
 - a. FAR CCENA Stewardship Guidelines
 - b. Directly related signage on site
 - i. Rules
 - ii. Reminder sign
 - iii. Explanatory sign
 - c. Sign posted in CCENA Marsh where Visitors Come through from ACWR in Winter
 - i. ADFG sign with No Dogs & No Bikes Icon for April thru November 15 & Regulatory References for Rest of Year
 - ii. ACWR Regulatory sign posted at east boundary in marsh
 - d. 6 FAR Reports to CCENA Management (Year of Opening to Public)
 - i. October 13
 - ii. March/April 2014
 - iii. May 2014
 - iv. June 2014
 - v. July 2014
 - vi. August 2014
 - e. CCENA Stewardship Guidelines-Developed by FAR with Concurrence of MOA & GLT
 - f. The Effects of Dogs on Wildlife: <http://tchester.org/srp/lists/dogs.html>
 - g. Rick Sinnott's 2012. Article about CCENA, Alaska Dispatch. Scroll down this link <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/CampbellCreekEstuaryMP.asp>
[x](#)
 - h. Early FAQs developed by GLT and FAR with agreement from MOA (These were preliminary decisions that were urgently needed before everything was complete because access was increasing with development and the property needed protection.)
 - i. <https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Documents/Minutes%20Oct2012%20Proposed.pdf> Minutes of PRC Oct 11, 2012 meeting including Barbara Carlson's additions (original comments made reference to dogs, but was not included as part of minutes.)
 - j. Rough Map of CCENA

2018.5.1 draft PRC CCENA resolution

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION 2018-##

A RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT DOGS AND OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS AT THE CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA (CCENA).

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) Master Plan was approved by the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission in October of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the CCENA Master Plan was adopted by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on December 12, 2012; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of the public and stakeholders in the development of the CCENA Master Plan asserted that CCENA should be developed as an area prohibiting use by dogs and other domestic animals (see page 18 of the CCENA Master Plan); and

WHEREAS, CCENA is encumbered with a Conservation Easement, which provides strict controls over use and development of the property; and

WHEREAS, to raise funds for CCENA and preserve the values of this rich tapestry of habitat ecosystems upon which a diversity of birds, fish, and other wildlife depend, the Great Land Trust (GLT) applied for and was awarded money for conservation and preservation purposes from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, and the Great Land Trust, Inc.'s in Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program to offset impacts to wetlands elsewhere in the Municipality Of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage (owner) and GLT (holder of the Conservation Easement) collaborated with community stakeholders to develop the Master Plan to make this unique property accessible to the public while preserving those values that the Conservation Easement seeks to protect; and

WHEREAS, recent and continuing challenges about the legality of walking one's domestic animals, especially dogs, at CCENA, despite CCENA rules already posted by MOA (with GLT and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)) through their work with Alaska State Parks); and

2018.5.1 draft PRC CCENA resolution

WHEREAS Anchorage currently hosts 7 Off-Leash Dog Parks, and citizens are free to walk their dogs at all other parks and just about anywhere else they wish in the city, as long as they follow the leash law (17.10.010) and the scoop the poop law (17.10.015).

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission seeks to ensure that citizens and other visitors to CCENA be able to enjoy the natural area, its flora and fauna, in its natural state, as planners and the mindful community process intended; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of CCENA as it was intended will enrich future generations with a quiet and peaceful place to observe these diverse habitats and the wildlife that depend upon them, as stipulated in the Conservation Easement, and recommended in the Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that this proposed ordinance be established in accordance with the CCENA Master Plan- to take into account the negative impacts by dogs and other domestic animals on CCENA and its unique natural values to wildlife, neighborhood, and other citizens and visitors.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the establishment of a Municipality of Anchorage ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA.

1. PRC recommends that consequences be attached to citation(s) for failure to comply with the ordinance.
2. PRC recommends that the department(s) that MOA deems responsible for enforcement of said ordinance make use of the support provided by the community when possible to help stretch spare MOA resources. For example, FAR has successfully collaborated with ACC, APD, ADFG, AK Wildlife Troopers to help resolve similar cases.

RESOLVED this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Signature

Title

1. Documents of Support

a. Statement of Support (GLT)

2018.2.22 4:34 pm

"Great Land Trust (GLT) supports the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) Master Plan, which was adopted by the MOA via the Assembly in December, 2012. The CCENA Master Plan, which was created based on input from stakeholders and the public, includes a prohibition on dogs and other domesticated animals on the property, due to the sensitive nature of the CCENA habitat.

As holder of the Conservation Easement on the CCENA, GLT supports the Municipality of Anchorage, the landowner and land manager of CCENA, to manage the property for its conservation values and supports and appreciates the efforts of the community to help us all steward and care for this valuable community asset together, including the effort to clarify for CCENA users the public desire, as reflected in the CCENA Master Plan, that the property not allow dogs or other domestic animals."

Thank you very much -

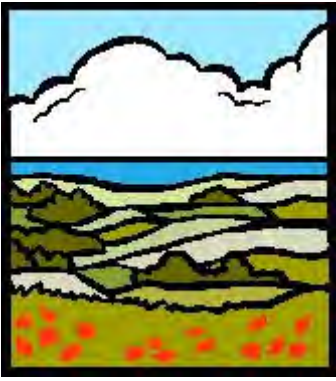
-Ellen

Ellen Kazary | *Executive Director*



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www.greatlandtrust.org | [@greatlandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/greatlandtrust) | [fb.com/greatlandtrust](https://www.facebook.com/greatlandtrust)

b. Resolutions of Support (BKCC,
AAS, SLCC, SCC, ACAB)



BAYSHORE/KLATT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT DOGS AND OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS AT THE CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA (CCENA).

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) Master Plan was approved by the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission in October of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the CCENA Master Plan was adopted by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on December 12, 2012; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of the public and stakeholders in the development of the CCENA Master Plan asserted that CCENA should be developed as an area prohibiting use by dogs and other domestic animals (see page 18 of the CCENA Master Plan); and

WHEREAS, CCENA is encumbered with a Conservation Easement, which provides strict controls over use and development of the property; and

WHEREAS, to raise funds for CCENA and preserve the values of this rich tapestry of habitat ecosystems upon which a diversity of birds, fish, and other wildlife depend, the Great Land Trust (GLT) applied for and was awarded money for conservation and preservation purposes from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, and the Great Land Trust, Inc.'s in Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program to offset impacts to wetlands elsewhere in the Municipality Of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage (owner) and GLT (holder of the Conservation Easement) collaborated with community stakeholders to develop the Master Plan to make this unique property accessible to the public while preserving those values that the Conservation Easement seeks to protect; and

WHEREAS, recent and continuing challenges about the legality of walking one's domestic animals, especially dogs, at CCENA, despite CCENA rules already posted by MOA (with GLT and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)) through their work with Alaska State Parks); and

WHEREAS Anchorage currently hosts 7 Off-Leash Dog Parks, and citizens are free to walk their dogs at all other parks and just about anywhere else they wish in the city, as long as they follow the leash law (17.10.010) and the scoop the poop law (17.10.015); and

WHEREAS, BKCC seeks to ensure that citizens and other visitors to CCENA be able to enjoy the natural area, its flora and fauna, in its natural state, as planners and the mindful community process intended; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of CCENA as it was intended will enrich future generations with a quiet and peaceful place to observe these diverse habitats and the wildlife that depend upon them, as stipulated in the Conservation Easement, and recommended in the Master Plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayshore/Klatt Community Council supports this proposed ordinance be established- to take into account the negative impacts by dogs and other domestic animals on CCENA and its unique natural values to wildlife, neighborhood, and other citizens and visitors.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Bayshore/Klatt Community Council membership this 22nd day of February, 2018.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Hoffman", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Bob Hoffman, President
Bayshore Klatt Community Council

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A NO-DOGS ORDINANCE FOR CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURE AREA BY THE ANCHORAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY

WHEREAS the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) is an Anchorage municipal property that is officially managed for public enjoyment of the natural environment and its birds and other wildlife;

WHEREAS the Great Land Trust (GLT) purchased the CCENA land from private owners and donated it to the Municipality, and has secured a Conservation Easement to co-manage the CCENA with the Municipality, as quiet and peaceful place to observe the CCENA's diverse habitats and the wildlife that depend upon them;

WHEREAS the Municipality and GLT collaborated with the people of the community to develop a Master Plan for making CCENA accessible to the public, while preserving its unique habitats and wildlife populations, and this Master Plan was approved by the Municipal Assembly in 2012;

WHEREAS the Master Plan recommends that dogs be prohibited in the CCENA (either on- or off-leash), owing to their impact on wildlife populations, because peer-reviewed research shows that wildlife tries to avoid all dogs as if they were potential predators;

WHEREAS some dog owners persist in bringing dogs into the CCENA, despite posted signs and requests by volunteer wardens, thus impairing the enjoyment of wildlife and natural surroundings by other visitors;

WHEREAS Anchorage currently hosts seven off-leash dog parks, and citizens are free to walk their leashed dogs in all parks and just about anywhere else in the city;

THEREFORE the Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge is proposing that the Municipal Assembly approve an ordinance to prohibit dogs and other domestic animals in the CCENA;

AND THEREFORE the Anchorage Audubon Society, Inc. resolves to support establishment of such an ordinance, in order to promote protection of wildlife and habitats in the CCENA and the enjoyment by the public of this unique natural area, as intended by its Master Plan.

Signed



Vivian Mendenhall
Conservation Chair, Anchorage Audubon Society
March 7, 2018

2018.3.12.SLCC CCENA resolution final

SAND LAKE (SLCC) COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2018-02

A RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT DOGS AND OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS AT THE CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA (CCENA).

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) Master Plan was approved by the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission in October of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the CCENA Master Plan was adopted by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on December 12, 2012; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of the public and stakeholders in the development of the CCENA Master Plan asserted that CCENA should be developed as an area prohibiting use by dogs and other domestic animals (see page 18 of the CCENA Master Plan); and

WHEREAS, CCENA is encumbered with a Conservation Easement, which provides strict controls over use and development of the property; and

WHEREAS, to raise funds for CCENA and preserve the values of this rich tapestry of habitat ecosystems upon which a diversity of birds, fish, and other wildlife depend, the Great Land Trust (GLT) applied for and was awarded money for conservation and preservation purposes from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, and the Great Land Trust, Inc.'s in Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program to offset impacts to wetlands elsewhere in the Municipality Of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage (owner) and GLT (holder of the Conservation Easement) collaborated with community stakeholders to develop the Master Plan to make this unique property accessible to the public while preserving those values that the Conservation Easement seeks to protect; and

WHEREAS, recent and continuing challenges about the legality of walking one's domestic animals, especially dogs, at CCENA, despite CCENA rules already posted by MOA (with GLT and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)) through their work with Alaska State Parks); and

2018.3.12.SLCC CCENA resolution final

WHEREAS Anchorage currently hosts 7 Off-Leash Dog Parks, and citizens are free to walk their dogs at all other parks and just about anywhere else they wish in the city, as long as they follow the leash law (17.10.010) and the scoop the poop law (17.10.015).

WHEREAS, SLCC seeks to ensure that citizens and other visitors to CCENA be able to enjoy the natural area, its flora and fauna, in its natural state, as planners and the mindful community process intended; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of CCENA as it was intended will enrich future generations with a quiet and peaceful place to observe these diverse habitats and the wildlife that depend upon them, as stipulated in the Conservation Easement, and recommended in the Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Sand Lake Community Council urges that this proposed ordinance be established- to take into account the negative impacts by dogs and other domestic animals on CCENA and its unique natural values to wildlife, neighborhood, and other citizens and visitors.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Sand Lake Community Council requests that the Municipality of Anchorage establish an ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA.

RESOLVED this 12th day of March, 2018.

PASSED 22 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Nikki Rose

Signature

President, Sand Lake Community
Council

Title

1 **SPENARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC) RESOLUTION 2018**

2
3 **A RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT DOGS AND OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS AT THE**
4 **CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA (CCENA).**

5
6 WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) Master Plan was
7 approved by the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission in October of
8 2012; and

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10 Assembly on December 12, 2012; and

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12 development of the CCENA Master Plan asserted that CCENA should be developed as an area
13 prohibiting use by dogs and other domestic animals (see page 18 of the CCENA Master Plan);
14 and

15 WHEREAS, CCENA is encumbered with a Conservation Easement, which provides
16 strict controls over use and development of the property; and

17 WHEREAS, to raise funds for CCENA and preserve the values of this rich tapestry of
18 habitat ecosystems upon which a diversity of birds, fish, and other wildlife depend, the Great
19 Land Trust (GLT) applied for and was awarded money for conservation and preservation
20 purposes from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, the
21 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, and the Great
22 Land Trust, Inc.'s in Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program to offset impacts to wetlands
23 elsewhere in the Municipality Of Anchorage; and

24 WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage (owner) and GLT (holder of the
25 Conservation Easement) collaborated with community stakeholders to develop the Master Plan
26 to make this unique property accessible to the public while preserving those values that the
27 Conservation Easement seeks to protect; and

28 WHEREAS, recent and continuing challenges about the legality of walking one's
29 domestic animals, especially dogs, at CCENA, despite CCENA rules already posted by MOA
30 (with GLT and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)) through their work
31 with Alaska State Parks); and

1 WHEREAS Anchorage currently hosts 7 Off-Leash Dog Parks, and citizens are free to
2 walk their dogs at all other parks and just about anywhere else they wish in the city, as long as
3 they follow the leash law (17.10.010) and the scoop the poop law (17.10.015).

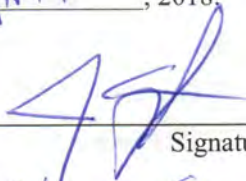
4 WHEREAS, SCC seeks to ensure that citizens and other visitors to CCENA be able to
5 enjoy the natural area, its flora and fauna, in its natural state, as planners and the mindful
6 community process intended; and

7 WHEREAS, the maintenance of CCENA as it was intended will enrich future
8 generations with a quiet and peaceful place to observe these diverse habitats and the wildlife that
9 depend upon them, as stipulated in the Conservation Easement, and recommended in the Master
10 Plan.

11 NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Spenard Community Council urges that this
12 proposed ordinance be established- to take into account the negative impacts by dogs and other
13 domestic animals on CCENA and its unique natural values to wildlife, neighborhood, and other
14 citizens and visitors.

15 NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Spenard Community Council requests that
16 the Municipality of Anchorage establish an ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic
17 animals at CCENA.

18 RESOLVED this 4th day of April, 2018.

19
20


Signature
Chair, Spenard Community

Title (Council)

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2018-02**

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) Master Plan was approved by the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission in October of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the CCENA Master Plan was adopted by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on December 12, 2012; where an overwhelming majority of the public and stakeholders in the development of the CCENA Master Plan asserted that CCENA should be developed as an area prohibiting use by dogs and other domestic animals; and

WHEREAS, CCENA is encumbered with a Conservation Easement, which provides strict controls over use and development of the property; and

WHEREAS, to raise funds for CCENA and preserve the values of this rich tapestry of habitat ecosystems upon which a diversity of birds, fish, and other wildlife depend, the Great Land Trust (GLT) applied for and was awarded money for conservation and preservation purposes from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, and the Great Land Trust, Inc.'s in Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program to offset impacts to wetlands elsewhere in the Municipality Of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage (owner) and GLT (holder of the Conservation Easement) collaborated with community stakeholders to develop the Master Plan to make this unique property accessible to the public while preserving those values that the Conservation Easement seeks to protect; and

WHEREAS, recent and continuing challenges about the legality of walking one's domestic animals, especially dogs, at CCENA, despite CCENA rules already posted by MOA (with GLT and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) through their work with Alaska State Parks); and

WHEREAS Anchorage currently hosts seven Off-Leash Dog Parks, and citizens are free to walk their dogs at all other parks and just about anywhere else they wish in the city, as long as they follow the leash law (17.10.010) and the scoop the poop law (17.10.015); and

WHEREAS, the ACAB seeks to ensure that citizens and other visitors to CCENA are able to enjoy the natural area, its flora and fauna, in its natural state, as planners and the mindful community process intended; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of CCENA, as it was intended will enrich future generations with a quiet and peaceful place to observe these diverse habitats and the wildlife that depend upon them, as stipulated in the Conservation Easement, and recommended in the Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, the Animal Control Advisory Board hereby resolves:

To support FAR in their efforts to establish an ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA, to take into account the negative impacts by dogs and other domestic animals on CCENA and its unique natural values to wildlife, neighborhood, and other citizens and visitors. However, this does not fall under the purpose of Title 17 – Animals, "to promote public health and safety and encourage responsible pet ownership and the humane care of animals", therefor the ACAB recommends that the ordinance be codified in Title 15 – Environmental Protection or Title 21 – Land Use.

PASSED and Approved by the Animal Control Advisory Board this 26th day of April, 2018.

Michael P. Weing
Chair, Animal Control Advisory Board

FOR ALEGRA HAMER.

c. Letters of Support (AWC (this one is different than others), AA, TAC, WfGC (all signed same letter)



ANCHORAGE WATERWAYS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 241774 • Anchorage, Alaska 99524-1774 • 907 272-7335 • www.anchoragecreeks.org
Facebook (Anchorage Waterways Council)

March 12, 2018

To whom it may concern,

The Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) at 9531 Selkirk Dr. was purchased by Great Land Trust (GLT) with the use of conservation funds and donated to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) for management. The property has unique water, habitat, wildlife, and scenic values, and is protected by the encumbrance of a legally binding Conservation Easement. Some of the wildlife that may be observed over the year are snow geese, Sandhill cranes, otters, moose, bears, weasels, coyotes, foxes, and a variety of ducks, songbirds, and raptors. The intention of development is for visitors to be able to enjoy these habitats and wildlife in the most undisturbed, natural state as possible, in perpetuity.

GLT led the development of a Master Plan that involved extensive public involvement to help this process and agreement. One major issue concerns the Board of the Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC), and involves pets in the CCENA, which can cause stress to wildlife. As Alaska Department of Fish and Game noted:

Being flushed from a hiding place or pursued is stressful for wildlife. It is especially dangerous for species with unprotected young nearby. Often the act of a pet harrying wildlife turns ugly, with significant injuries and death of the wild animal – and its eggs or young – being the result. Even animals that may seem insignificant to us, such as the insect-eating shrews a cat delivers to our doorstep, provide important functions in the natural world. At a minimum, they serve as food sources for many of the other wild species we enjoy seeing. (www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=pets.interactions).

Dogs, in particular, are being taken into the CCENA, even though signs at the trail head (photo 1) and reminder signs along the trail say that they are not allowed. AWC staff have found that prohibition signs are largely ignored by a high number of people, so passing and posting the MOA Ordinance # with the regulatory signage is needed. This quote from the CCENA Master Plan speaks to the dogs and domestic animals issue.

“Due to the sensitive habitat pets and other domestic animals must be prohibited. Doing so would maintain the goals of the vision statement and Conservation Easement by protecting wildlife and would reflect the public’s desire as determined through public involvement (Diagram 2, pg. 25). This management recommendation will require an additional MOA legislative process-namely; the Assembly will have to adopt an ordinance to prohibit dogs and domestic animals on the property.”

www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Documents/2012-12-12_MASTER%20PLAN.pdf

With dogs and cats around, birds and other wildlife will be stressed. Under stress, they are less likely to forage, nest, and rear their young and be in places where we can see and enjoy them year-round. No dogs or other domestic animals should be allowed in this natural area. When people bring dogs to CCENA, it could diminish the resource and lessen the enjoyment of other visitors.



Photo 1. Sign at the trailhead of CCENA (Photo by Cherie Northon)

Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) volunteers have been helping take care of this property by collaborating on needs with GLT and the MOA. For more than 5 years, FAR volunteers have shared information about wildlife and the rules with visitors enhancing their appreciation of the area. They bring scopes and binoculars to set up at the overlooks, and the volunteers have picked up trash, repaired and replaced vandalized signs, and when they found visitors who were unaware of the no dogs or other pets rule explained to them why there is such a rule. Many people thank them and cease bringing dogs to CCENA, coming back to enjoy it without them. Others have been reminded repeatedly and insist on bringing their dogs to CCENA.

Anchorage has a number of Off-leash dog parks. Two are near CCENA; Connors Bog off Jewel Lake Road, and the South Anchorage Sports Park off West Klatt and Timberline. Additionally, people are free to walk their dogs just about any place in and near Anchorage as long as they obey the leash and scoop the poop laws—as mandated in Title 17¹.

Anchorage Waterways Council endorses the idea of an ordinance prohibiting domestic animals in the CCENA throughout the year with no exception. Only then the CCENA will have the protection that it needs. However, we believe that without enforcement, the ordinance will hold little weight.

Respectfully submitted,



Isaac Watkins, Board President

ⁱ **Anchorage Municipal Code, Title 17, 17.10.010 Animals in public places.**

A. It is unlawful for any animal to be in a public place unless it is controlled by a leash, and in the control of a person competent to restrain the animal except:

1. Control of an animal by command is allowed if the animal is engaged in an activity that precludes it from accomplishing that activity if restrained, and the animal is in an area normally associated with that activity, and the activity is conducted in a manner that minimizes impact with the general public;
2. A dog may be unconfined in areas sanctioned by the municipality as off leash dog areas. The owner or custodian of a dog, unconfined in an off leash dog area, must have a leash restraint immediately available for the physical control of the dog and be physically capable of controlling the dog;
3. An animal, at shows and events, may be unconfined during the time of the demonstration in a manner which does not pose a threat to public health and safety or the safety of other animals;

Anchorage Municipal Code, Title 17, 17.10.015 Animals creating disturbance or nuisance.

B. No owner or custodian of an animal shall permit the animal's feces to be left on public or other person's private property.



431 West 7th Avenue, Suite 101
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: 907-276-7034
www.ak.audubon.org

Re: Audubon Alaska supports the proposed Municipality of Anchorage ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area

March 16, 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

Audubon Alaska endorses the proposed Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) ordinance that would prohibit dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA), as recommended in the CCENA Master Plan. Audubon Alaska is concerned about this issue because CCENA is a piece of public land within the municipality that residents may enjoy in its natural state. Limiting the impact of domestic animals at the CCENA is a necessary part of the parcel's management. Further, CCENA habitats are adjacent to and therefore augment the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, which comprise about half of designated Coastal Important Bird Area (IBAs) in Anchorage.

CCENA is public land purchased to preserve a piece of Alaska's natural ecosystems for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Great Land Trust (GLT) raised more than \$7.7 million dollars to purchase and minimally develop this natural area under the encumbrance of a conservation easement to protect valuable water, habitat, wildlife, and scenic resources in perpetuity. GLT raised part these funds for conservation and preservation purposes through multiple groups and the Great Land Trust, Inc.'s in Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program to offset impacts to wetlands elsewhere in the Municipality of Anchorage, establishing an unambiguous purpose for the property.

The MOA entered into a legally binding conservation easement agreement for conservation and preservation purposes with GLT when accepting the donation of land. This conservation easement provides strict controls over the use and development of the property. GLT spearheaded the creation of a CCENA Master Plan, based on the provisions of the easement, with the MOA, a contractor, stakeholders, and the public through an extensive and open process, to make this unique property accessible to the public while preserving those values that the conservation easement seeks to protect. Page 18 of the Master Plan specifically addresses the issue of dogs and domestic animals:

“Due to the sensitive habitat it is recommended that domestic animals be prohibited. Doing so would maintain the goals of the vision statement and Conservation Easement by protecting wildlife and would reflect the public's desire as determined through public involvement (Diagram 2, pg. 25). This management recommendation will require an additional MOA legislative process – namely, the Assembly will have to adopt an ordinance to prohibit dogs and domestic animals on the property.”

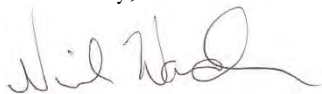
The MOA Parks and Recreation Commission approved the CCENA Master Plan in October of 2012. The MOA Assembly adopted the CCENA Master Plan in December of 2012.

The Municipality of Anchorage accommodates dogs and their owners, and should make sure that there are also areas set aside for birds and wildlife without the pressure from domestic animals. Birds and wildlife consider even the friendliest dog on a leash a predator. Cats are known to kill or injure many birds and small mammals. With dogs and cats around birds and other wildlife are less likely to forage, nest, and raise their young were we can see and enjoy them. That is why there are no dogs or other domestic animals allowed in the CCENA. One may walk their dogs just about anywhere else they wish in and around Anchorage (as long as they follow the leash and scoop the poop laws). The city has seven off-leash dog parks and two that are nearby are Connors Bog off Jewel Lake Road and the South Anchorage Sports Park off West Klatt and Timberline. There is room in Anchorage for reasonable dog access as well as natural areas like the CCENA where dogs are prohibited.

Posted rules on the parcel and reminders to dog owners have not been sufficient to ensure compliance with the property's intended use and the Master Plan's direction. There is a "no dogs or other pets" rule posted on a prominent kiosk at the entry and reminders along the trail and at other locations. GLT, MOA, and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) have worked collaboratively with Alaska State Parks and others to create inviting and educational regulatory and interpretive signage throughout CCENA. For over five years, despite diligent and ongoing work by stewards organized by FAR, and polite reminders by the on-site Camper Hosts, people still bring their dogs (in particular) to CCENA. Some visitors have been reminded repeatedly and yet defiantly insist on bringing their dogs to CCENA. A rule is not enough at CCENA. It is time to enact a law to help protect waters, habitat, and wildlife at the CCENA.

Audubon Alaska supports the proposed ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA throughout the year, to help protect the values of these very special public lands, not only for residents to enjoy today, but for future generations as well. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nils Warnock", written in a cursive style.

Nils Warnock
Executive Director
Audubon Alaska



921 W 6th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

Tel: 907-274-3621
www.akcenter.org

Re: The Alaska Center supports the proposed Municipality of Anchorage ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area

March 16, 2018

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Alaska Center endorses the proposed Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) ordinance that would prohibit dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA), as recommended in the CCENA Master Plan. The Alaska Center is concerned about this issue because CCENA is a piece of public land within the municipality that residents may enjoy in its natural state. Limiting the impact of domestic animals at the CCENA is a necessary part of the parcel's management. Further, CCENA habitats are adjacent to and therefore augment the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, which comprise about half of designated Coastal Important Bird Area (IBAs) in Anchorage.

CCENA is public land purchased to preserve a piece of Alaska's natural ecosystems for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Great Land Trust (GLT) raised more than \$7.7 million dollars to purchase and minimally develop this natural area under the encumbrance of a conservation easement to protect valuable water, habitat, wildlife, and scenic resources in perpetuity. GLT raised part these funds for conservation and preservation purposes through multiple groups and the Great Land Trust, Inc.'s in Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program to offset impacts to wetlands elsewhere in the Municipality of Anchorage, establishing an unambiguous purpose for the property.

The MOA entered into a legally binding conservation easement agreement for conservation and preservation purposes with GLT when accepting the donation of land. This conservation easement provides strict controls over the use and development of the property. GLT spearheaded the creation of a CCENA Master Plan, based on the provisions of the easement, with the MOA, a contractor, stakeholders, and the public through an extensive and open process, to make this unique property accessible to the public while preserving those values that the conservation easement seeks to protect. Page 18 of the Master Plan specifically addresses the issue of dogs and domestic animals:

“Due to the sensitive habitat it is recommended that domestic animals be prohibited. Doing so would maintain the goals of the vision statement and Conservation Easement by protecting wildlife and would reflect the public’s desire as determined through public involvement (Diagram 2, pg. 25). This management recommendation will require an additional MOA legislative process – namely, the Assembly will have to adopt an ordinance to prohibit dogs and domestic animals on the property.”

The MOA Parks and Recreation Commission approved the CCENA Master Plan in October of 2012. The MOA Assembly adopted the CCENA Master Plan in December of 2012.

The Municipality of Anchorage accommodates dogs and their owners, and should make sure that there are also areas set aside for birds and wildlife without the pressure from domestic animals. Birds and wildlife consider even the friendliest dog on a leash a predator. Cats are known to kill or injure many birds and small mammals. With dogs and cats around birds and other wildlife are less likely to forage, nest, and raise their young were we can see and enjoy them. That is why there are no dogs or other domestic animals allowed in the CCENA. One may walk their dogs just about anywhere else they wish in and around Anchorage (as long as they follow the leash and scoop the poop laws). The city has seven off-leash dog parks and two that are nearby are Connors Bog off Jewel Lake Road and the South Anchorage Sports Park off West Klatt and Timberline. There is room in Anchorage for reasonable dog access as well as natural areas like the CCENA where dogs are prohibited.

Posted rules on the parcel and reminders to dog owners have not been sufficient to ensure compliance with the property’s intended use and the Master Plan’s direction. There is a “no dogs or other pets” rule posted on a prominent kiosk at the entry and reminders along the trail and at other locations. GLT, MOA, and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) have worked collaboratively with Alaska State Parks and others to create inviting and educational regulatory and interpretive signage throughout CCENA. For over five years, despite diligent and ongoing work by stewards organized by FAR, and polite reminders by the on-site Camper Hosts, people still bring their dogs (in particular) to CCENA. Some visitors have been reminded repeatedly and yet defiantly insist on bringing their dogs to CCENA. A rule is not enough at CCENA. It is time to enact a law to help protect waters, habitat, and wildlife at the CCENA.

The Alaska Center supports the proposed ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA throughout the year, to help protect the values of these very special public lands, not only for residents to enjoy today, but for future generations as well. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Polly Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Polly Carr
Executive Director
The Alaska Center

Wildflower Garden Club
PO Box 240563
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

Re: Wildflower Garden Club supports the proposed Municipality of Anchorage ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area

April 12, 2018

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Wildflower Garden Club endorses the proposed Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) ordinance that would prohibit dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA), as recommended in the CCENA Master Plan. The Wildflower Garden Club is concerned about this issue because CCENA is a piece of public land within the municipality that residents may enjoy in its natural state. Limiting the impact of domestic animals at the CCENA is a necessary part of the parcel's management. Further, CCENA habitats are adjacent to and therefore augment the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, which comprise about half of designated Coastal Important Bird Area (IBAs) in Anchorage.

CCENA is public land purchased to preserve a piece of Alaska's natural ecosystems for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. Great Land Trust (GLT) raised more than \$7.7 million dollars to purchase and minimally develop this natural area under the encumbrance of a conservation easement to protect valuable water, habitat, wildlife, and scenic resources in perpetuity. GLT raised part of these funds for conservation and preservation purposes through multiple groups and the Great Land Trust, Inc.'s in Lieu Fee Wetland Mitigation program to offset impacts to wetlands elsewhere in the Municipality of Anchorage, establishing an unambiguous purpose for the property.

The MOA entered into a legally binding conservation easement agreement for conservation and preservation purposes with GLT when accepting the donation of land. This conservation easement provides strict controls over the use and development of the property. GLT spearheaded the creation of a CCENA Master Plan, based on the provisions of the easement, with the MOA, a contractor, stakeholders, and the public through an extensive and open process, to make this unique property accessible to the public while preserving those values that the conservation easement seeks to protect. Page 18 of the Master Plan specifically addresses the issue of dogs and domestic animals:

"Due to the sensitive habitat it is recommended that domestic animals be prohibited. Doing so would maintain the goals of the vision statement and Conservation Easement by protecting wildlife and would reflect the public's desire as determined through public involvement (Diagram 2, pg. 25). This management recommendation will require an

additional MOA legislative process – namely, the Assembly will have to adopt an ordinance to prohibit dogs and domestic animals on the property.”

The MOA Parks and Recreation Commission approved the CCENA Master Plan in October of 2012. The MOA Assembly adopted the CCENA Master Plan in December of 2012.

The Municipality of Anchorage accommodates dogs and their owners, and should make sure that there are also areas set aside for birds and wildlife without the pressure from domestic animals. Birds and wildlife consider even the friendliest dog on a leash a predator. Cats are known to kill or injure many birds and small mammals. With dogs and cats around birds and other wildlife are less likely to forage, nest, and raise their young were we can see and enjoy them. That is why there are no dogs or other domestic animals allowed in the CCENA. One may walk their dogs just about anywhere else they wish in and around Anchorage (as long as they follow the leash and scoop the poop laws). The city has seven off-leash dog parks and two that are nearby are Connors Bog off Jewel Lake Road and the South Anchorage Sports Park off West Klatt and Timberline. There is room in Anchorage for reasonable dog access as well as natural areas like the CCENA where dogs are prohibited.

Posted rules on the parcel and reminders to dog owners have not been sufficient to ensure compliance with the property’s intended use and the Master Plan’s direction. There is a “no dogs or other pets” rule posted on a prominent kiosk at the entry and reminders along the trail and at other locations. GLT, MOA, and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) have worked collaboratively with Alaska State Parks and others to create inviting and educational regulatory and interpretive signage throughout CCENA. For over five years, despite diligent and ongoing work by stewards organized by FAR, and polite reminders by the on-site Camper Hosts, people still bring their dogs (in particular) to CCENA. Some visitors have been reminded repeatedly and yet defiantly insist on bringing their dogs to CCENA. A rule is not enough at CCENA. It is time to enact a law to help protect waters, habitat, and wildlife at the CCENA.

The Wildflower Garden Club supports the proposed ordinance prohibiting dogs and other domestic animals at CCENA throughout the year, to help protect the values of these very special public lands, not only for residents to enjoy today, but for future generations as well. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanette Bock". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeanette Bock
President
Wildflower Garden Club

2. Reference Documents for PRC
 - a. FAR CCENA Stewardship Guidelines

CCENA STEWARDSHIP GUIDELINES: What are we doing, why, and how?

Prepared for FAR Visit-eers2014 April 26 ~ Vivian Mendenhall, John Zarnetske, & Barbara Carlson, FAR, in consultation with GLT & MOA

GOAL: To enhance visitor enjoyment, appreciation, safety, and observation of rules by providing a welcoming presence at CCENA and making it apparent that people both care about and monitor this natural area.

Objectives:

1. Document desired data (wildlife, user, & maintenance) received from incidental volunteers.
2. Document aforementioned desired data from FAR's scheduled volunteers.
3. Enhance public education by informally sharing knowledge with interested visitors.
4. Increase public understanding by politely asking if those observed breaking a rule are aware of the rule.
5. FAR consolidates data and reports needs to MOA and GLT.

By providing a frequent, friendly presence, while gathering desired data, and, then, reporting wildlife and other issues FAR helps the MOA and GLT address problems that arise in a timely manner, which helps partners achieve the stated goal.

ATTITUDE: Enjoy your visit. Be positive and share wildlife information if people are interested. Do not take it personally when people do not follow the rules. Some people don't know the rules yet, and others have not yet realized their importance. Our presence sets a good example and has the potential to displace inappropriate behaviors and uses over time.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: If you have a scope or binoculars and someone is near and interested in what you are doing, consider letting them have a look and talking with them about what they are seeing. They may have never before seen, for example, a hairy woodpecker, or northern shoveler, or sandhill crane. Seize the teachable moments, but remember that some people will prefer to enjoy their visits in peace. ;-)

DIRECTED EDUCATION: DOGS, BICYCLES, OR PEOPLE OFF-TRAIL: For a more detailed example of a friendly and informative conversation, see the last page of this document.

1. If you see someone breaking a rule, such as bringing a dog to CCENA, riding bikes here, or going off the trails, consider whether it would be appropriate to alert them to the rule. If it is not instantly clear to you, you might start a friendly conversation, then if you are comfortable doing so,
 - a. Say, "I am with FAR (Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.) FAR helped found CCENA and partners with Great Land Trust and the Municipality of Anchorage to help manage this natural area." *This is important because the City (MOA) is the manager and Great Land Trust (GLT) is responsible for the Conservation Easement that governs CCENA and they specifically want our partnership to accomplish this education. People hearing the boldface introduction will know that you are an official representative, not just a*

concerned citizen. Also, this is a fine point, but this is a natural area,' and not a "park."

- b. Say, "Are you aware that to protect nesting birds and other sensitive wildlife dogs are not allowed here?" OR
 - c. "Are you aware that to avoid disturbing sensitive wildlife so that people can see them, and to protect fragile habitat, bicycles are not allowed here except during winter?" OR
 - d. "Did you know that people are asked to stay on trails here to avoid harming fragile habitat and scaring wildlife that people want to observe?"
2. Note response for report. Give people the benefit of a doubt and assume that they are unaware. Over time, we hope that public pressure will diminish this disturbance that can be fatally disruptive to nesting and brood-rearing birds and other sensitive wildlife.
 3. Thank people for a positive response (such as agreeing to walk their dog or ride bikes elsewhere, or come back onto the trails). If they make a negative statement, say nothing, or, say, "I am sorry you feel that way." Do not argue with people who are disagreeable. You are unlikely to change their mind. If visitors want to know the reason for a rule you can explain, for example, how even dogs on leashes make nesting birds nervous and waste valuable energy that birds need for the short nesting and brood-rearing season before fall migration. If appropriate, remind people that there are many places in Anchorage to walk dogs and that this is one of the very few Municipal lands where they are prohibited.
 4. If you are not comfortable confronting someone, for any reason (sometimes they might be too far away, etc.), do not feel that you have to say anything.
 5. Always record what you see and send in your data.
 6. If you are able, quietly take a digital picture to send with your report. A good telephoto lens would be nice for detail, but a phone camera is fine for most identification. Be sure to note the DATE AND TIME and approximate location at CCENA where it was taken. Photographs that show both the dog owner(s) and the dog(s) could be useful in the long haul, but do not antagonize anyone by taking "in your face" pictures.

GRAFFITI: 343-4663 (343-GONE)

1. Call this number and report any graffiti found at CCENA. Note: The number on current sign at parking lot is incorrect and will be corrected next printing.
2. Also describe found graffiti and location on data sheet so that it is entered into FAR's report to management at MOA & GLT, for follow-up.

TRASH: If you see it, pick it up and dispose of it, either in the parking lot receptacle (which is now fixed so humans can open the lids ☺) or take it home and throw it away—sometimes I do this if it is large. I usually carry a trash bag and pick up what I notice (if there is a lot I will just do some of it.)

SIGNS:

1. Familiarize yourselves with all signs—especially the small ones—so that if any disappear, you can let FAR know ASAP. I intend to replace any that are torn down as quickly as I am able.
2. If you find any CCENA signs laying about or in the trash, please rescue them and drop them by my place if possible so that I can clean them up for reuse.

The signs that I have had to replace once or twice have been the “no dogs” sign near the parking lot and the “Pause...” sign at the end of the cedar fence close to the Ecotone Platform. All signs are important so it helps to have more eyes making sure that they are still in place.

If we do these practical things as we make our stewardship visits noting wildlife observed, it will demonstrate to all that people love CCENA and others are likely to follow our example, making the maintenance load lighter. This is a labor of love. Thank you all for your gracious help making the dreams of everyone who helped create this place come true!

SAMPLE CONVERSATION FROM FRIENDS:

My method is to start a friendly conversation, and then mention that I'm a volunteer with the group that helped found CCENA (Please also use yellow highlighted text referencing GLT and MOA from page 1). At this point lots of visitors ask about the birds, acquisition of CCENA, or etc.

Then I ask (always being friendly, as if I think they are interested in the info):

"Did you know that dogs aren't allowed in the CCENA?"

(Visitor:) "Why not?"

(Me:) "Because we have lots of nesting birds here, and they're scared by things that look like wolves or foxes. ... That's true even though your dog is on a leash, which is great."

(Visitor:) "Well, I wasn't going down to the platforms by the marsh."

(Me:) "That's great, but we also have lots of songbirds right around the meadow here."

(Visitor:) "Well, I didn't see a sign about that rule."

(Me:) "It's on the big poster at the entrance."

At this point, the visitor may have: (1) Said "Oh, thanks, I'll put the dog in the car right now"; (2) Asked for more information about the birds (from interest, or skepticism); or (3) Said (in effect) "My dogs are perfect, I'm going to keep walking."

Whatever the response, you drop the subject now.

Again, keep it low-key and friendly; do not be confrontational at all. (We can't enforce anything.) Don't accuse them of ignoring the rules (N.B.: not everyone reads much!), even though it may be obvious they did ignore them.

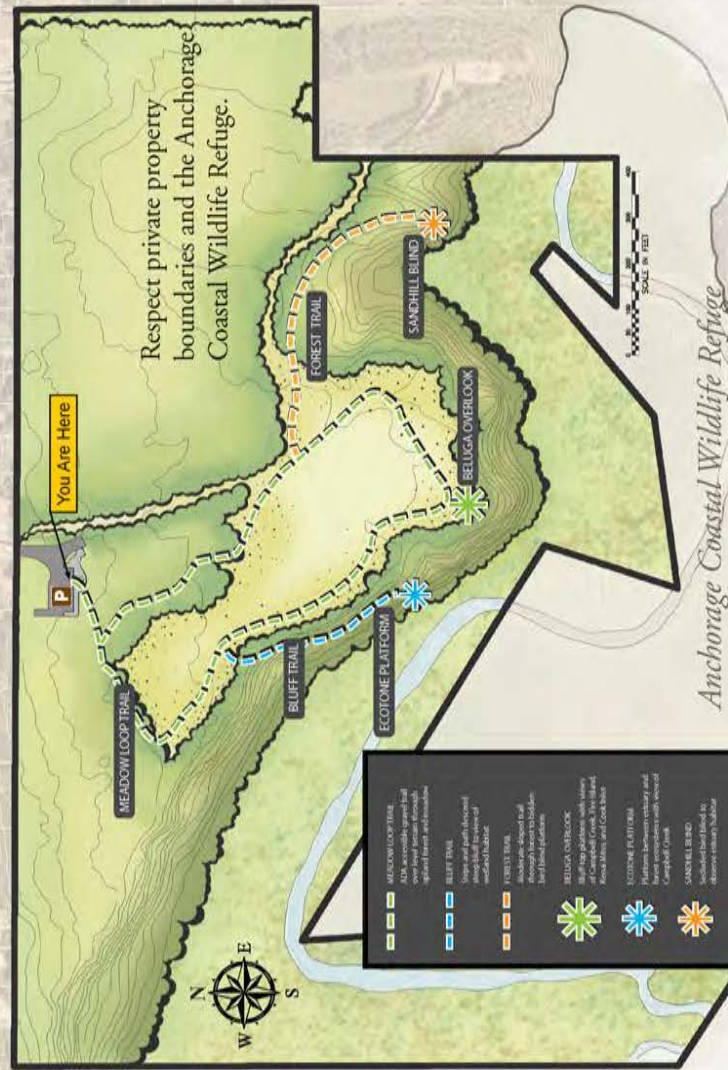
Do not push any conversation that feels uncomfortable, let alone threatening!

- b. Directly related signage on site
 - i. Rules

Welcome to Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area

This is a Quiet Place where Nature takes Center Stage.

A natural area is a place to observe nature and, most of all, to respect it.



These Rules ensure that everyone may enjoy and learn about these unique habitats and wildlife in perpetuity:

- Marsh and northwest woods are closed April through October to protect sensitive bird habitat.
- Dogs and other pets are not allowed at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area.
- Do not approach or feed wild animals, including birds.
- Due to fragile trails and sensitive wildlife, no bicycles are allowed from March through December. Please lock bikes at parking lot crane racks and enjoy walking this natural area.
- Stay on trails and observe trail closure signs for safety, and to protect habitat and trail integrity.
- Please refrain from picking native plants, berries, and mushrooms.
- **BE BEAR AWARE.** When recreating in bear country, travel in groups of three or more.
- Camping, fires, fishing, and hunting are prohibited.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on trails.
- Do not damage or deface natural resources, structures, or equipment.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Help keep our parks clean. Please take your trash with you and use restroom facilities.

HAVE FUN!

Anchorage Parks and Recreation, Great Land Trust, Anchorage Park Foundation

Graffiti Busters—343-GONE

Bird TLC—562-4852

Fish and Game—267-2257

Police Dispatch—786-8900

Fish and Wildlife Safeguard—800-478-3377



ii. Reminder sign

Please help protect sensitive habitat at

Campbell Creek Estuary

Natural Area:

NO DOGS

allowed



iii. Explanatory sign

Birds and other wildlife consider even the friendliest dog a predator. With dogs around, birds and other wildlife are less likely to forage, nest and rear their young where we can see and enjoy them year-round. That is why **there are no dogs allowed in this natural area.**

We apologize for any confusion the previous sign located in this spot may have caused.

Thank you.

Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area management

(Great Land Trust • Municipality of Anchorage • Alaska Department of Fish and Game • Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge)

Two nearby parks with Dog Park areas are Connors Bog off Jewel Lake Road and the South Anchorage Sports Park off West Klatt and Timberline.

- c. Sign posted in CCENA Marsh where Visitors Come through from ACWR in Winter
 - i. ADFG sign with No Dogs & No Bikes Icon for April thru November 15 & regulatory references for rest of year

Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge
**Sensitive bird migration,
nesting, and brood-rearing
habitat**



**Please use other locations
for dog-walking and biking
April 1 to November 15**

Harassing or disturbing wildlife is illegal (AS 16.05.930(a))
Report violations to Alaska Wildlife Troopers at 907-352-5401

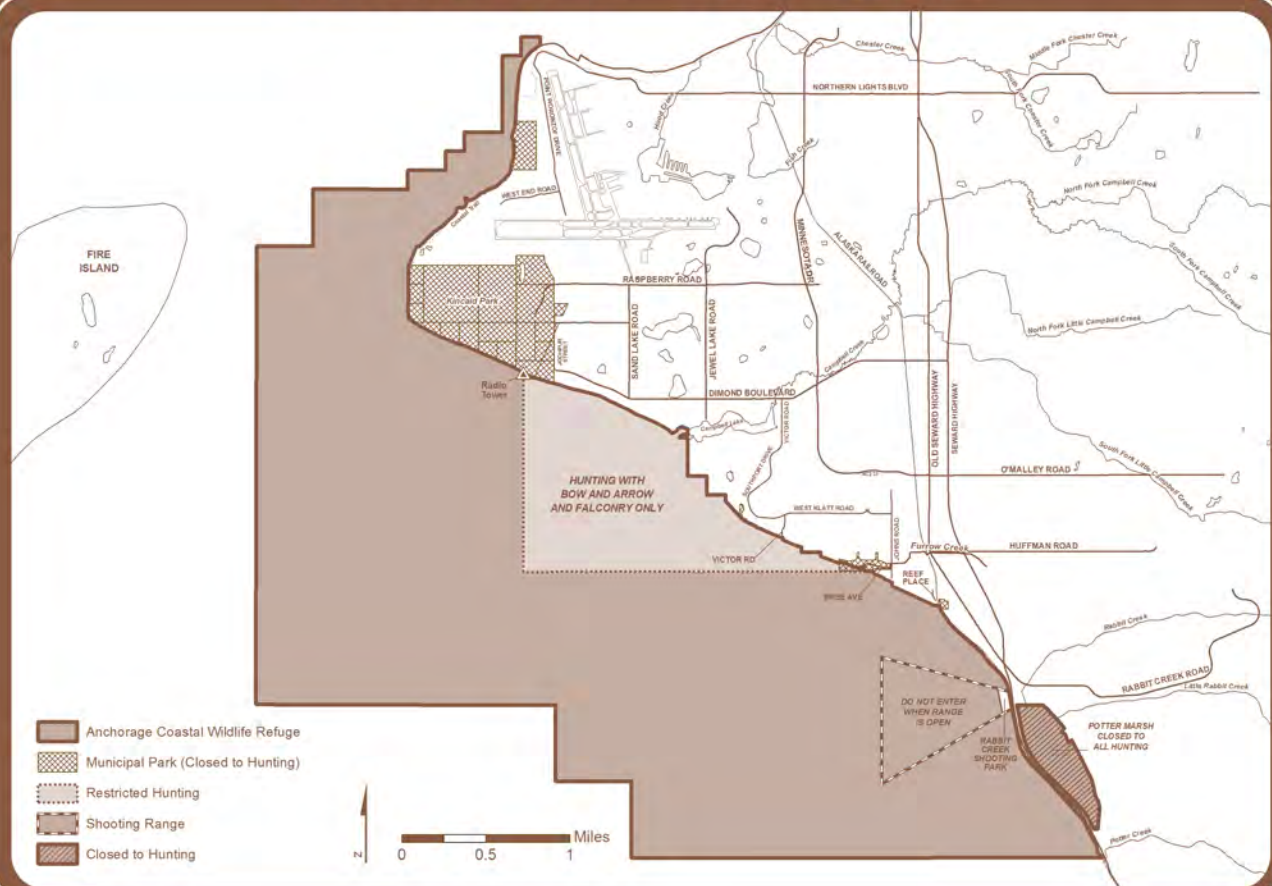
Dogs off leash are a violation of Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC 17.10.010)
Report violations to Anchorage Police Department at 907-786-8900

For more information, contact
Alaska Department of Fish and Game at 907-267-2257
or visit online at www.refuges.adfg.alaska.gov



ii. ACWR Regulatory sign posted at
east boundary in marsh

Welcome ANCHORAGE COASTAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



- **Open to Hunting** only for [5 AAC 92.520(b)(1)(A)]:
 - Small game and waterfowl with shotguns, bow and arrow, and falconry.
 - Deleterious exotic wildlife with bow and arrow, falconry, and air rifles with rifled barrels.
- **Areas Closed to Hunting** [5 AAC 92.520(b)(1)(C)]:
 - Between the Alaska Railroad and the Old Seward Highway (including Potter Marsh).
 - From September 1 through March 31: hunting within the landward area bounded by a line running south from the radio tower near the Jodhpur motor-cross track in Kincaid Municipal Park and a line running west from Furrow Creek at Johns Municipal Park is allowed only with bow and arrow, and falconry (no shotguns).
- **Registration:** all hunters using firearms (including air rifles) or bow and arrow must first complete a certified hunter safety course and must carry a valid annual registration permit issued by ADFG [5 AAC 92.520(b)(1)(C)].
- **Hunting Blinds:** portable blinds are allowed. Blinds constructed of natural materials may also be used, provided they are dismantled at the end of the hunting season and are not for exclusive use by any individual [5 AAC 95.420(a)(1)].
- **Trapping:** closed in the refuge [5 AAC 92.550(3)(E)].
- **Feeding Wildlife:** prohibited in the refuge [5 AAC 92.520(b)(1)(C)].
- **Dogs:** avoid disturbing wildlife (especially birds during spring migration and summer nesting), leash or otherwise restrain your dog [AS 16.05.920 and AMC 17.10.010].
- **Trespass:** do not trespass on private property or the Alaska Railroad right-of-way [AS 11.46.330].
- **Fires:** prohibited in the refuge [AMC 23.45.307.1 and AMC 15.35.100].
- **Camping:** prohibited in the refuge [5 AAC 95.525].
- **Target Shooting:** prohibited in the refuge [5 AAC 95.420(a)(10) and AMC 8.25.030.A.1].
- **Littering:** prohibited in refuge [5 AAC 95.420(a)(8)].
- **Motorized Vehicles** (including ATVs and snow machines): prohibited in the refuge [5 AAC 95.420(a)(7)].
- **Rabbit Creek Shooting Park:** for hunter safety and to avoid shooting range shutdowns, do not enter the area downrange of the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park during open public hours (Wed-Sun, 10am to 6pm) or other times when the shooting range is active.



For more information, contact ADF&G at (907) 267-2257.

To report violations, contact Anchorage Police Department at (907) 786-8900 and/or Alaska Wildlife Troopers at (907) 352-5401.

Violation may be Class A misdemeanors with fines up to \$10,000 and one year in jail.

- d. 6 FAR Reports to CCENA
Management (Year of Opening to
Public)
 - i. October 13

CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

OCTOBER ~Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

Contact: Barbara Carlson, bc@farak.org or 248-2503.



Shortly before sunset, clouds and blue sky reflect off Campbell Creek with a 28.3' high tide. Photograph taken from the Ecotone Platform on October 30, 2013. Barbara Carlson, FAR.

On October 11th, 2013, FAR stationed experts with binoculars and scopes at all overlooks and provided docent tours after the ribbon cutting ceremony to open the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) to the public. Unusually mild temperatures made it easier for FAR's stewardship volunteers to record data about the use and state of CCENA during the rest of October. By-and-large visitors demonstrate appropriate use of the Natural Area, and the report below documents some evidence demonstrating lack of understanding or disregarding of the rules by some people. Notable needs are listed near the end of the report for managers.

Volunteer Shifts: FAR stewards staffed shifts to collect requested data to support management covering 13 days (14, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30), with six of those days hosting two shifts (14, 16, 18, 19, 23, 30). The duration of each shift ranged from 35 minutes to two hours and 30 minutes, with the average length of time on site greater than an hour. Volunteers walked, observed wildlife, took notes, and picked up trash for 20.4 hours between October 14th and 30th. FAR staffed 18 shifts during this time. Six of the shifts were morning shifts, between 6 am and 12 pm; nine shifts were afternoon shifts, between 12 and 4:30 pm; and three shifts were evening shifts, between 4:30 and 11 pm. Volunteers cancelled one shift due to weather (there was a major storm with high winds and rain.)

Visitors: Volunteers tallied 144 people visiting CCENA during their shifts (including the 20 volunteers present during documented times). Since no effort was made to ensure that we tallied every comer while on site, the number is undoubtedly low, because when one is walking the trails or visiting the overlooks they cannot see what is going on at the parking lot entrance/exit, or at the other places where one is not. To get an accurate count of people (and dogs) on site during any given hour, it would take people posted at multiple spots concurrently. Most, if not all people upon whom volunteers came, were smiling and enjoying the Natural Area appropriately.

Wildlife Observed: Downy woodpecker; hairy woodpecker; magpies; ravens; bald eagles; chickadees; red-breasted nuthatches; gulls; Canada geese; unidentified ducks; red squirrels; moose; and there was a report of 8 snow geese from a visitor during the time period (Oct. 15th). Many visitors were interested in talking with volunteers who were happy to answer questions and talk about wildlife and habitat. Some people did not seem to understand that most birds migrate south this time of year—or just were not ready for it.

Dogs and Other Inappropriate Use: Volunteers documented the presence on CCENA grounds of ten dogs during the shifts. Morning tallies were three dogs; afternoon tallies equaled five; and evening shifts counted two dogs. Stewards have been unable to find one of the “no dogs” signs which disappeared. The one nearest the parking lot remains.

Volunteers observed bicycle tracks on all trails, including the Bluff Trail steps. The bikes left ruts in the mud on the Forest Trail. Volunteers observed zero bikes on site during shifts.

Trash: FAR volunteers removed construction debris that they found; the Treeline Construction Sign (a volunteer offered to deliver it to their office); additional surveyors’ tape that we had put up for the docent tours; and any trash found during shifts. If it was too big to put in the trash receptacle, volunteers hauled it off themselves or left it next to the receptacle. Trash mostly consisted of chunks of cut wood, but also included a small amount of snack wrappers.

OUTSTANDING NEEDS: Items one through four were mentioned by several people.



Sandhill Blind at terminus of Forest Trail: Inadequate yellow safety strip (may need to be done next spring now); trim piece between 5th & 6th window on south wall, loose and sitting in corner (needs to be screwed to wall); need warning sign on last post before deck about split level platform. Barbara Carlson, FAR, October 2013.

1. Sandhill Blind:
 - a. Repaint the yellow safety strip on the top step at Sandhill Blind. It is washing off and does not stand out. Perhaps the wrong paint was used or it was painted in the rain.
 - b. A trim piece in the lower right quadrant was not attached. Some people notice it and lay it off to the side-others notice and put it back where it belongs, where it sticks. It just needs to be screwed into place permanently before it gets lost.
 - c. Blind needs a warning sign on last post before deck, reading, "Watch your step: Split-Level Platform." Some people fail to notice and trip.
2. Signage: *Since FAR is helping with signage we are aware that it is still in progress, so here are a few notes that came up from volunteers during October:*
 - a. Junction Signs: It would help if the Ecotone Trail and Forest Trail had the signs in place at top with a warning, such as, "Sloping Trail; No Handrails."
 - b. Consider including brief explanation on planned signage (and in docent tours) about when most birds migrate south in fall, so that visitors are aware why there are fewer birds present when they come to view CCENA during fall and winter.
3. Trails:
 - a. Trails need more gravel—mainly the Meadow Trail, but possibly also the Bluff and Forest Trails. We understand that this will be delayed until spring.
 - b. The Bluff Trail is sloughing off where the path dips then goes up a few steps before the final descent. See picture.
 - c. Adaptive management consideration to address boggy trail and subsequent meadow damage: If many loads of sand and gravel do not solve the problem, the usual solution is to replace a perennially boggy trail with a short boardwalk. This protects the land and its natural drainage (as well as helping visitors). Examples would be Chugach State Park at the South Fork of Eagle River, near the trailhead.
4. Trash:
 - a. Recommend that all volunteers and staff bring litter bags so that it is quickly addressed if it is present. If everyone would be prepared to do this when they visit this first year, it will set a good precedent and demonstrate good stewardship.
 - b. Trash receptacle lids are either flawed or not installed correctly, as they do not open and close well. The east side lid is hard to get open at all; the west side lid is difficult, and then doesn't close easily. It should be replaced if it cannot be adjusted to function properly. If people cannot open it they will not use it.
5. Preventing Use of Signage and Posts as Bulletin Board: Recommend that we take down signs that people post on the official signage or posts so that they will not be used as bulletin boards. (For example, lost dogs, home for sale, etc.)



Note drainage issue across parking lot pavement which stretched from the flooded forest buffer north of the lot, across the pavement to the south side gravel pad. Barbara Carlson, FAR, October 30, 2013

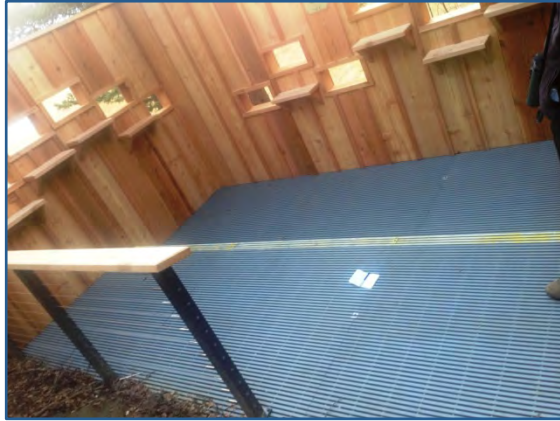
6. Parking Lot:

- a. Drainage issue: See pictures. There is an overflow from the woods between the first house & the parking lot that seeps all the way across the pavement. This may be seasonal—and also may be a rare occurrence due to an unusually wet year, or it could be a problem. Keep an eye on it.
- b. Apparently, designers and partners may have failed to allow adequate space for all but short park host campers. Consider whether anything can be done to remedy this situation. (On Oct. 30th, volunteers spoke with Pam Bogge (sp?) a MOA Parks & Recreation employee, who was measuring the space available for the park host to park and she said that it appeared to be too short for many campers.)

Additional Illustrations:



See loose trim piece at far right of picture. It fits just below the left of the shelf in the top of this picture and needs to be screwed to the wall before the piece disappears. Barbara Carlson, FAR, October, 2013.



Note pale, washed, and chipping off yellow safety strip at level split. Select the right paint material and conditions to repair it so that it is brightly visible for safety. Many visitors and volunteers have suggested this. People are tripping. Barbara Carlson, FAR, October, 2013.



Keep an eye on sloughing of Bluff Trail slope and be prepared to plan for adaptive management to prevent further erosion and loss of vegetation or safety hazards. Barbara Carlson, FAR, October 2013.

ii. March/April 2014

CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

March/April ~Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

Contact: Barbara Carlson, bc@farak.org or 248-2503.



After being alerted to the no dogs rule at CCENA, sadly, a visitor chooses to disregard the reminder as she walks her two dogs past the posted rules and the ancillary sign that says, "Please help protect sensitive habitat at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area: NO DOGS allowed." She said to the volunteers, "I pay my taxes. I'm going to keep bringing my dogs her until somebody comes and arrests me." At that point, the discussion was over and she took off into the park with her dogs, running. On the Kiosk to the right, notice a piece of paper about a lost dog taped onto CCENA signage. Stewards remove such postings. Barbara Carlson, FAR. April 22, 2014

PEOPLE WITH DOGS CAUSING MAIN ISSUES AT CCENA: The public is enjoying the newly opened Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area and FAR volunteers frequently hear visitors exclaim about what a beautiful natural area this is and how excited they are to be able to come watch wildlife here; however; an emerging concern is that some people are bringing dogs to CCENA, which is against the rules (to protect nesting and brood-rearing sandhill cranes and other birds and sensitive wildlife, so people will have a chance to see them). A volunteer wrote that on April 23rd he had a very disturbing observation when a fellow with an unleashed dog walked the marsh between the Beluga Overlook and the Sandhill Blind (the documented crane nesting area). It was particularly upsetting because there were sandhill cranes both in the air and in the marsh, likely looking to reclaim or claim the nesting territory, but since

dogs look like predators, as do people, this displaces them. This is a nesting area that FAR has observed since 2006 and where Dr. Vivian Mendenhall has been conducting studies.

The presence of dogs and people walking through the marsh between April and October will not promote the success of a pair of breeding sandhill cranes. Sandhill cranes bond for life and live about 30 years. The chance for the public to be able to appreciate relatively close views of courtship dances, breeding, nesting, and brood rearing in a Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) natural area is unique and could be long lasting *if the public will observe the rules protecting the space and habitat they require*. FAR is working with the Department of Parks and Recreation and Great Land Trust to help address these issues now while we have a chance to stop bad habits. Per the CCENA Master Plan, dogs are not allowed.

PLAN:

1. Provide guidance to FAR volunteers about what they should do when they encounter people with dogs, on bikes or off trails. Done: See email of May 1, 2014 (FAR CCENA Visitor guidelines). FAR consulted with GLT and MOA to agree upon a plan. Party to the discussion and agreement were Phil Shephard, Tom Korosei, Barbara Carlson, and Holly Spoth-Torres.
2. Complete and install interpretive signage in process, which will help the public understand the need for the rules.
3. At the suggestion of Tom Korosei FAR is considering developing a flier or brochure for volunteers to hand out to public. FAR's schedule is packed, so it may take longer than desired. A more important priority is to get the signage finished so that it can be ordered for fabrication. While we are waiting for the signs to arrive for installment, FAR may prepare the flier and/or brochure. FAR does not often hand out fliers or brochures due to their propensity to end up as litter.
4. NOTE: It may be necessary to consider whether an ordinance needs to be written supporting the "no dogs or other domesticated animals" rule in the CCENA Master Plan.

HISTORY: In years past, Fish and Game, Animal Care and Control, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the public, and FAR worked together to resolve an issue involving a beagle that was running loose in the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge and on MOA land terrorizing wildlife. The owners were issued several warnings, and visited by the Fish and Game Area Biologist, then an Alaska State Wildlife Trooper. Finally, the head of Animal Care and Control got involved and the owners were cited for several violations involving their dog. The dog owner cited lives within walking distance of CCENA, although we have NOT seen that beagle, which was usually running loose.

FIRST 2014 SUMMARY REPORT: FAR's last summary report was October of 2013, which was followed by several short subject emails. There were fewer visitors over winter and FAR scheduled just a few stewardship visits to help keep an eye on things. Visitors during winter, walked, cross-country skied and snow-shoed, some walkers using ice grippers, walking sticks or ski poles as water flows over and freezes in several locations even on the Meadow Loop Trail.

In late March 2014 FAR resumed gathering data on a more regular schedule since visitors were expected to increase as the temperatures warmed and spring migration began. Trails were not nearly as wet as they could have been because the winter was mild with not much snow pack to melt. The Bluff Trail to the Ecotone Platform was the first to melt, although wet clay made short sections of the trail very slick when wet. The Forest Trail descent to the Sandhill Blind was especially icy for a while in March and the first part of April—and most of us avoided the final stretch.

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS: FAR stewards staffed shifts to collect requested data to support management covering 19 days (March 19, 22, & 30; April 4, 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30), with three of those days hosting two shifts (April 20, 23, 27), and two days hosting three shifts (April 17 and 30). The duration of each shift ranged from 12 minutes (March 19) to three hours, with the average length of time on site greater than an hour. Volunteers walked, documented wildlife, counted people and dogs, and picked up trash for 26.65 hours between March 19th and April 30th. FAR staffed 26 shifts during this time. Five of the shifts were morning shifts, between 6 am and 12 pm; eleven shifts were afternoon shifts, between 12 and 4:30 pm; and nine shifts were evening shifts, between 4:30 and 11 pm. Volunteers avoided the trails for a while in March when it was icy and one shift was a bust because a moose was right next to the entrance trail for a long time.

VISITORS: Volunteers tallied 187 people visiting CCENA during their shifts (including the 38 volunteers present during documented times between March 19th and April 30th). Since no effort was made to ensure that we tallied every comer while on site, the number is undoubtedly low.

WILDLIFE OBSERVED: Beetles, mosquitos, falcon, golden-eyes, robins, warblers, common mergansers, downy woodpecker; hairy woodpecker; magpies; ravens; bald eagles; black-capped chickadees; red-breasted nuthatches; gulls; Canada geese; unidentified ducks; red squirrels; moose; and sandhill cranes.

DOGS AND OTHER INAPPROPRIATE USE: Volunteers documented the presence on CCENA grounds of 18 dogs during the shifts. Morning tallies were three dogs; afternoon tallies equaled ten; and evening shifts counted five dogs.

VIDEO CLIP: Here is a link to a video clip of two loose dogs and the people they were with taken by a volunteer around 10:40 AM on April 21st: <http://youtu.be/zFO7P9d0i1A> The location where they were walking is the prime CCENA sandhill crane nesting and brood-rearing territory.

Volunteers observed bicycle tracks on all trails, including the Bluff Trail steps. The bikes left ruts in the mud on the Forest Trail and Meadow Loop Trail. Volunteers observed eight bikes on site during shifts.

TRASH: FAR volunteers removed trash when seen; unless there was too much for the time available, in which case the next shift picked it up. The receptacle was not operating properly until MOA maintenance fixed it this spring. Volunteers immediately saw a decrease in new parking lot trash.

OIL SHEENS ON MEADOW LOOP TRAIL STANDING WATER: On April 18th a report came in of multiple locations along the Meadow Loop Trail showing oil sheens on standing water. Barbara Carlson visited CCENA to take photographs and get an oil sample offered to the MOA Parks and Recreation. Steve

Rafuse alerted MOA Maintenance to check it out. FAR has not heard whether the source of the oil has been determined, whether it is a natural seep or results of a spill or leak.



Oil sheen evident at many locations around Meadow Loop Trail at CCENA in mid-April, 2014. B. Carlson

© GOOD NEIGHBOR SPRUCE TREE REMINDER: The Municipality planned last year to plant a row of fast growing spruce trees to help provide a buffer for the closest neighbors to the CCENA parking lot since so many trees had to be cut down there. See photo on page 8 for general vicinity of tree planting.

FAR suggests that the MOA Forester make a site visit to decide what trees will thrive there. Water now backs up in that approximate location, perhaps dammed by the parking lot where it used to drain. Some visitors have speculated that this dammed up water could become a mosquito hatchery nuisance. If it does not drain naturally during the next few weeks, the MOA may want to investigate how this standing water could be eliminated to prevent death of existing trees and an insect nuisance to the adjacent neighbors.

MAINTENANCE NEEDS:



Sandhill Blind at terminus of Forest Trail: MOA & Treeline installed an intermediary railing to keep people from tripping in November of 2013. It helps, but, amazingly, people are still tripping and falling.

- 1. Consider roping off right side, so that people must mindfully file in to the left. FAR put up temporarily a stretch of yellow surveyor's tape across this opening to prevent further incidents.*
- 2. Need warning sign on last post before deck as visitors descend slope, about split-level platform. I.E. WATCH YOUR STEP!*
- 3. Yellow safety strip may need repainting annually.*

CCENA Sandhill Blind with drawn in yellow surveyor's tape to illustrate temporary accident prevention action.



Two trim pieces below windows on south wall (see yellow arrows for gaps), were apparently not attached and have vanished (They were there last fall). Have Treeline replace them, perhaps when they go out to tighten the cables, as Phil Shephard explained that they need to do. The crew should hand check the other balusters in case any others were not attached. FAR, May 1, 2014.

1. Sandhill Blind:

- Repaint the yellow safety strip on the top step at Sandhill Blind. It does not stand out.*
- Blind needs a warning sign on last post before deck, reading, "Watch your step: Split-Level Platform." Some people fail to notice and trip.*
- Consider roping off west side step for safety*

2. Signage: Since FAR is helping with signage we are aware that it is still in progress, so here are a few notes:

- d. Junction Signs: It is our understanding that the junction signs were ready to be installed last fall but it froze up too fast. It would be helpful to get those in place so that people have trail description available to them when they visit.
- e. State Parks and FAR, collaborating with GLT and MOA, continue to work toward completion and installation of the CCENA interpretive signage. This is behind schedule and FAR commits to helping see it through. The signage is critical to the visiting public for enjoyment, education, and understanding of the reason for the rules.



Meadow Loop Trail is under water even during a dry spring. Here the water is so deep that visitors have obviously been making side trails around the gravel path. Barbara Carlson, May 4, 201

2. Trails: In places where there is standing water on the trails or where trails are muddy, people have been making new trails next to existing trails. FAR understands that work to remedy the below is scheduled for early fall to avoid disturbing sandhill cranes and other nesting and brood-rearing birds.
- a. Trails need more gravel—mainly the Meadow Trail, but possibly also the Bluff and Forest Trails.
 - b. The Bluff Trail is sloughing off in several places, especially where there is water seeping from the slope. A retaining wall may be needed for the steepness of the cut.

- c. Has the MOA considered putting down fabric to prevent gravel from so easily sinking out of sight in the wet meadow? Gravel can then be placed over the top and those sections of trail could hold up better.
- d. For additional suggestions about solutions used in south central Alaska, see the October report from FAR.



Keep an eye on sloughing of Bluff Trail slope and be prepared to plan for adaptive management to prevent further erosion and loss of vegetation or safety hazards. Photo shows slumped clay around which visitors started creating a side path mid-April when it was still wet. Barbara Carlson, FAR, April 17, 2014



Note drainage issue north side of parking lot pavement. If this area does not drain, it could become a mosquito hatchery right next to someone's home—and that of the Host partners hope to enlist for CCENA.

The MOA plans to plant a spruce tree buffer just north of these trees or among them. Barbara Carlson, FAR, May 5, 2014

3. Parking Lot:

- a. Drainage issue: There is a backup of standing water with some overflow between the first house & the parking lot that seeped across the pavement late fall. This may be seasonal—and may be a rare occurrence, or it could be a problem. Hopefully it will drain in the next week or so. Keep an eye on it.
- b. Has the City found a Natural Area Host camper yet? Is there an advertisement with contact information that FAR can help publicize?

Additional Illustrations:



Woman brings dog to CCENA despite posted rule and ancillary sign. April 13, 2014



Woman walks two dogs on CCENA Meadow Loop Trail despite posted rule and ancillary sign next to entrance. April 13, 2014



Man with dog coming from off trail east of Meadow Loop Trail near Beluga Overlook. April 17, 2014.



People hiking in marsh next to Ecotone Platform, despite posted rules. They considered what they were doing, on their own, and came up having entered the marsh at the Sandhill Blind. We spoke with them when we met up at the Beluga Overlook about spring migration, the nesting sandhill cranes, and other sensitive wildlife that require their space to thrive. The couple were very interested and admitted that they knew they should not have been out there because it was past the time that it was safe to walk in the marsh without disturbing wildlife. They had hoped to get one more walk in before migration. They were carrying binoculars and a camera. They said that they love CCENA and hope that more can be done like this along the Anchorage coast, but they said that lots more signs are needed in other places. April 13, 2014

By working with the MOA and GLT to support the CCENA Master Plan, FAR hopes to ensure that later this summer and in perpetuity, visitors will be listening to, viewing, and photographing nesting and brood rearing sandhill cranes and other wildlife that grace this special place.

iii. May 2014

CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

May 2014~Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

Contact: Barbara Carlson, bc@farak.org or 248-2503.



The Bluff Trail to the Ecotone Platform provides a unique opportunity to observe wildlife, through the cover of the forest, such as this lesser sandhill crane. Notice the relaxed posture of the crane's neck, which indicates that this bird was not disturbed by the presence of someone on the trail at this time. Other times observers have noted that the sandhill cranes started squawking when they started down the Bluff Trail. Photograph by Cheryl Shroyer, FAR. Late May 2014

SECOND 2014 SUMMARY REPORT: FAR's last summary report was March/April of 2014. Additionally, partners try to stay in touch via phone and emails on urgent matters.

CURRENT ISSUES AT CCENA:

1. **Off-trail behavior, bicycles, dogs**—This inappropriate uses of CCENA should continue to decrease with the installation of the new interpretive and regulatory signage, designed to help manage CCENA passively. Ideally, the signage should have been installed before the grand opening, so that visitors would understand the need for the rules.
2. **Vandalism**—The hardest sign to keep up has been the "no dogs" sign. MOA, FAR, and GLT should discuss a final design and size, then fabricate a permanent metal sign for installation with metal posts and maybe even concrete.
3. **2014 GLT/FAR Inspection:** Volunteers record that people with dogs are entering the marsh from below Campbell Lake. This problem could be ameliorated by more accurate sign placement. When GLT & FAR do the annual 2014 inspection visit, we should note the condition of the other two "no dogs" signs placed off trails at the perimeter locations where we believed that some people were bringing dogs onto CCENA property. Consider three or more permanent sign orders and installations.

Note well that GLT and FAR will need the survey map for when we mark for reinstallation the perimeter and “no dogs” signs in the marsh nearest the weir, because the GPS did NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY due to trees (Barbara Carlson was present with Holly Zafian (GLT) and other Yale/FAR volunteers installing these signs during May of 2013. The location of those signs need to be corrected, so that they are more visible and are near the beaten path on which uninformed or unsupportive people bring dogs through the marsh. Until we conduct the 2014 inspection, we do not even know if the signs are still there.

4. **Neighbor reports late night gathering at parking lot** to party, drink, and deal drugs. Barbara Carlson will contact APD to request that whomever is on duty in the area make a patrol when time allows, but getting a camper host who will lock gate is key.
5. **Illegal Fishing access through CCENA**-- See below. FAR is working with Alaska State Wildlife Troopers to hone the stewardship action instructions for these violations.

OTHER EXTANT NEEDS:

6. Sandhill Blind step danger: See March/April report and new possible solutions below.
7. Drainage problem north of parking lot. See March/April report and further discussion below.
8. Spruce tree buffer for neighbors, north of parking lot: See March/April report.
9. Need permanent “no dogs” sign. See below.
10. Additional placements of restoration signs as describe in report. FAR will do.
11. Need camper host who will among other things close and lock the gate during closed hours, eliminating some of the described issues.
12. Treeline has not yet replaced the missing trim pieces that had not been attached during 2013 construction. See October 2013 and March/April 2014 reports.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Neighbor, Jim Fiskes, says that they really like CCENA, and reports the following additional concerns:

1. People are smoking at CCENA and he is concerned about fire. FAR confirms both seeing people smoking and finding cigarette butts along trails.
2. Nearby streets now have dangerously fast traffic, although FAR cannot say whether this is a result of CCENA.
3. Residents at end of private drive hate it that people are walking on their private drive. The owner might consider closing and locking his gate; re-erecting his “no trespassing” signs, which have been lying in the bushes for months.
4. People are going down into the marsh frequently. FAR hopes that this is diminishing and will continue to decrease when the MOA/GLT/FAR partnership gets the new interpretive and regulatory signage in place.
5. Neighbor with parking lot right outside window hates looking at it. MOA can help soften this sight by planting the buffer trees as planned just north of the parking lot, when the drainage issue is resolved.

QUESTIONS:

1. It is FAR'S understanding that the Meadow Loop Trail is to be handicap accessible. Is the gravel going to be leveled out so that it is less of a hazard to the handicapped and so that wheelchairs can navigate the main loop? This is a June note since the report is late, but since the June trail work, the trail surface is very uneven and harder even for me (not handicapped) to walk. It has too much of a crown—and does not look navigable for wheelchairs.
2. Is there a further safety plan for the Sandhill Blind? *See suggestion below.*
3. What is planned to resolve the north of parking lot drainage issue?
4. Are there any "No Fishing" signs down by the creek below the lake? *If not, perhaps ADF&G could supply them and install.*

DISCUSSION: Although FAR's March/April 2014 report indicated that dogs at CCENA were the main problem being reported by volunteer stewards, FAR is glad to note that the number of such incidents has decreased from 18 documented dogs in March/April, to just three dog reports in May. Hopefully, this is an indication that people are becoming familiar with and embracing the rules. Bad habits are hard to break; however; and to get compliance the MOA/GLT/FAR partnership will have to persevere. Stewards will continue to inform people who show up with dogs that they are not permitted at CCENA. Several volunteers reported asking visitors to put their dogs in the car while they visited CCENA, which was a request with which people were willing to comply. A neighbor complained that dog walkers are common at CCENA and, while if alerted to the rule, they leave, they often come back again the next day. Since FAR volunteers are not there every hour of every day, we cannot speak to that, but based on our data, we see a decrease in dogs on site. FAR has noticed that visitors are starting to help inform other visitors of rules and have thanked stewards for their efforts to help care for CCENA.

Stewards continue to help educate the visiting public about wildlife they might see, about what they are seeing, and about rules that they may not have known about or understood. It is important for the MOA/GLT/FAR partnership to persevere in getting those signs up when they are back from fabrication and including a few recommended ancillary signs. Against considerable odds, several bonded sandhill cranes nested within or near CCENA boundaries in 2014 after not nesting here in 2013 for the first time since 2006.

SPRING 2014 GUIDELINES HAVE HELPED: The guidance plan honed between FAR/GLT/MOA during April/May regarding what action stewards should take when encountering visitors violating CCENA rules has been helpful providing authority and therefore more confidence to approach people violating rules. Part of the plan is that FAR replaces any torn out or damaged signs as soon as possible after they are reported, to demonstrate that the community cares about CCENA, AND that someone is watching.

Partners asked if FAR volunteers have a uniform article that would identify them to the public to help communicate who they are and that they have some authority without a great deal of explanation. FAR will revisit this following the 2014 season and has in mind a badge, lanyard, hat, vest, or jacket. As a small organization, we need to consider how this may be useful in our other stewardship work at other locations along the ACWR.

ILLEGAL FISHING: Campbell Creek is closed to fishing and when people sneak down there to fish illegally, they are pretty well hidden. Illegal fishing access from CCENA emerged as a new issue on May 17th. when a volunteer documented a man coming up with a fishing pole from the Sandhill Blind area late at night. FAR provided a full report with a map and license plate number of the perpetrator to Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Fish & Game. A neighborhood trooper reportedly nabbed two illegal fishermen, also, and it is believed that there are more. CCENA provides both another way for people to sneak down to the creek and another way to escape. Most CCENA visitors are eager to discourage illegal use of the area, so with time we may be able to diminish this crime. Unfortunately, when poachers sneak down there it is very hard to see them unless they come up on the trails or show up with gear or fish at the parking lot. Photographs of license plates and narrative with times and dates promptly reported are useful to Troopers.

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS: FAR stewards staffed shifts to collect requested data to support management covering 28 days (May 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31); with 15 of those days hosting two shifts (May 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 31); three days hosting three shifts (May 18, 29 and 30) and one day hosting four shifts (May 28). The duration of each shift ranged from six minutes (May 30) to two hours and 40 minutes (May 23), with the most volunteers remaining on site about 1 hour during visits. Volunteers walked, documented wildlife, counted people and dogs, and picked up trash for 50.02 hours between May 1 and May 31st. FAR staffed 53 shifts during this time. 14 of the shifts were morning shifts, between 6 am and 12 pm; 22 shifts were afternoon shifts, between 12 and 4:30 pm; and 17 shifts were evening shifts, between 4:30 and 11 pm. FAR administrative time is not included in these reports.

VISITORS: Volunteers tallied 281 people visiting CCENA during their shifts (including the 50 volunteers present during documented times between May 1st and May 31st). Since no effort was made to ensure that we tallied every comer while on site, the number is undoubtedly low.

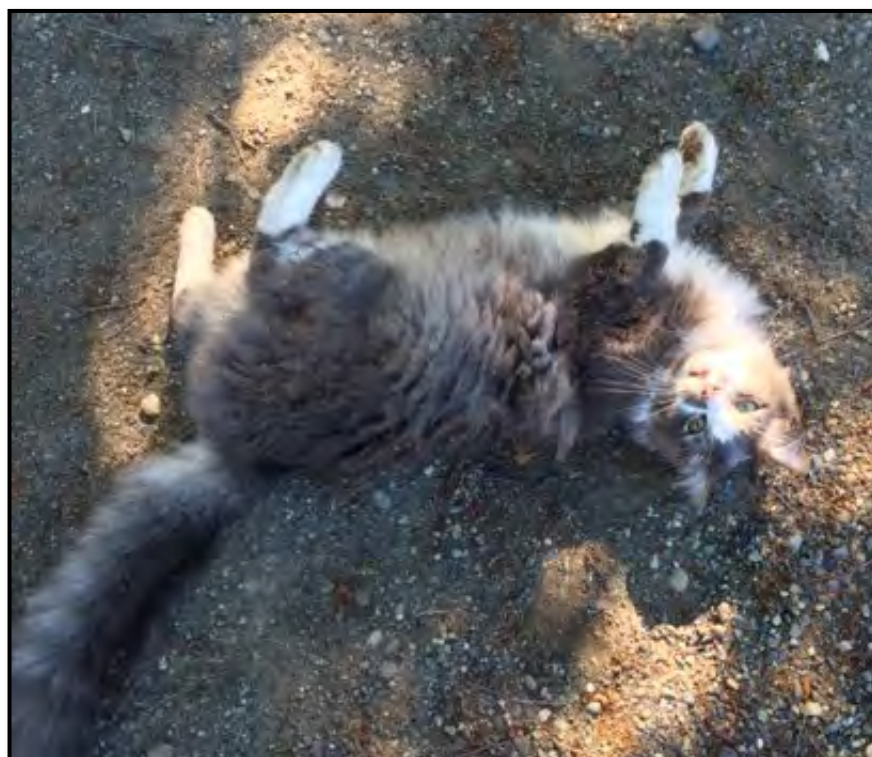
WILDLIFE (63 SPECIES) OBSERVED AT CCENA DURING MAY:

American robin, American pipet, American wigeon, arctic tern, bald eagle, black-capped chickadee, black-billed magpie, Bonaparte's gull, boreal chickadee, Buteo (sp.), Canada goose, common raven, common redpoll, dark-eyed junco, downy woodpecker, golden-crowned sparrow, greater yellowlegs, green-winged teal, hairy woodpecker, herring gull, herring x glaucous-winged gull hybrid, Lapland longspur, lesser yellowlegs, Lincoln's sparrow, mallard, merlin, mew gull, northern harrier, northern pintail, northern shoveler, northern waterthrush, orange-crowned warbler, red-winged blackbird, ruby-crowned kinglet, sandhill crane, Savannah sparrow, sharp-shinned hawk, short-billed/long-billed dowitcher, snow goose, Steller's jay, swallow (sp.), trumpeter swan, violet-green swallow, white-crowned sparrow, Wilson's snipe, Wilson's warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, wood frog, coyote, black bear, moose, shrew, red squirrel, muskrat, ants, spider (sp.), wolf spider, moths, butterflies, mosquitos, beetles.

Most notable sightings were perhaps the black bear, the coyote, the nesting sandhill cranes (there were at least three nests on CCENA property or very near the boundary, which was a bit of a surprise as FAR

thought there would only be one), the snow geese (remarkably scattered and in small numbers this year), and the nesting bald eagles. Although there are many other nesting birds and wildlife with young, these are the most visible. It remains to be seen whether any sandhill crane clutches will survive at CCENA in 2014. When that happens it will be a real credit to GLT, MOA, and FAR.

DISCUSSION ABOUT WHEN TO PUT UP ALERT SIGNS: May 9, Barbara had an exchange with Jessy Coltrane at ADF&G about when they advise posting a sign about a moose with a calf. Typically, they do not do so unless it is on a heavily traveled trail where they can divert folks, like on the single-track at Kincaid Park.



Obviously someone's pet, this unwelcome CCENA visitor was looking for a belly rub from a CCENA Visit-er. Cats that are allowed to roam kill many songbirds, their chicks, and other small animals. A line to note cats has been added to the CCENA data sheet. Photograph by Kathy Collins, FAR, May 2014.

This recent article is entitled "Feral Cats Have No Place in Alaska," but pet cats allowed to roam also do considerable damage to songbird populations.

<http://www.adn.com/2014/05/23/3483395/rick-sinnott-feral-cats-have-no.html>

DOGS AND CATS: Volunteers documented the presence on CCENA grounds of three dogs and one cat during the shifts. Morning tallies were zero dogs; afternoon tallies equaled three; and evening shifts counted zero dogs. A stray cat was reported during a morning shift on May 26th, but there are likely more as volunteers were not asked to document cats at CCENA.

SANDHILL NEST/OFF TRAILS VIDEO CLIP: Here is a link to a video clip (taken from the Ecotone Platform) showing a sandhill crane turning its eggs, and then sitting on its nest. The status of this nest is unknown, but such a close nest was a unique chance for observant visitors to watch crane nesting behavior (we did not publicize such events because we cannot ensure protection per American Birding Association ethics). It was close to the bluff and within scope or binocular sight of a viewing platform. Sadly, several photographers decided that the rules did not apply to them, so they violated the nesting area likely disturbing this nest and many others (cranes and other birds). The video clip shows one such interloper. <http://youtu.be/Ft9CO44hFd0>

The volunteer who filmed the footage wrote this: “We first saw him from the Ecotone Platform in the direction of the Beluga [Overlook]. ... he saw me, turned around and went out of sight. About a half hour later, we saw him below the Beluga [Overlook], heading back from the direction of the aforementioned nest site. He got back to the parking area just before us, jumped in his car and sped off. His vehicle was a blue Toyota, Alaska plate END 301. As we were leaving around 10 pm, a vehicle with three young men arrived. It did not appear they were there to observe nature.”

“It looked as though the violator accessed the flats from the area between the Beluga Overlook and Sandhill Blind.” This behavior that puts crane nests at extreme risk. When a human or other animal approaches a nest, the crane is likely to leave if threatened, leaving the clutch of eggs or chicks vulnerable to predators in the area, to the elements, and to abandonment. The predators observed recently in the area include eagles, coyotes, black bears, hawks, and dogs.

BICYCLES: Volunteers continue to observe bicycle tracks on all trails, including the Bluff Trail and some bikers on trails during shifts. Some people seem unaware that no bikes are allowed on trails at CCENA and that bikes in the marsh are prohibited from March through December. Hopefully the revised sign will help. To help an ancillary sign should be created similar to the no dogs sign. The no-bicycles rules should be prominent (there are actually two bike rules) and the sign should be simple and firm. Volunteers have complained that the current rule is wishy-washy and people do not understand it even if they read it.

TRASH: There is less trash being left at CCENA. Kudos to the Municipality and FAR volunteers for their vigilant trash management! It makes a difference.

OIL SHEENS ON MEADOW LOOP TRAIL STANDING WATER: As reported April 18th multiple locations along the Meadow Loop Trail show oil sheens on standing water. Phil Shephard told Barbara Carlson that this is a natural seep and so there is no need to worry about it.

SANDHILL BLIND SAFETY: The “Watch Your Step” sign placed by MOA is too inconspicuous for people to notice. After it was installed and I was doing a shift with another volunteer, we did not notice it until we were leaving. The sign needs to stand out and placed BEFORE people step onto the deck. Suggest left railing as you enter, because people are more likely to see that as they are arriving to descend the trail steps. Suggest white or yellow sign—I would say red, but red fades more quickly than other colors. The current temporary sign is deteriorating.

A good solution to the issue of people tripping on that two-level deck is to extend the center rail (installed in November) to the west side deck rail, so that visitors must enter and exit walking around the east side of the center rail. This would force them to be more cognizant of the step, hence, fewer people tripping and falling.

Currently three FAR volunteers are alternating duties replacing or retying the temporary yellow surveyors tape when it is down. This is not a good solution, because it consumes a lot of time and there can be gaps between our stewardship visits when the tape is down and no one replaces it.

SIGNAGE NEEDS:

1. Install Bulk of New Signs ASAP: State Parks contractor should have an estimated ship date on June 1.
2. White or yellow “Watch Your Step” sign placed on the left exterior railing sandhill blind deck entrance nearest the final step of the trail descent access steps.
3. Visitors and volunteers assert that the supportive regulatory signs need to be larger so people can read them and so they are more conspicuous. These are the supportive signs and so will be coordinated between GLT and FAR.

Barbara Carlson will work with Phil Shephard on the sizes and ordering of these signs as well as any needed revisions. Necessary Signs—Data indicates a need for the following additional signs:

A. Where people are dropping down into the marsh causing erosion:

“Thank you for staying on trails: Restoration Area”

- a. Left of Sandhill Blind where people are dropping down to the marsh [BC installed sign there June 29th during a shift.]
- b. Left of Ecotone Platform where people are going around the railing to access the marsh

B. Before Meadow Loop Trail:

“No bikes on trails (ever). Bikes allowed January and February in marsh only.”

4. At left of port-a-potty, where a foot path has been beat to the private drive:

“Private Drive: No Trespassing.” This path got started, unfortunately, by workers at CCENA before the grand opening. People were taking short cuts. If this path is allowed to continue, even if the residents at the end of the private drive lock their gates, people will be walking on their drive—and think it is fine to do so because it looks like a trail.

5. Junction Signs--The one junction sign that is up is confusing to people. One visitor called it “indecipherable.” If this can be re-done, it would make more sense to have a simple arrow and say “Forest Trail to Sandhill Blind,” with the few cautionaries we agreed upon (“The Forest Trail follows a narrow, hilly **path** to a hidden bird blind.” Avoid using trail twice in one sentence, if redone.). If the map were turned so show actual location of trail (with a rotated compass rose, most people would understand). A college professor and his wife were unable to find the Forest Trail and Sandhill Blind after going back to study the map twice.

Trails: Trail work to be addressed later by MOA and GLT through YEP, Ptarmigan Trails, and SCA.

Parking Lot:

1. Drainage issue: The drainage issue resulting from the parking lot/entrance/camper host spot has not resolved by itself. Drainage must be established or the water will continue to kill existing forest and

undergrowth, and neighbors and visitors complain that the wet area is becoming a nuisance breeding area for mosquitos.

2. FAR sent out the camper host advertisement to our lists. Suggest that MOA ask the ASD how they found so many campground hosts. Perhaps we can find one using whatever methods they used.

Read about it here: <http://www.adn.com/2014/06/20/3525161/anchorages-summer-stewards-of.html>



A black bear was observed on May 21st (see bench) at the Beluga Overlook. It moseyed off through the east fence after I started talking and waving my arms to make sure it knew I was there. FAR reported the observation to ADF&G, GLT, and MOA. Photo by Barbara Carlson May 21, 2014

ACCOLADES

Many visitors make glowing remarks about CCENA: "A jewel of a place;" "They did such a wonderful job with the trails, the fence," etc.; "I'm so glad they made this into a park [natural area]." Noted by Vivian Mendenhall

"A wonderful day at CCENA!!!! ... two visitors from Japan, marveling at the coastal beauty of Anchorage and they were treated by some close fly-bys of cranes and eagles. ... two amateur birders taking notes on their various observations and I was able to help them with a couple of identifications. ... a photographer, taking pictures of cranes. All visitors complied with the rules. I only wish that more visitors would understand that when one is quiet and there are no dogs running around, that wildlife is so much more observable and everyone's experience is more rewarding." John Zarnetske, FAR

By working with the MOA and GLT to support the CCENA Master Plan, FAR hopes to ensure that for future years in perpetuity, visitors will be listen to, view, and photograph nesting and brood-rearing sandhill cranes and other wildlife that grace this special place.

iv. June 2014

CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

June 2014~Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

Contact: Barbara Carlson, bc@farak.org or 248-2503.



The cat that approached volunteer and photographer, Kathy Collins, in May walked right up to two volunteers on June 29th and begged for a belly rub, then ran off to hunt in the meadow. The cat has no collar or tag. Photo by Barbara Carlson, FAR, June 29, 2014

Third 2014 SUMMARY REPORT: FAR's last summary report was May of 2014. The stewardship continues.

CURRENT ISSUES AT CCENA:

1. **Off-trail behavior, bicycles, dogs**—Observers note fewer people off-trails, fewer bicycles, and fewer dogs when conducting stewardship shifts; however, volunteers still need to inform some people of the rules and hear complaints about violations from visitors.
2. **Vandalism**—Visitors comment on liking the obvious white "no dogs" sign." Barbara and Phil will resolve this (when we take care of the rest of the supportive signage) and copy MOA.
3. **2014 GLT/FAR Inspection**--GLT and FAR need to schedule the annual 2014 inspection for CCENA with John and Barbara. See discussion in May report. Suggest late July or early August.
4. **Need Camper Host**--This will discourage partying, drinking, smoking, and possible drug deals about which volunteers and neighbors are concerned. Barbara Carlson wrote APD to request a patrol when time allows, but getting a camper host who will lock gate is key.
5. **Meadow Loop Trail needs leveling and compacting**--The MLT needs to be graded and compacted to reduce the excessive crown and hummocky nature of the recent trail work. This main trail and the Beluga Overlook must be handicap accessible as intended and stated in the

Master Plan. FAR does not agree that the crown on the gravel trail will settle on its own. Work near the bluff should be done early fall as there is a late sandhill crane nest, built by a bonded pair on CCENA after they lost their first clutch. Check with FAR for nest status.

OTHER EXTANT NEEDS:

6. Sandhill Blind step danger: See March/April and May reports.
7. Drainage problem north of parking lot. See March/April and May report.
8. Spruce tree buffer for neighbors, north of parking lot: See March/April report.
9. Treeline has not yet replaced the missing trim pieces that had not been attached during 2013 construction. See October 2013 and March/April 2014 reports.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is there a further safety plan for the Sandhill Blind?
2. What is planned to resolve the north of parking lot drainage issue?
3. Are there any "No Fishing" signs down by the creek below the lake? *If not, perhaps ADF&G could supply them and install.*

SPRING 2014 GUIDELINES: Barbara Carlson will update the guidelines by FALL, if possible, to include new items; illegal fishing, reporting camping, fires, and/or loud partying near CCENA (volunteers can observe this activity during their rounds from the Ecotone Platform and there is currently some confusion about who has jurisdiction.) It is not an easy area for enforcement to reach, so Barbara will also work with ADF&G and MOA to see about the pertinent placement of specific signs at the frequently abused location.

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS: FAR stewards staffed shifts to collect requested data to support management covering 17 days (June 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, 26, 27, 29); with two of those days hosting two shifts (June 7 and 27); three days hosting three shifts June 5, 6, and 11.) The duration of each shift ranged from 41 minutes (June 27) to three hours (June 4), with the most volunteers remaining on site about one hour during visits. Volunteers walked, documented wildlife, counted people and dogs, and picked up trash for 31.13 hours between June 1 and June 30. FAR staffed 25 shifts during this time. Ten of the shifts were morning shifts, between 6 am and 12 pm; six shifts were afternoon shifts, between 12 and 4:30 pm; and nine shifts were evening shifts, between 4:30 and 11 pm. FAR administrative time is not included in these reports.

VISITORS: Volunteers tallied 184 people visiting CCENA during their shifts (including the 34 volunteers present during documented times between June 1 and June 30). Since no effort was made to ensure that we tallied every comer while on site, the number is undoubtedly low.

DOGS AND CATS: Volunteers documented the presence on CCENA grounds of four dogs and three cats during the shifts. Morning tallies were three dogs; afternoon tallies equaled zero; and evening shifts counted one dog. FAR stewards reported free-ranging cats three times during two different morning shifts, but there are likely more as volunteers are learning to watch for cats at CCENA.



This Siamese cat ran out of the meadow to greet the two volunteers, letting us read it's tag which said, "Let me go, I'll go home. 4521 Macalister Drive," which is the street off Edinburgh Drive, 1 block from W Dimond Blvd. Photograph by Barbara Carlson, FAR, June 29, 2014.

Free-range (owned) cats and feral cats are part of a larger problem and partners will have to think about the best ways to try to address it for CCENA (and the ACWR). Here is a University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension Service link to a peer-reviewed research paper discussing the issue:

<http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/live/ec1781/build/ec1781.pdf>

This recent article is entitled "Feral Cats Have No Place in Alaska," but pet cats allowed to roam also do considerable damage to songbird populations. <http://www.adn.com/2014/05/23/3483395/rick-sinnott-feral-cats-have-no.html>

WILDLIFE (48 SPECIES) OBSERVED AT CCENA DURING JUNE:

Alder flycatcher, American robin, American wigeon, arctic tern, bald eagle, black-capped chickadee, black-billed magpie, Bonaparte's gull, Canada goose, common merganser, common raven, common redpoll, dark-eyed junco, downy woodpecker, greater yellowlegs, green-winged teal, hairy woodpecker, herring gull, Lincoln's sparrow, mallard, merlin, mew gull, northern waterthrush, orange-crowned warbler, red-breasted nuthatch, sandhill crane, Savannah sparrow, Swainson's thrush, swallow (sp.), violet-green swallow, white-crowned sparrow, yellow-rumped warbler, wood frog, coyote, black bear, moose, shrew, red squirrel, salmon (sp.), ants, spider (sp.), wolf spider, dragonfly, damselfly; moths, swallowtail butterfly, lots of mosquitos, beetles.

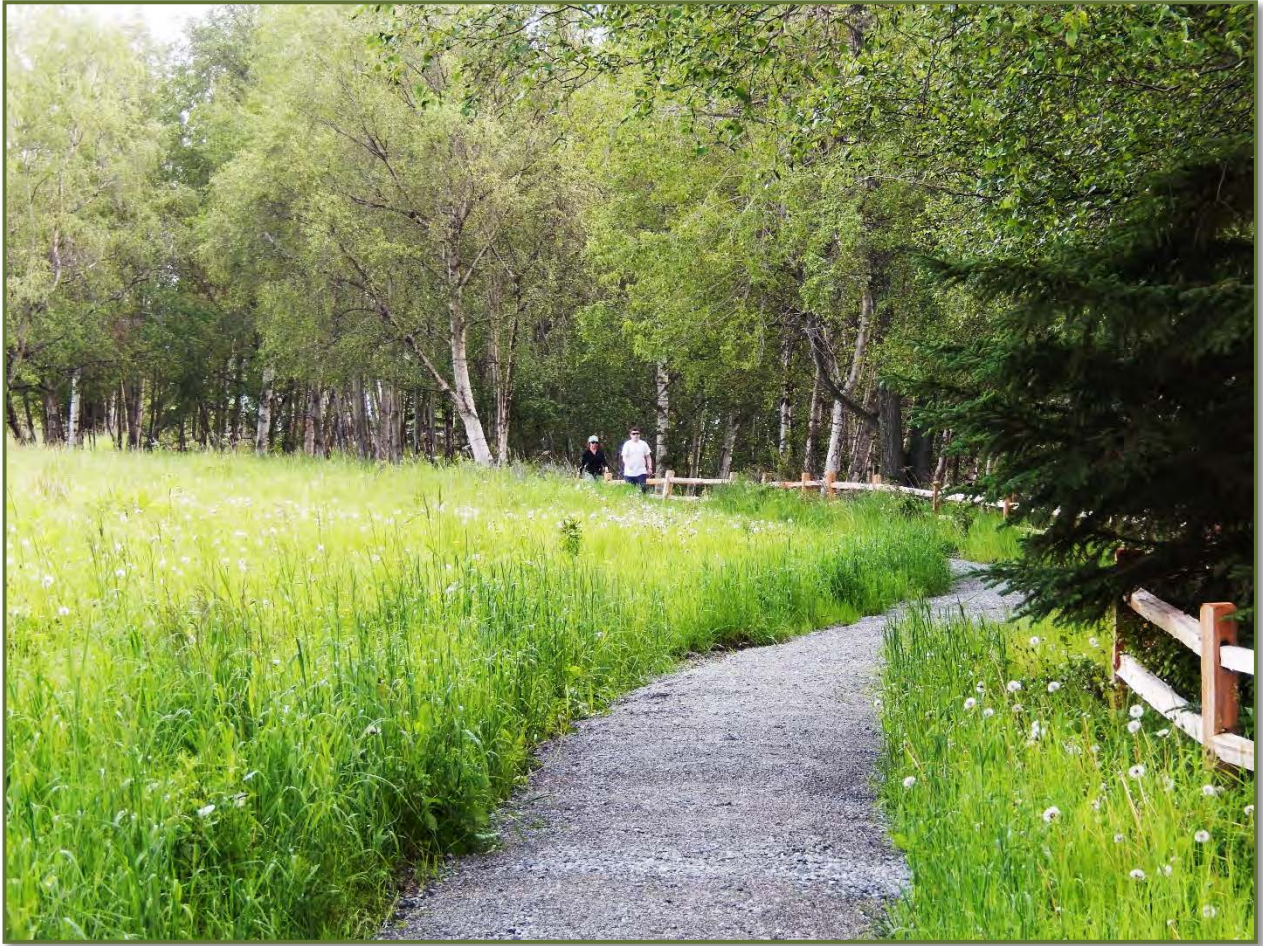


Taken from the Ecotone Platform with a zoom lens, this photograph shows at least two eaglets with the adult at the larger of two nests in the immediate CCENA vicinity. A smaller nest is visible from EP but does not seem to be active. By John Zarnetske, FAR. June 28, 2014

Most notable sightings were perhaps the black bear, the coyote, and the nesting sandhill cranes (It appears as though all but one CCENA sandhill crane clutches may have failed, except one pair that has bred again and started a new nest). Unfortunately, it is possible that the last clutch was lost about the time there was a lot of noise at CCENA due to Ptarmigan Trails and a large, noisy YEP crew working there for several days. There were at one time in June two pairs of cranes with one chick each, and at one time, two more active crane nests. The nesting bald eagles appear to have two eaglets, although it is hard to see clearly from the distance, even with a scope. Although there are many other nesting birds and wildlife with young, these are the most visible. There is an abundance of predators, so if human activity causes parents to flee, it is easy for eagles, coyotes, or bears to grab a tender meal of sandhill crane eggs or chicks. For optimal survival of chicks, activity near the bluff and marsh must be quiet and access to the marsh restricted during this sensitive time in these birds' life cycles, as the rules state.

SIGNAGE NEEDS

1. Prepare to Install Bulk of New Signs: State Parks contractor reports that the estimated ship date is July 31.
2. White or yellow "Watch Your Step" sign placed on the left exterior railing Sandhill Blind deck entrance nearest the final step of the trail descent access steps. See May.
3. "Private Drive: No Trespassing," left of potty, where footpath leads to private drive. See May.
4. Junction Signs—Phil Shephard suggest that we redesign these signs, since the original did not function as planned. FAR is glad to help.



Two CCENA visitors enjoy a mid-day walk along the Meadow Loop Trail. Photo by John Zarnetske, FAR, June 28, 2014

v. July 2014

CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

July 2014~Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

Contact: Barbara Carlson, bc@farak.org or 248-2503.



Group of young people carrying their skateboards, thank birder, Dave Larson, who had set up his spotting scope and was sharing looks at the view and birds in the estuary, from the Beluga Overlook, with visitors on July 27, 2014. CCENA is becoming a place for knowledgeable naturalists and birders to share information casually with the interested public. By Barbara Carlson

Fourth 2014 SUMMARY REPORT: FAR's last summary report was June of 2014. The stewardship continues.

CURRENT ISSUES AT CCENA:

1. **Off-trail behavior, bicycles, dogs**—While observers note fewer people off-trails, fewer bicycles, and fewer dogs when conducting stewardship shifts; some people still are not aware of or understand the rules. Volunteers hear complaints about violations from visitors. Observers also see evidence of trails into the marsh.

2. **2014 GLT/FAR Inspection**--GLT and FAR need to schedule the annual 2014 inspection for CCENA with ___?_ (John is no longer with GLT) and Barbara. See discussion in May report. Suggest August or early September.
3. **Still Need Camper Host**--to discourage partying, drinking, smoking, and other illegal activity. APD has honored our request for a patrol when time allows, but getting a camper host who will lock and unlock the gate is key.
4. **Meadow Loop Trail needs leveling and compacting**--The MLT needs to be graded and compacted to so the main trail is handicap accessible. FAR does not agree that the crown on the gravel trail will settle on its own. Check with FAR for nest status. Perhaps if SCA cannot do all of this with the rest of the work they have to do, *USKH volunteers could finish it as part of their Day of Caring. What do you think?*
5. Sandhill Blind step danger: See March/April, May, and June reports.
6. FAR has noted some potential for tripping on the Forest Trail. Perhaps the SCA crew could hand cut extant roots in trail that were missed in 2013 and put gravel in some spots that were slippery when wet.
7. Drainage problem north of parking lot. See March/April, and May reports.
8. Spruce tree buffer for neighbors, north of parking lot: See March/April report.
9. Treeline has not yet replaced the missing trim pieces that were not attached during 2013 construction. See October 2013 and March/April 2014 reports.
10. Signage needs discussed later.

QUESTIONS:

1. Is there a further safety plan for the Sandhill Blind?
2. What is planned to resolve the north of parking lot drainage issue?
3. Are there any "No Fishing" signs down by the creek below the lake? *If not, perhaps ADF&G could supply them and install.*
4. When does Steve Hester start work with SCA at CCENA?

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS: FAR stewards staffed shifts to collect requested data to support management covering 19 days (July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23, 26, 27, 29); with three of those days hosting two shifts (July 8, 9, and 29); and one days hosting three shifts (July 27.) The duration of each shift ranged from 30 minutes (July 1) to three hours and 34 minutes (July 21), with the most volunteers remaining on site about one hour during visits. Volunteers walked, documented wildlife, counted people and dogs, and picked up trash for 28.09 hours between July 1 and July 31. FAR staffed 22 shifts during this time. Eleven of the shifts were morning shifts, between 6 am and 12 pm; eight shifts were afternoon shifts, between 12 and 4:30 pm; and five shifts were evening shifts, between 4:30 and 11 pm. administrative time is not included in these reports.

VISITORS: Volunteers tallied 143 people visiting CCENA during their shifts (including the 37 volunteers present during documented times between July 1 and July 31). While the head count included volunteers present during shifts, just 13 individuals staffed the shifts. Since no effort was made to ensure that we tallied every comer while on site, the number is undoubtedly low.

DOGS AND CATS: Volunteers documented the presence on CCENA grounds of two dogs and five cats during the shifts. One dog was a service dog for a handicapped person and Barbara gave them guarded permission to be there with instructions to hold the dog tightly. It seemed quiet & well behaved. Two dogs not counted showed up in the parking lot alone but quickly returned to a neighborhood home at



the sound of a whistle. Morning tallies were one dog; afternoon tallies equaled zero; and evening shifts counted one dog. FAR stewards reported free-ranging cats three times during three morning shifts and one evening shift.

*This tiger striped cat did not come when called and hurried off to hunt in the meadow at CCENA on July 29, 2014.
By Barbara Carlson*

Again, here is the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension Service link to a peer-reviewed research paper discussing the issue of free-range (owned) cats and feral cats:

<http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/live/ec1781/build/ec1781.pdf>

And, Rick Sinnott's ADN article discussing problems with feral and free-ranging cats.

<http://www.adn.com/2014/05/23/3483395/rick-sinnott-feral-cats-have-no.html>

JURISDICTION AND GUIDELINES:

July 5th volunteers observed an illegal campsite from CCENA. It is unclear whether the three males with a dog and a goat were on Municipal land or State land, but it is certain that camping, having a goat, and building a fire were not legal. Since it was a holiday weekend we were not able to follow through satisfactorily, but this event indicates a need to sort that out. Two maps at the end of this report

illustrate the approximate location of the “Spruce Mound” on the inletward side at which the tent was set up and the fire was built. This would be a good example of why a Memorandum of Agreement between the MOA, ADF&G, and whomever else would be appropriate would be useful. An APD officer responded to the end of Endeavor and the AWWU site below, but determined that it would be messy to get there and he was uncertain, himself, of the jurisdiction.

VIDEO OF MALE CAMPERS WITH GOAT (COURTESY OF WAYNE HALL): <http://youtu.be/3me8qPVaE7A>

WILDLIFE (39 SPECIES) OBSERVED AT CCENA DURING JULY

It appears as though all but one CCENA sandhill crane clutches may have failed. The last suspected 2nd nest (below the eagle nest) did not exist long enough for confirmation with multiple observers. There is a small chance it is still there, and bc will check again, but the last visits did not reveal an active nest. The last report of the sandhill crane pair with an extant, and very small chick (near the Sandhill Blind (SB), was on July 23, just two days after it was spotted during the YEP orientation to the planning process and the habitat and wildlife that planning involved, with Steve Rafuse, Phil Shephard, and FAR volunteers, Barbara Carlson, Chris Maack, John Zarnetske, and Wayne Hall. The nesting bald eagles were observed to have three eaglets, and were seen on the nest July 27. An osprey has been observed nearby at Jewel Lake and the West Park subdivision and mentioned by photographers and several volunteers, but has *not* been seen at CCENA.

VIDEO of BONDED SANDHILL CRANE PAIR WITH INVISIBLE CHICK (OR MAYBE TWO):

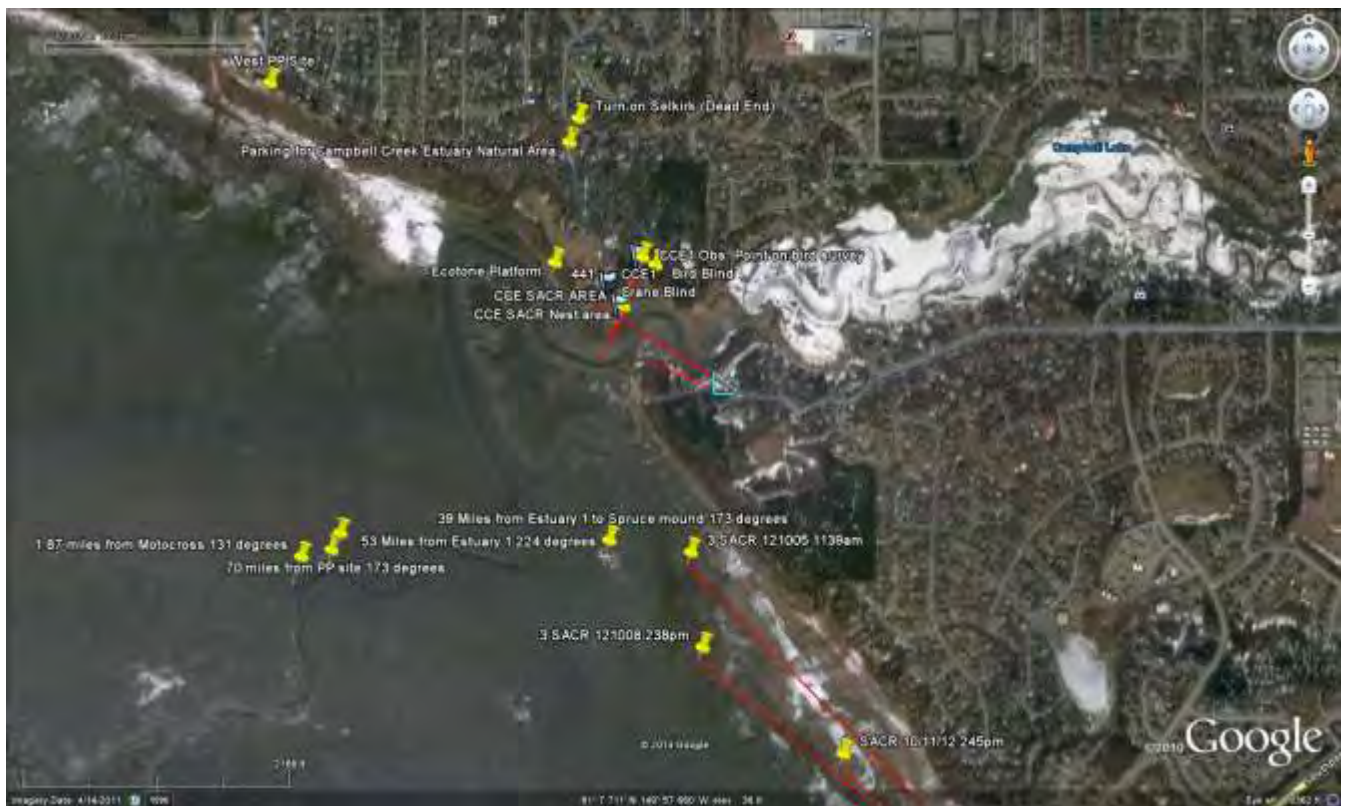
<http://youtu.be/uBZmcaSvZBw> This sandhill crane family desperately needs their space to safely raise this brood. It is the result of a 2nd nest as, sadly, the eggs disappeared from the pair’s first nest within days of their expected hatch. The chick is very small for this time of the summer.

SPECIES LIST: Alder flycatcher, American robin, arctic tern, bald eagle, black-capped chickadee, boreal chickadee, black-billed magpie, Canada goose, common loon (heard), common redpoll, dark-eyed junco, duck (sp.), Empidonax ((flycatcher) sp.), fox sparrow, glaucous-winged gull, greater yellowlegs, gull (sp.), hairy woodpecker, Hudsonian godwit, Lincoln’s sparrow, mew gull, orange-crowned warbler, red-breasted nuthatch, sandhill crane, Savannah sparrow, swallow (sp.), western wood pewee, white-crowned sparrow, coyote, shrew, red squirrel, salmon (sp.), gnats, red spider mite, spider (sp.), slug, dragonfly, lots of mosquitos.

SIGNAGE NEEDS

1. Prepare to Install Bulk of New Signs: Were to have shipped estimated by July 31. Steve Rafuse will apply for a Day of Caring crew of 50 volunteers from USKH for the September event.
2. Junction posts and all installation parts will need to be figured out and obtained ahead of time.
3. Barbara will work with Emily Lockhart and/or Meg Anderson at State Parks to review which signs need what work ahead of time and communicate with Steve and Phil so they can coordinate it on schedule.

4. White or yellow “Watch Your Step” sign placed on the left exterior railing Sandhill Blind deck entrance nearest the final step of the trail descent access steps. See May.
5. “Private Drive: No Trespassing,” left of potty, where footpath leads to private drive. See May. Barbara will check with Phil to see if this can be added to our ancillary supportive sign list that we design and order separately.
6. Junction Signs—Phil Shephard suggest that we redesign these signs, since the original did not function as planned. FAR is glad to help.



Map provided by Wayne Hall, volunteer who documented campers with goat on July 5th. Approximate location is the pin labeled “.39 miles from Estuary 1 to Spruce mound 173 degrees.” See separate attachment for larger map.

vi. August 2014

CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY REPORT

August 2014~Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

Contact: Barbara Carlson, bc@farak.org or 248-2503.



A large dragonfly graces the edge of the Meadow Loop Trail at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) on August 11, 2014. By Barbara Carlson

Fifth 2014 SUMMARY REPORT: FAR's last summary report was July of 2014. The stewardship continues. FAR notes the welcome addition of steps installed by the Student Conservation crew at both the Forest and Bluff Trails to improve safety on the slopes.

CURRENT ISSUES AT CCENA:

1. **Signage Needs:** See all previous reports. FAR believes that when the remaining interpretive and regulatory signage is installed it will help visitors appreciate CCENA and understand how to use it appropriately.
2. **Indication of some off-trail behavior**—There is evidence that people have been going off trail into the marsh along the bluff at several locations (below Sandhill Blind, below Ecotone Platform, along Bluff Trail, and the NW woods along the bluff.)



The east extent of the Meadow Loop Trail has become noticeably overgrown and may need annual trimming in future years. August 31, by Barbara Carlson

3. **2014 GLT/FAR Inspection**—Barbara learned that the annual inspection was done without her, so the information that needs to be gathered as part of that will still need to be scheduled with her or someone else, hopefully, before winter. See July report.
4. **Still Need Camper Host**--to discourage partying, drinking, smoking, and other illegal activity. On August 22, Phil Shephard, Steve Rafuse, Barbara Carlson and several others met with a couple who were interested in becoming camper hosts at CCENA. We discussed the pros and cons of a family living at CCENA vs Kincaid Park since both had openings, then Barbara gave them a tour and her card, should they have questions.
5. **Meadow Loop Trail needs leveling and compacting**--The MLT needs to be graded and compacted to so the main trail is handicap accessible. See July report.
6. **Sandhill Blind Step Danger:** See March/April, May, and June reports.
7. It has been very wet and in the future, it may be necessary to do more to prevent erosion along the Bluff Trail where, due to erosion, the trail is only about 1' wide along a short stretch. Additionally, although the steps along the Forest Trail help, if it is very wet, something still may be needed to take care of very wet slippery areas where people are again walking around the

trail. Again, we probably just need to watch this, and if it is not extremely wet, then it may not be a problem.

8. Drainage problem north of parking lot has killed some extant vegetation. The pond is filling back up with the latest rains. See March/April, and May reports.
9. Spruce tree buffer for neighbors, north of parking lot: See March/April report.
10. Treeline has not yet replaced the missing trim pieces that were not attached during 2013 construction. See October 2013 and March/April 2014 reports.

QUESTIONS:

1. Are there any "No Fishing" signs down by the creek below the lake? *If not, perhaps ADF&G could supply them and install.*
2. When will the remaining signage be installed?

VOLUNTEER SHIFTS: FAR stewards staffed shifts to collect requested data to support management covering 11 days (August 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 15, 19, 22, 26, 27, 31); with two of those days hosting two shifts (August 1 and 31.) The duration of each shift ranged from 27 minutes (July 1) to two hours and 34 minutes, with the most volunteers remaining on site for longer than one hour during visits. Volunteers walked, documented wildlife, counted people and dogs, and picked up trash for 20.55 hours between August 1 and August 31. FAR staffed 13 shifts during this time. Five of the shifts were morning shifts, between 6 am and 12 pm; four shifts were afternoon shifts, between 12 and 4:30 pm; and four shifts were evening shifts, between 4:30 and 11 pm. Administrative time is not included in these reports.

VISITORS: Volunteers tallied 64 people visiting CCENA during their shifts (including the 14 volunteers present during documented times between August 1 and 31). While the head count included volunteers present during shifts, just nine individuals staffed the shifts, five of whom recorded data. Since no effort was made to ensure that we tallied every corner while on site, and since we staffed fewer hours than during previous reports the number is undoubtedly low.

DOGS AND CATS: Volunteers did not document the presence on CCENA grounds of any dogs or cats during August shifts. Volunteers note that occasionally walkers of dogs on leash come to drop off trash and dog poop in the parking lot receptacle who do not walk their dogs at CCENA. Volunteers also note that some people visit CCENA and leave their dogs in the car, demonstrating respect for CCENA rules.

JURISDICTION AND GUIDELINES:

Barbara has not had time to revise CCENA Volunteer Guidelines concerning boundaries and illegal fishing or hunting, so will try to address that this winter.

WILDLIFE (44 SPECIES) OBSERVED AT CCENA DURING AUGUST

Bonded sandhill crane pairs remained at CCENA during August to occupy their territories, thereby preventing it from being claimed by other cranes. There were at least three pairs, but pinpointing their specific territories has been difficult without a dedicated study. They seem to claim habitat in a manner not quite the same as other Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge cranes, perhaps due to the meander of



Campbell Creek through the mudflats and marsh. The crane pair with a very young chick featured in the video from the July report has not been observed by volunteers since July 23. The adults may have taken it out of sight, but its chances of survival were not great. The bald eagles were observed to have three eaglets.

A red baneberry, Actaea rubra, grows along the CCENA Bluff Trail to the Ecotone Platform. Although it is spectacularly attractive, it is poisonous. This plant can also display white berries, which are also toxic. August 15, 2014, by Barbara Carlson

SPECIES LIST: Alder flycatcher, arctic tern, bald eagle, black-billed magpie, black-capped chickadee, boreal chickadee, Canada goose, common redpoll, fox sparrow, golden-crowned sparrow, greater yellowlegs, gull (sp.), hairy woodpecker, Lincoln's sparrow, mallard, merlin, orange-crowned warbler, red-breasted nuthatch, sandhill crane, sandpipers, Savannah sparrow, Steller's jay, western wood pewee, white-crowned sparrow, wood frog, yellow rumped warbler, yellow warbler, shrew, red squirrel, salmon (sp.), flies, gnats, spider (sp.), slug, damselfly, dragonfly (two species), lots of mosquitos, and yellow jackets.

SIGNAGE NEEDS: See May, June, July reports.

2e. See link to read: The Effects of Dogs on Wildlife by Tom Chester

f. Anchorage Adopts Master Plan for
Campbell Creek Estuary by Rick Sinnott

Anchorage adopts master plan for Campbell Creek estuary*

by Rick Sinnott

One of the last unprotected estuaries in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) has been added to the city's roster of parks and natural areas. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the area's master plan Monday. The 60-acre parcel is located near the mouth of Campbell Creek.

The property was purchased from private owners by Great Land Trust in 2010. Abutting the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, about a third of the parcel is estuarine wetland. The remainder is mostly upland forest. Great Land Trust initiated the effort to preserve the property's natural assets in 2001, first broaching the concept of a conservation easement with the owners, then raising more than \$7.7 million to purchase the property and spearheading the effort to develop a master plan.

Great Land Trust and a group of committed citizens crammed a lot of hard work into the past two years. During the summers of 2011 and 2012, when the issue was cropping up in the news, the executive director of Great Land Trust, Phil Shephard, led several groups through the area, including Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich and U.S. Fish and Wildlife director Dan Ashe. Public dialogue about the natural area waned in late summer, after the last public comment period; however, the proposed master plan continued to percolate through a series of public and agency filters. The Planning and Zoning Commission's decision gave the department of parks and recreation a green light to use the master plan to manage the area.

A natural area, not a park

The public is unfamiliar with the difference between a natural area and a park, in large part because the municipality manages relatively few designated natural areas.

City parks are usually established primarily for human use. Maintaining habitat for wildlife, though often an appreciated secondary purpose, is rarely the primary goal. Significant chunks of city parks often morph into public athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, or networks of trails. Some wildlife species – particularly birds that avoid human activity or habitat “edges” – are adversely affected by trails, and trails exacerbate conflicts between humans and potentially dangerous wildlife, like moose and bears, which also use the trails.

One purpose of a natural area is to preserve a fragile habitat or wildlife assemblage. In this case, the CCENA protects, among other things, thousands of migratory snow geese and hundreds of sandhill cranes that depend on the property and the adjoining wildlife refuge every spring. A dozen or more pairs of cranes stick around all summer, nesting and raising their young colts in the estuarine wetlands surrounding the CCENA. Snow geese and sandhill cranes are large, excitable birds; both species are vulnerable to human disturbance. Few, if any, other cities the size of Anchorage still support viable populations of these birds so close to urban neighborhoods.

A private-public partnership

Great Land Trust – recognizing the value of the property to wildlife and people who appreciate wildlife in and near the city – purchased the property from the Kyzer Group and McManamin family using private donations and federal and state grants. Shephard then offered the natural

area to the city, free of charge, if the administration was willing to accept the terms of the conservation easement.

The conservation easement established an unambiguous purpose for the property and defined acceptable uses and activities. In the estuarine habitat below the bluff the single goal is “to protect natural resources to keep them in an undisturbed state except as required to promote and maintain a diverse community of predominantly Native Species.”

The conservation easement was less restrictive in the upland area; however, it stated “Activities and uses are limited to those permitted in this Article, provided the intensity or frequency of the activity or use does not materially or adversely affect the Conservation Purposes.” Because its primary purpose is preserving the property’s natural values in perpetuity, the conservation easement envisioned dispersed recreational uses such as birdwatching and hiking, not soccer fields or heavily used, paved trails. In fact, paved trails are specifically not allowed.

After review by the public and a variety of city, state, and federal agencies, the Anchorage Assembly adopted an ordinance in October 2010 approving conveyance of the CCENA’s conservation easement, the first step in transferring the natural area to the city.

As promised, Great Land Trust demolished and removed several ramshackle homes and sheds and cleared other debris from the property. It also established several funds, totaling \$1 million, to be used by the municipality to preserve and protect the property and to construct and maintain improvements.

Great Land Trust and others have touted this effort as a successful example of public-private partnership in conservation of important wetlands and wildlife habitat.

Master plan

A time-tested method to engage the public in a planning process is to create a stakeholder group. Great Land Trust assembled a group of neighbors and other community members representing agencies with management responsibilities. The stakeholder group was charged with developing the master plan.

Basing the master plan on the provisions of the conservation easement, the stakeholders established rules for the area. The estuarine wetlands garnered the most protection. The plan allows dispersed human use but reserves the option to restrict some recreational activities, even prohibit access, during the sensitive migratory and nesting seasons.

Rules are less restrictive on the adjacent upland portion, but maintaining the conservation values of the property is still the top priority. Based on public input, the stakeholder group favored some recreational development – a small parking lot, unpaved nature trails, and viewing decks overlooking the estuary – but recommended prohibiting bikes from March to December and dogs and other domestic animals at any time. Winter activities like cross-country skiing were also favored because the more vulnerable species of waterfowl and shorebirds wouldn’t be affected.

The master plan was completed in October 2012. There followed a final hurdle, a penultimate review of the master plan by city agencies and final approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

A final flurry of conflicting ideas

Most agency comments focused on minor tweaks to the plan, but the municipality's long range planning section and its non-motorized transportation coordinator asked that the master plan be amended to accommodate a future extension of the Coastal Trail.

The Tony Knowles Coastal Trail is the most popular trail in Anchorage. Begun in the late 1980s, stretching from downtown Anchorage to Kincaid Park, it's considered by many residents to be a unique and world-class asset. A south extension of the Coastal Trail to the Seward Highway, more than doubling the length of the existing trail, was hotly debated in the late 1990s and early 2000s. After nine years of planning, politicking, and contentious reviews of public documents, the Federal Highway Administration deemed the city's preferred route, much of it through the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, to be untenable for a variety of reasons. However, interest in extending the Coastal Trail has never died out.

During last Monday's Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, some members of the stakeholder group and others expressed alarm and irritation at what appeared to be an eleventh-hour attempt to pry the Coastal Trail door back open.

Routing a south extension of the Coastal Trail, with its anticipated intensity and frequency of use, through the property would be incompatible with the conservation purposes of the CCENA in almost every way imaginable. Requiring a cleared swath (or dike) about 27 feet wide, paved, heavily used, with no mandate or desire to restrict public access during the critical migratory or nesting seasons of birds in the coastal wetlands, the Coastal Trail, as it currently exists, couldn't avoid violating the provisions of the conservation easement.

Dwayne Adams, a landscape architect with USKH who helped produce the master plan, told the commissioners that the issue was deliberately avoided during the stakeholder meetings. There didn't appear to be strong support among stakeholders or residents who attended meetings on the plan for routing a south extension of the Coastal Trail through the natural area.

In response, commissioner Bruce Phelps said, "I don't see any advantage to making this more difficult" by amending the plan to accommodate the Coastal Trail. Another commissioner, Stacey Dean, expressed a different perspective, noting her frustration with what she believed to be a lack of access. Dean believed the bicycle restrictions were "not fair." After several other commissioners expressed support for the plan as written, the commission voted to approve it.

Great Land Trust and the municipality hope to have the nature trails, overlooks and parking area built by next summer. Adhering to plans of their own design, flocks of snow geese and cranes will begin to arrive shortly after the vernal equinox – as they have for the past 11 millennia or so – to thrill winter-weary Anchorage residents with some of the first sounds of spring.

** A slightly edited version of an article published in the Anchorage Daily News on December 16, 2012 entitled "Special refuge in Anchorage to view sandhill cranes, snow geese"*

g. Early FAQs developed by GLT and FAR with agreement from MOA (These were preliminary decisions that were urgently needed before everything was complete because access was increasing with development and the property needed protection.)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA (CCENA)

Prepared for CCENA Opening Docent Tours.

1. Why is CCENA a special place?

CCENA and the adjacent Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge) support marine, estuary, saltwater marsh, freshwater, freshwater marsh, meadow and woodland ecosystems. Situated in the largest city in Alaska this natural area provides visitors opportunities to observe these unique ecosystems in a way that maintains their conservation values.

CCENA and the Refuge support habitat for many diverse wildlife species, some of which need undisturbed habitat during important parts of their life cycles. Nesting bald eagles, ospreys, northern harriers, sandhill cranes, snow geese and other migratory birds, and Cook Inlet beluga whales, depend on adequate space for critical parts of their life cycles. Ecologists, educators, their students, and nature lovers may study these habitats in their near natural state for years to come. Anchorage residents and visitors can enjoy a stroll on the trails at CCENA, and take in the unique views, smells, and sounds, unfettered by vehicular noise and other human activities.

2. When did this project begin and when was it completed?

After several years of discussion, in 2008 landowners approached Great Land Trust (GLT). The fundraising was completed during the fall of 2010 at which time the property was purchased by GLT and transferred to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). GLT and the State of Alaska both hold conservation easements over the 60 acre parcel which ensure that the funding agencies' conservation requirements are met.

3. Where did the money come from to buy this property and how much did it cost?

The individuals, corporation, organizations and foundations which provided funding and support are all listed on the parking lot kiosks. The total project cost was about 7.7 million dollars. The biggest single funders were:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service,
- Great Land Trust,
- AK Sustainable Salmon Fund,
- The Rasmuson Foundation,
- ConocoPhillips,
- The AK State Legislature,
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and
- The Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

4. What is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement (CE) is an encumbrance that creates a legally binding preservation agreement between a landowner and a qualified buyer for the purpose of conservation. A CE is a legal instrument that allows another party to hold a partial interest in a parcel of land.

The CE for this property allows for the parking lot and trailhead in one part of the property nearest the neighborhood but very limited development (only trails, signs, and overlooks) in the rest of the property. Most of the funding for the property came from sources related to the conservation wetlands

near Campbell Creek, so any future development must make sure that the conservation values of these Class A wetlands are maintained.

The Conservation Easement for CCENA is posted here:

http://www.greatlandtrust.org/docs/CC_ConEase.pdf

5. Are bicycles allowed at CCENA?



Bicycles are allowed during the winter months from December through March. Between December and March there should be sufficient snow and ice coverage to protect the habitat. (Some people enjoy winter bicycling in the adjacent Refuge--as well as cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, and walking.) During summer months; however; bicycle use is not compatible with wildlife viewing and can cause habitat damage, so is prohibited from March through December.

6. Is it okay to go out into the marsh?

It is okay to go out into the marsh between November and March. Winter is a great time to go out into the marsh because your presence then is neither likely to disturb wildlife, nor damage habitat. The marsh is closed from April through October because migrations come through then and many species of birds stay here to breed, nest, and raise their broods, including a bonded pair of sandhill cranes that returns here every year. During migration many species of birds stop over to rest, preen, and feed before continuing their southward journeys. If they are disturbed from what they need to do during these pit stops, they may not have the energy to continue their long trips. These valuable wetlands are also fragile and cannot handle much traffic without becoming damaged.

7. Why is the northwest forest closed from April through October?

This area is closed from April through October to protect nesting and brood-rearing birds. By protecting this habitat during this time we are also allowing other animals such as hares, porcupines, foxes, weasels, and moose, to name a few, to have the space that they need to hide, hunt, forage, and raise their young, so that quiet and observant visitors will have many opportunities to see such wildlife.

8. Why can't I bring my good dog here on a leash?

Even the presence of good dogs can stress wildlife, including birds that need all their energy to forage, preen, and hunt, so they can care for their broods, and have the strength to migrate. Many wild animals see dogs as potential predators. During the master planning process an overwhelming majority of stakeholders, even dog owners, strongly asserted that CCENA should be a dog-free natural area.

9. Why are rules at CCENA different than rules at city parks?

A natural area is different than a city park. The marsh ecosystems, in particular, are fragile and need protection so that they may continue to exist and support wildlife, to be enjoyed by future generations of visitors.

Brood-rearing birds sometimes leave their nests to distract dogs or humans from the nest area or the young birds, thus leaving them vulnerable to natural predators. Visitors are discouraged from walking on the marsh lands, except from November through March, for the same reason. Furthermore, foot

traffic destroys the delicate roots of native vegetation and collapses the burrows of soil invertebrates causing a negative ripple effect up through the food chain of wetland organisms.

10. Who administers CCENA?

The Municipality of Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation manages the land, with support from the Anchorage Park Foundation; and organizations such as Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR). GLT and the State hold conservation easements ensuring that the funding agency conservation requirements are met.

11. Are there any future plans for CCENA?

The Master Plan approved and passed by the MOA Parks and Recreation and the Planning and Zoning Commissions is posted here:

http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Documents/2012-12-12_MASTER%20PLAN.pdf

Most of the immediately planned minimal improvements will be complete by the end of 2013 or very early 2014. These include the following:

- Three planned walking trails;
- Three planned wildlife viewing platforms;
- Parking lot amenities (kiosks with planned regulatory and interpretive signage, a port-a-potty, an emergency turn around, parking for one bus, a spot with electricity for a caretaker with an RV, 10 parking spaces with one for handicap access, down-facing lighting, a gate that will be locked during off hours, bear-resistant trash receptacles); and
- Regulatory and interpretive signage at overlooks and appropriately placed supportive signage.

It is possible that future stewardship projects such as bringing together agencies, botanists, educators, and non-profits to develop a plant species list; and subsequently, considering the possibility of prioritizing removal of some invasive plants and their replacement with appropriate native plants.

Any future work will mainly consist of maintenance, documenting the specific species observed, and public education.

12. What is the vision of CCENA?

“The Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area forever conserves upland and undisturbed coastal wildlife habitats while providing learning opportunities and access to unique and spectacular views.”

13. How can I become involved in this stewardship?

FAR is accepting brief reports from volunteers who visit CCENA this first year and will keep available data for consideration by the MOA and GLT. If you plan to visit and would be willing to go prepared to answer a short list of questions and email them to FAR right after you return, write bc@farak.org and we will send you the informal calendar with the desired information.

MOA Parks and Recreation and the three most active partners are listed below. Feel free to contact them, join and/or donate to the following organizations whose missions may be found on their websites:

2013.10.10

Anchorage Park Foundation (APF): <http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/>

Great Land Trust (GLT): <http://www.greatlandtrust.org/>

Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR): <http://tinyurl.com/FARalaska>

MOA Parks and Recreation: <http://www.muni.org/departments/parks/pages/default.aspx>

Volunteer with any of the above, depending on the type of volunteer work you enjoy. Opportunities vary, but the organizations generally send out calls for help to their members.

Other companies, agencies, and non-profits also have helped with this project and you may see their names on the kiosks in the parking lot at CCENA.

i. FAR's CCENA Master Plan
Comments, October 11, 2012



MUNICIPALITY OF
ANCHORAGE

**Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Department**

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 907-343-4355
URL www.muni.org/departments/parks

ANCHORAGE



PARKS & RECREATION

**PRC RES NO. 2012-07 (AMENDED)
Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Master Plan**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Campbell Creek Estuary and Natural Area Master Plan is to identify appropriate improvements for an undeveloped 60 acre parcel of municipal land; and

WHEREAS, the property has valuable natural resources and habitat that may provide the public with unique educational, scenic and passive recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the property was purchased by the Great Land Trust (GLT), a private nonprofit land conservation organization, in 2010, and was transferred to the Municipality of Anchorage, with GLT retaining a conservation easement over the entire property ensuring that it will be maintained as a natural area in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage holds the title to the land and it is under the management authority of Parks & Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the conservation easement legally establishes possibilities for improvements and delineates the property into three zones that specify level of development and use to protect existing resources; and

WHEREAS, public involvement has been an important component in developing the Master Plan which included two public meetings, three stakeholder meetings and several site visits to the property; and

WHEREAS, the public meetings yielded two schematic alternatives that identified potential trail locations and the preferred level of development of amenities and activities; and

WHEREAS, the stakeholder group channeled the input from the public into a preferred alternative with consideration of implementation priorities for development; and

WHEREAS, the draft Master Plan has received written support from Bayshore Klatt and Sand Lake Community Councils; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan for the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area includes a physical design with management suggestions, resource protection strategies, and a prioritized list of improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan's vision and goals are based on the values, objectives and goals outlined in the conservation easement and have been expanded through discussions with the public and stakeholder group; and

WHEREAS, when provided a spectrum of development choices ranging from least to most developed, the majority of public input supported minor development of amenities and activities on the property; and

WHEREAS, the following vision statement was developed from the stakeholder group:

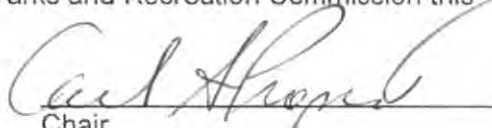
Campbell Creek Estuary and Natural Area is a unique community asset that in perpetuity:

- provides unfragmented upland and coastal habitats directly connected to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife refuge
- provides undisturbed habitat for the proliferation of native plants and animals
- provides spectacular views of resources within the property and to mountains, the coast, and Campbell Creek Estuary
- provides an outdoor learning opportunity for estuary visitors now and for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the planning process provided the opportunity for public comment on the draft Master Plan, the results of which are indicated in the corresponding staff report, listed as public record and are incorporated in the Master Plan document submitted to the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission for approval; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Master Plan with the condition that recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the written comments submitted by Barbara Svarny Carlson on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) are incorporated into the Master Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 11th day of October, 2012.


Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:


John Rodda, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

FAR's CCENA MP Comments to Parks and Recreation Commission, 2012 October 11

--Submitted by Barbara Svarny Carlson, Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

Chairperson Caterinichio and members of the Commission: I speak on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, also known as FAR. We are a 501 (c-3) nonprofit organization of citizens and professionals whose mission is to preserve the integrity and biological diversity of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. We help monitor the health of the Refuge and facilitate the Annual Snow Goose/Sandhill Crane Survey and the Anchorage Coastal Beluga Survey. We also participate in the Congress-mandated Alaska Marine Mammal Stranding Network and help deal with strandings, necropsies and salvage for educational purposes. These activities provide unprecedented opportunities for Anchorage citizens to appreciate and learn about the wildlife that depend upon the Refuge.

As president and executive director I have been involved with the CCE project since before GLT applied for the conservation grants which helped fund it. I read drafts of proposals and made recommendations about what to say about important habitat and wildlife in the vicinity. It is our pleasure to work with the Municipality, Great Land Trust, the USKH Design team, other stakeholders, and the interested public to help create the best Master Plan possible so that appropriate use will help conserve this unique resource as the vision statement declares, "in perpetuity for future generations." FAR supports the CCENA MP with the following recommendations:

1. **P 14, The kiosk at the trailhead must clearly convey to the public what is appropriate use of the CCENA.** [the word "rules" was omitted in Oct version] The public needs to know what is appropriate and what is not and will look for rules at the kiosk to know what is allowed and what is not.
2. On p 15, Overlook 3: add to the second sentence which begins, "The intention of this platform is to experience the estuary and provide up close views of the creek, vegetation, **"and the broader diversity of birds and other wildlife that use the ecotone transition area between marsh and uplands."**

3. On page 17, Estuary: add the bolded text: "**Because of the sensitive nature of the estuary's wet soils, vegetation, and nesting birds, access by the public to the wetland habitat would be discouraged from April through October. Some use would be discouraged until there is good snow and ice cover to protect the habitat (e.g. bicycles access). Wildlife viewing blinds would be included at both Overlooks 2 and 3 and signage on the property would address the importance of the coastal wetland habitat and the rationale for the restrictions by including information about the susceptibility of the soil, vegetation, and nesting birds to disturbance. Signs may also include educational information about the estuary habitat, enjoying its birds and wildlife, conservation needs, and respect for the valuable habitat in the adjacent Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.**" Blinds are important at both overlooks because they provide the greatest opportunities to view wildlife without scaring it away.
4. FAR strongly supports the public's overwhelming testimony that this should be a dog-free natural area because they make wildlife nervous.

Thank you for hearing our recommendations for **clear signage**; added text about **the chance to view a broader diversity of birds & wildlife at Overlook 3**; added text under Estuary, including a blind at Overlook 3, and defining the sensitivity of habitat and wildlife as the reasons for discouraging public access to the wetlands for part of the year; encouraging the establishment of the CCENA as a dog-free area, and encouraging signage to respect the adjacent ACWR. Again, FAR supports this master plan with the above recommendations and **additional comments attached**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We look forward to continuing to work with everyone involved in this exciting project to help make this quiet wildlife viewing place a reality in perpetuity for future generations.

Additional points for which there is not time for me to speak:

1. Signage must be well developed and in place **before the public has access to the CCENA**. People must be able to easily see what is allowed and what is not allowed. Signs must clearly convey what is appropriate at the CCENA.

2. The Campbell Creek estuary is the heart of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, so it is especially important to protect it in an undisturbed state as stated. The proposed paths and viewing platforms will give residents access to unique nature and wildlife viewing opportunities where they may observe without disturbing wildlife.
3. The CCENA should be a quiet place to observe nature and wildlife such as migrating snow geese, sandhill cranes, and a variety of other species, as well as Cook Inlet belugas, foxes, coyotes, moose, and the occasional river otter.
4. It is right that bicycles be prohibited in the wetlands except from December through mid-March when sensitive habitat should have sufficient snow cover to be protected. It is also right to prohibit them in the wetlands when migratory birds frequent the areas, and a number of species nest, breed, and raise broods (generally, mid-march through October, but remember that the habitat is sensitive to compaction or disturbance until it has a good cover of snow.).
5. Signs should encourage people to park their bikes at the trailhead on the bike racks provided, or walk them so that everyone can enjoy nature and wildlife without disruption.
6. The Campbell Creek estuary property was purchased for the purpose of conserving the values of existing resources such as undisturbed upland and estuarine habitat, quality of water resources, biologic diversity, native species of plants, protecting large habitat patches, increasing species health and survival, and maintaining connectivity to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. This will be a proud achievement for not only the Parks and Recreation Commission, but for Anchorage citizens.
7. The habitat adjacent to the CCENA is a primary feeding area for snow geese in spring. Snow geese are very easily disturbed by people and dogs. Snow geese need the nutrition and rest they can grab here in order to be able to arrive at their nesting grounds north of Siberia with sufficient fat stores to lay eggs or the young may not grow fast enough to migrate south before freeze up.
8. Adjacent habitat both west and east of the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area are important nesting and brood-rearing areas for sandhill cranes as well as many other migratory birds. **It is important that by protecting one crane nest this Master Plan does not dump large numbers of people into their sensitive habitat.** The most important habitat for cranes and many species, all along the Refuge, is the vegetated area close to the bluff with fresh water, although they forage clear to the inlet.
9. Lots of people in the estuarine wetlands during spring, summer, and fall would degrade the resource. The Master Plan should state that the Conservation Easement provides for Seasonal closure of part or all of the property if and when deemed necessary to protect the resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Barbara Carlson

907/248-250, bc@farak.org

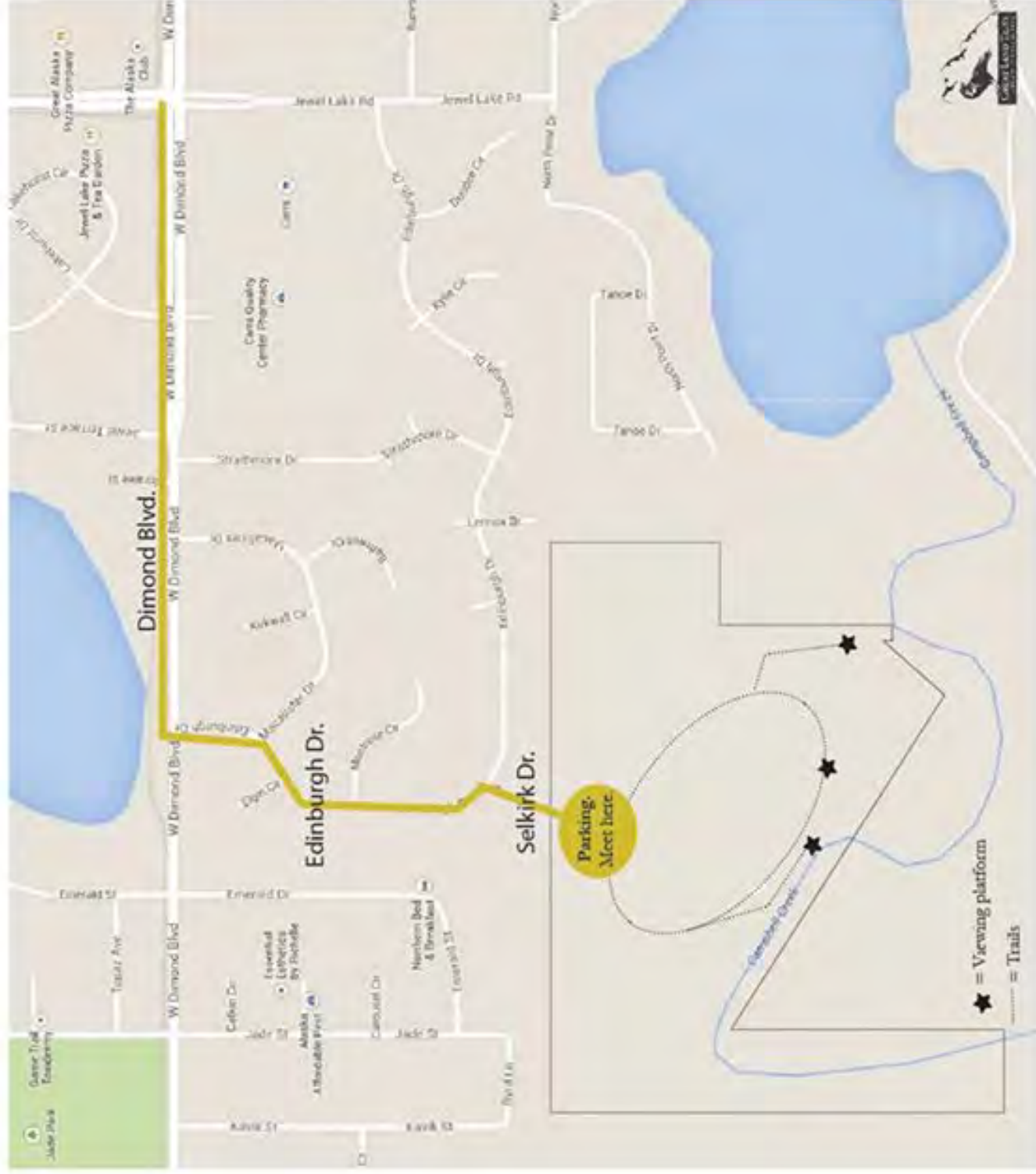
Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

PO Box 220196, Anchorage, AK 99522-0196

j. Rough Map of CCENA

Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area

MAP & DIRECTIONS



A photograph of a river or estuary winding through a lush green landscape. The water is a murky, brownish-green color. The banks are covered in tall, green grasses and some low-lying shrubs. In the background, a dense forest of tall evergreen trees stretches across the horizon under a cloudy sky. The entire image is framed by a thin orange border.

CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA

MASTER PLAN

OCTOBER 2012

Cover Image: Campbell Creek Estuary (Carl Johnson).

IN THANKS

The creation of this Master Plan for the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area was made possible by the time and energy from the individuals listed below, the organizations they represent, as well as numerous members of the public. Their visions for the Campbell Creek Estuary property developed this plan and set a foundation for the future of this unique place. Their time and input is sincerely appreciated.

Great Land Trust Board of Directors

Richard LeFebvre
John Baker
Shelda Duff
Cathie Straub
Gary Baugh
Greg Jones
Molly McCammon
Caryn Rea
Marty Rutherford
Corinne Smith
Jim Stratton
Ken Taylor

Stakeholders

Barbara Carlson, Friends of the Anchorage Coastal
Wildlife Refuge
Dave Carter, Bayshore/Klatt Community Council
David Moore, Sand Lake Community Council
David Wigglesworth, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Eric McCallum, former Parks Commissioner
Ernie Hall, Chair Anchorage Assembly
Gary Baugh, Campbell Lake Homeowners Assn.,
Great Land Trust Board
Leonard Hyde, Neighbor

Stakeholders Cont.

Tammy Massie, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Vivian Mendenhall, Friends of the Anchorage Coastal
Wildlife Refuge
Wayne Pichon, Bayshore/Klatt Community Council/
Anchorage Assembly

Parks & Recreation Commission

Carl A. Propes, Jr.
Harlow Robinson
James Winchester
Joey Caterinichio
Jon Dyson
Marion G. Davis
Peter Murphy
Richard T. Mystrom

Planning & Zoning Commission

Bruce Phelps
Connie Yoshimura
Dana Pruhs
James Fergusson
Peter Mulcahy
Ray Hickel
Stacey Dean
Tyler Robinson
Terry Parks



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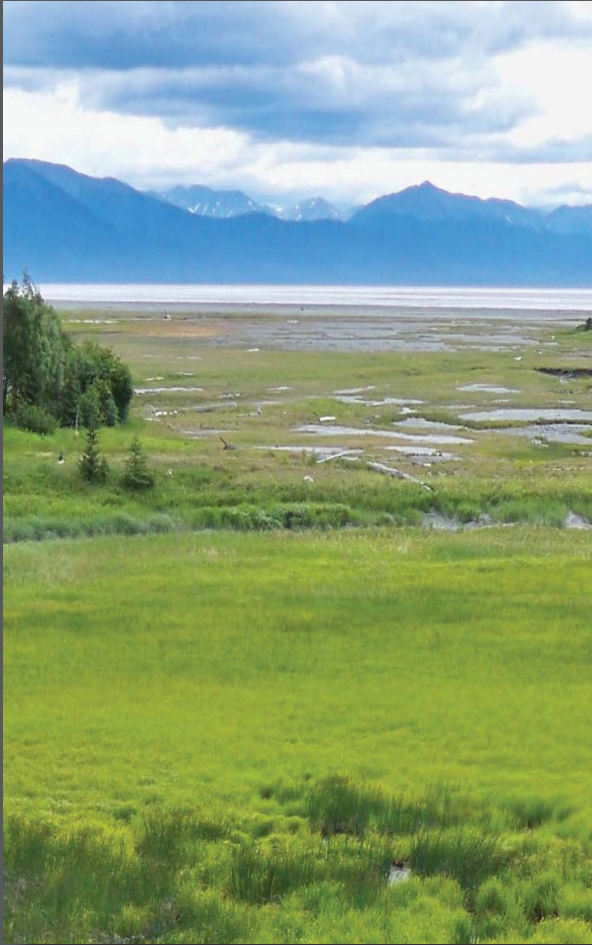


Image 2: Views of the estuary from the bluff.

BACKGROUND

The Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area is a large intact natural property within an Anchorage residential neighborhood. Its rich abundance of coastal wetlands, views, and upland habitats is a refuge for indigenous flora and fauna and migrating waterfowl. In 2001, a discussion was started between property owners and the local non-profit organization, Great Land Trust (GLT), about the potential to conserve Anchorage's last unprotected estuary. Ten years later, the ownership transferred to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) with GLT as holder of a Conservation Easement, a document that provides strict controls over use and development of the property in perpetuity. Now the joint owner and holder, the MOA and GLT, are looking to make this unique property, the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA), accessible to the public while preserving those values that the Conservation Easement seeks to protect.

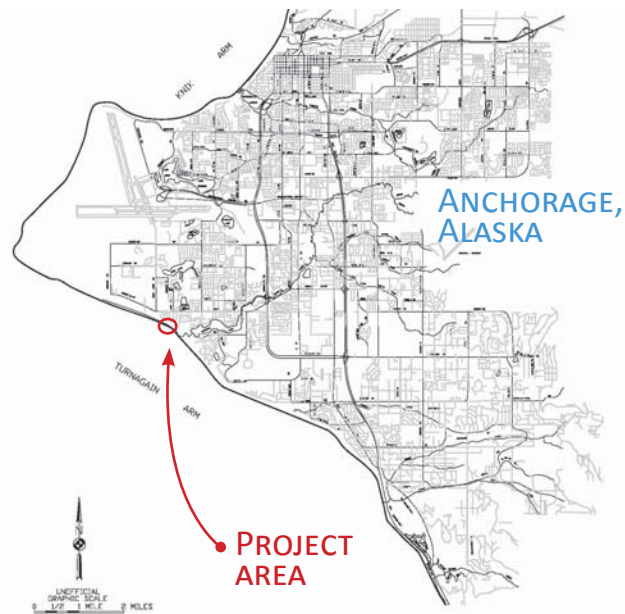
Overview

Landscape & History

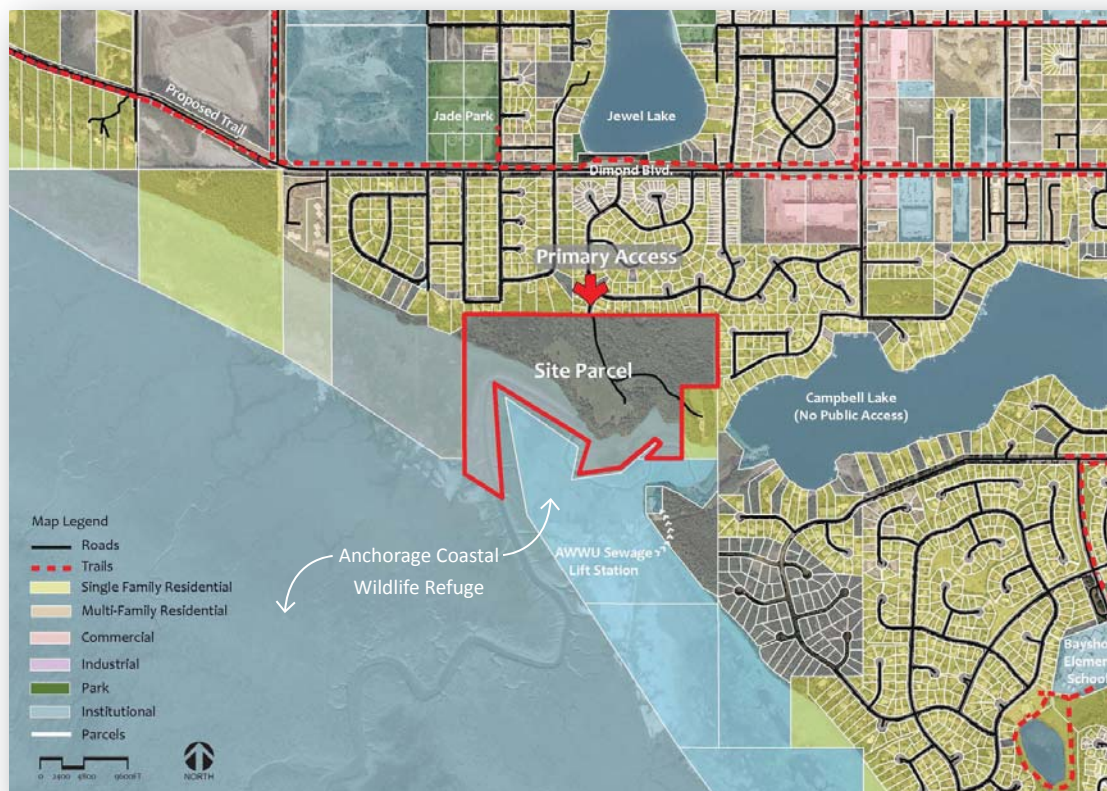
The Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA) is a 60.71 acre site on the coast of southwest Anchorage (Map 1, pg.5). Relatively undeveloped, this property borders an urban neighborhood to the north, and the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (ACWR) to the south. (Map 2, pg.5)

The southern half of the property is an estuarine intertidal emergent wetland ecosystem where fresh groundwater, inlet tides, and Campbell Creek come together. The National Wetland Conservation Plan regards this as a “declining wetland community” (GLT, *Baseline*). Bordering the wetland is a 25 to 45 degree slope covered by a deciduous canopy and understory. The remainder of the property consists of relatively flat uplands with native deciduous woodlands, a

spruce forest, herbaceous vegetation, a spruce bog and an open meadow. Its location and land formation make the site ideal for views into the estuary, out to the inlet, and beyond to the surrounding mountains.



Map 1: Anchorage Context Map.



Map 2: Neighborhood Context Map.

The CCENA property is located on the coast of Anchorage. The property is bordered to the north, northwest and east by residential properties, and to the south and west by the ACWR.

The property is a home and gateway to an abundance of terrestrial wildlife, birds, and aquatic species. The National Audubon Society considers the estuary one of two “Important Bird Areas” in Anchorage serving as migratory grounds and habitat to multiple species of shorebird. Sandhill Cranes migrate and nest within the area. Beluga whales, listed as endangered in 2008 under the Endangered Species Act, have been observed feeding on runs of salmon that spawn up Campbell Creek. The intact forest is forage and bedding grounds for moose and habitat for other local mammals.

Traces of modern human inhabitants are seen in the meadow, where goats, hogs, sled dogs, and horses were once kept, along with bare ground where volunteers removed vacant structures. Structures included a house, a small barn, Quonset huts, and shipping containers. The house and barn were built in the 1930’s and 1940’s when it was known as the Olly Olson Homestead. Shipping containers, quonset huts and a dirt road that traverses the property to the adjacent 5-acre parcel, were added by subsequent owners.

This background information is derived from *Campbell Creek Estuary Anchorage, Alaska Baseline*



Image 3: Aspen stand in northwest corner of meadow.

Documentation for a Conservation Easement which provides comprehensive information on the history, geology, wildlife, vegetation and existing conditions.

Ownership & Stewardship

In November of 2010 the title of the property shifted from the previous owners to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). Great Land Trust worked with the MOA to establish conditions that would protect the site’s resources and establish standards for development. The result was a Conservation Easement that established values and restrictions on the property. As “owner”, MOA will facilitate development of appropriate public access and maintenance while the GLT will act as stewards of the established values, in perpetuity, to ensure the resources are not compromised.

Assets of the site have led to diverse funding sources from both private and governmental organizations which include, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, U.S. Army of Corps Engineers, the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, The Nature Conservancy, Rasmuson Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, ConocoPhillips, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and numerous private individuals. This array of support comes from the common vision that this property is worth protecting for conservation purposes, public education, and enjoyment.

It is legally required that the property be maintained and used in accordance to the standards set by the easement and those parties that have contributed to the acquisition, protection, and maintenance of CCENA. Violating any of those standards could result in legal action by the funding agency.

Role of the Conservation Easement

The Conservation Easement legally establishes possibilities for development and future activities based on conservation values of existing resources. CCENA's wildlife resources, water resources, forest and woodland resources, scenic resources, and the potential for public education and appropriate wildlife viewing are considered valued assets worth preserving. The easement addresses the protection of these resources with specific objectives to:

- Protect upland and estuarine habitat by keeping it in an undisturbed state
- Protect quality of water resources for infiltration, detention, storm water, and habitat
- Promote biologic diversity of unfragmented forest/woodland, meadow, coastal bluff and wetlands
- Protect native species and continuous canopy

- Prevent establishment of non-native species
- Store carbon and offset by-products of burning fossil fuels and particulate production
- Protect large habitat patches, increasing species health and survival
- Maintain habitat connectivity to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge
- Protect scenic vistas
- Provide opportunity for an outdoor classroom for area schools

To achieve these objectives the Conservation Easement has specific potential uses based on three zones: Resource Protection Area (RPA), Restricted Use Area (RUA), and Limited Development Area (LDA). Creating three areas appropriately distributes activity where it will have minimal impacts. (See *Map 3* below and *Map 5* on pg.24 for zone delineation)



Map 3: Preliminary Site Assessment Map. This map was created during the summer of 2012 prior to the public involvement process to show the zones designated by the Conservation Easement and main features of the property such as existing social trails and views.

Potential Improvements per <i>Conservation Easement</i>			
Zone	Description	Permitted	Subject to Review
Resource Protection Area (RPA)	As the most sensitive habitat zone the easement allows minimal improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulatory signs - Bird houses - Bat houses - Emergency vehicle use - Removal of invasive species - Seasonal closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fences, walls or gates that maintain or improve conservation values - Trails (porous or boardwalk in wet areas) - Restoration activities - Enhancement/restoration of wet areas
Restricted Use Area (RUA)	This upland area provides not only a variety of habitats worth protecting but provides opportunity for public access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everything permitted in the RPA - Removal of existing debris - Signs, not including regulatory signs (limited to maximum 8 sq. ft. per sign; total amount of signs not exceed 20) - Fertilizers that don't affect habitat adversely - Trails - Fences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cutting of trees to create and maintain two viewpoint/outlook areas - Removal of vegetation to maintain meadow/edge habitat - Piling of brush & vegetation
Limited Development Area (LDA)	These zones provide space for vehicular entry and a formal educational gathering point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everything permitted in the RPA and RUA - Utility improvements - Interpretive signs - Access road - Gates - Fences - Bollards - Parking areas - Gazebos - Outhouses - Kiosks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paved surfaces
This list is extracted from the language in the <i>Conservation Easement</i> . Please reference that document for precise descriptions of allowed improvements and activities.			

Table 1: This is a summary of potential improvements that can take place in each zone delineated by the Conservation Easement. Improvements not listed are likely prohibited or subject to review and the Conservation Easement and grants awarded for the property should be referenced. See Map 3 on pg.7 for zone delineation.

The RPA consists of the wetlands in the southern half of the property where Campbell Creek meets the inlet. Because wetlands are such a sensitive ecosystem the easement has prohibited nearly all development. (See *Table 1* and the Conservation Easement for specific improvement possibilities)

The uplands not including two rectangular zones along the north property line is the RUA. Consisting of diverse ecosystems, this area provides various habitat types and has the potential to provide for carefully-considered human access. This zone has a dirt road within an access easement that runs from the end of Selkirk Drive through a deciduous forest and spruce forest to a private 5-acre parcel in the southeast. An additional access easement is set on the east property line for a potential future road connecting the 5-acre parcel to Lennox Drive. (See *Table 1* and the Conservation Easement for specific improvement possibilities)

The LDA includes two rectangular zones, 31,500 sq. ft. each, at the end of Selkirk Drive and Lennox Drive. The purpose of these zones is to provide access and amenities that complement appropriate activities within the site while maintaining conservation values. (See *Table 1* and the Conservation Easement for specific improvement possibilities)

Process



Image 4: Public meeting site walk.

Great Land Trust and the Municipality hired USKH to produce a Master Plan for CCENA in the effort to maintain the conservation values while making the property publicly accessible. Developing the master plan included an initial environmental site analysis and a public outreach program (see *Appendix A* for a summary of the public process). The goal of the planning process was to engage the public to create a comprehensive strategy for development that embraces the values of the Conservation Easement. The result is a synthesized plan that reflects objectives of the owners and desires of the public.



Image 5: Campbell Creek Estuary (Carl Johnson).

MASTER PLAN

The master plan for the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area includes a physical design with management suggestions, resource protection strategies, and a prioritized list of improvements. The Master Plan is generated from layering the baseline document research, Conservation Easement values and constraints, the environmental assessment, and public input. This is a living document that can be updated in perpetuity.

Vision Statement

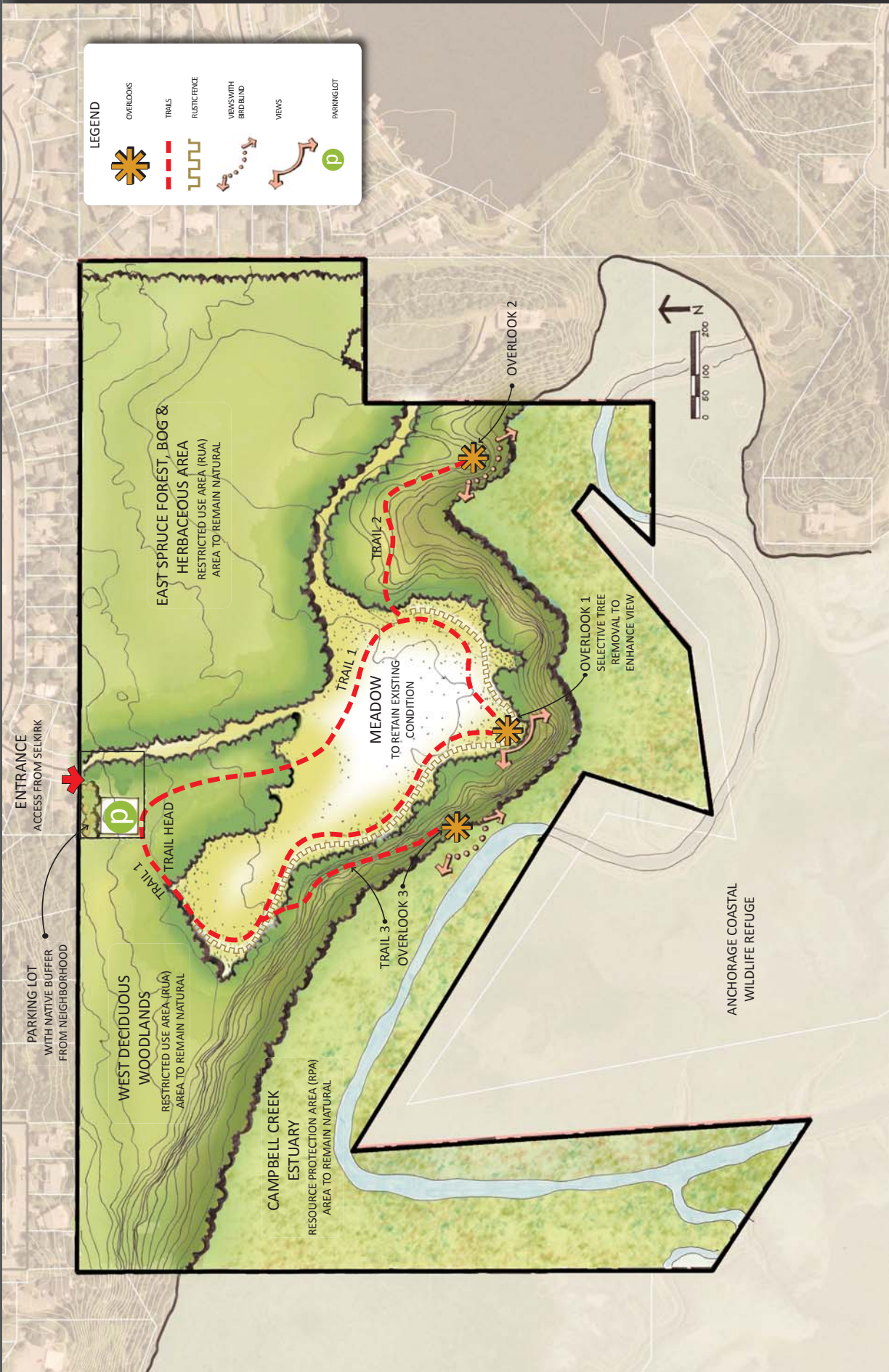
Developed during the public involvement process the following is a Vision Statement for the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area. This statement acts as a guiding philosophy for design and management decisions.

Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area is a unique community asset that in perpetuity:

- *Provides unfragmented upland and coastal habitats directly connected to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge*
- *Provides undisturbed habitat for the proliferation of native plants and animals*
- *Provides spectacular views of resources within the property and to mountains, the coast, and Campbell Creek Estuary*
- *Provides an outdoor learning opportunity for estuary visitors now and for future generations*

Image 6: Sedge in the estuary.

CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY NATURAL AREA MASTER PLAN



Map 4: CCENA master plan.

Design & Management

The following section lists and describes development recommendations for specific features, design elements and management strategies for the property. These suggestions evolved from public input to ensure the community's desires are balanced with the property's conservation goals.

Character

The design and development of the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area should maintain the existing natural quality of the site. Disturbances from human development that occurred before land acquisition (i.e. debris and social trails) that do not overlap with new paths and structures should be removed or remedied with revegetation methods (see sub-section revegetation for suggestions). It is recommended that the design elements remain relatively natural.

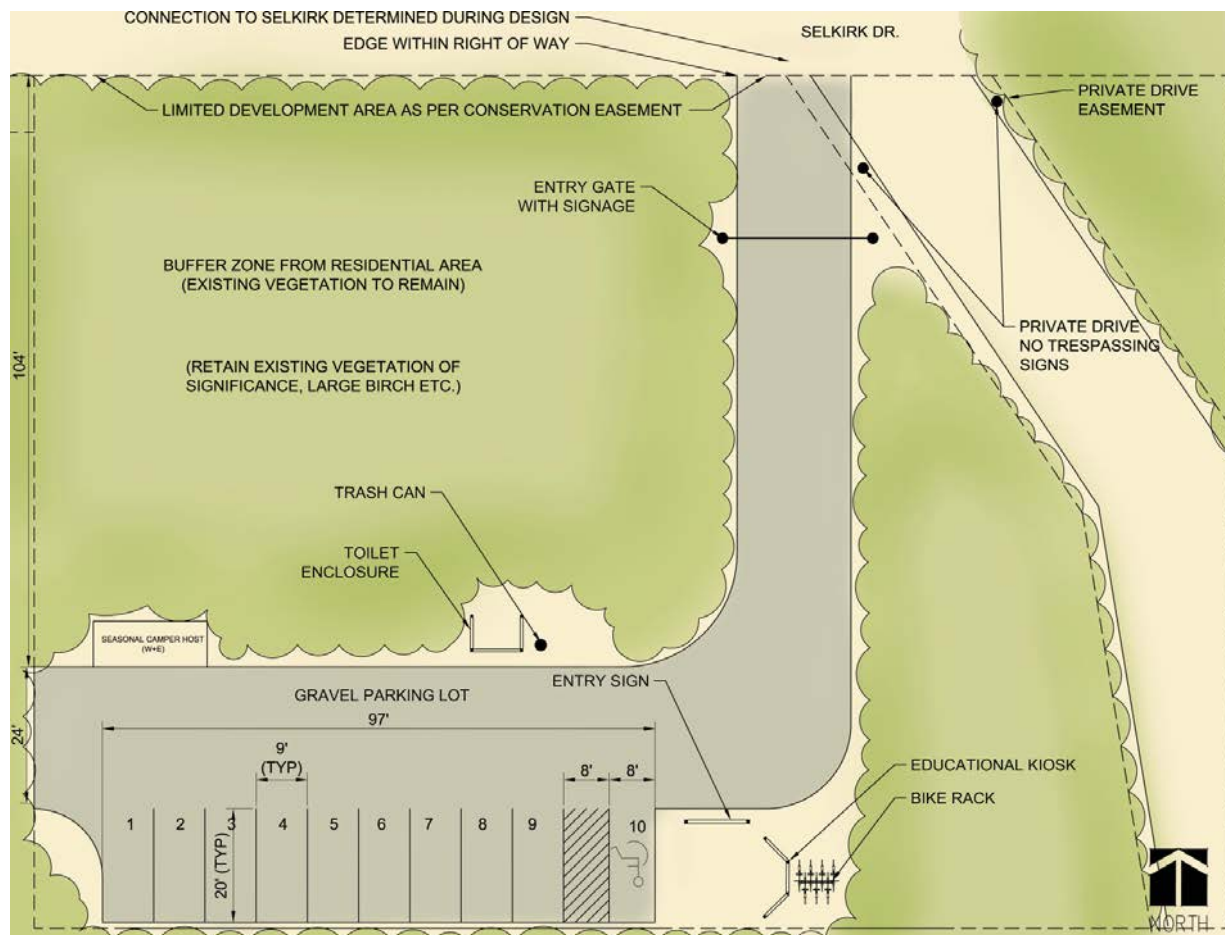
The viewing platform and structures for information should be predominately made of wood or other natural looking materials. Security features and circulation controls should use native vegetation, boulders, rustic fencing, or signs.

Entrance

The most appropriate entrance to CCENA is from the end of Selkirk Drive, as decided through the public involvement process. A new unpaved road will extend from the end of Selkirk. This road should avoid overlapping with the existing unpaved road that has an access easement. A lockable gate should be placed near the entrance for security. Additionally, a sign with the site's final name should be placed near the entry and fit the natural character. (See *Diagram 1 pg.14* for entrance layout concept).



Image 7: Campbell Creek in the estuary.

Diagram 1: Parking lot concept configuration.

Parking Lot

The goal of the parking area is to allow sufficient car space with the least amount of construction alteration, to be secure and secluded, and to meet easement requirements. (See *Diagram 1* above for parking lot layout concept and dimensions).

The concept layout was done to demonstrate the space the parking lot could potentially take up in the Limited Development Area. The parking lot should be gravel and consist of ten spaces, one of them being accessible. This concept provides the largest possible natural buffer between the parking lot and neighbors. The design and parking lot layout should meet municipal standards. Amenities to include: port-a-potty with enclosure, bear proof trash receptacle, caretaker space and bike rack. Boulders

should be placed along the edge for security and to delineate the parking from the paths. Water runoff from the parking area should be mitigated using Best Management Practices (BMPs such as “rain gardens” as described in the Conservation Easement and encouraged from the Municipality of Anchorage).

Trailhead

The trailhead would be located adjacent to the parking area. A kiosk should include rules, a map, educational information, list of funding sources and volunteers, information about prohibited areas, and resource protection information. A wide enough space should be provided to accommodate a class-sized group to gather along with a few benches.

Trail 1

The main trail through the site would start at the Selkirk parking lot, go through the west deciduous woodlands, continue into the meadow with a southeast vista, and follow the bluff's vegetative edge to overlook 1 (*Map 4: CCENA master plan*, pg.12). The trail would continue along the meadow's north edge back to the parking lot. The trail would be offset from the existing road to avoid pedestrian access to the private road. The preferred material would be woodchips and gravel over dry soils, and boardwalk in wet and formal rest areas such as the overlooks. The path would be consistently 36 inches with 60 inch x 60 inch passing space at 200' intervals. All improvements for this trail would need to comply fully with ADA recommendations:

- Minimum of 36" width
- Cross slope maximum 2%
- Passing space interval maximum 200 ft.
- Rest area maximum 900 ft.
- Maximum running grade of 5%

Overlook 1

A small viewing platform with railings and benches at the southern point of the bluff is proposed to provide views over the estuary, refuge, inlet, and to distant surrounding mountains (*Map 4: CCENA master plan*, pg.12). The design concept would provide a cantilevered deck to reduce the amount of clearing required. Trees should be selectively removed to enhance the view. The overlook should remain intimate. Educational material should be located here (See Interpretive suggestions).

Trail 2

Access to the second overlook location would be via a second trail. It is recommended that the trail meet ADA code as long as the environmental quality can be

maintained, the easement is not compromised, and the vision statement is met (*Map 4: CCENA master plan*, pg.12).

Overlook 2

A second viewing platform is proposed east of the main overlook. This would be a more secluded location within the dense vegetation. The goal of the second overlook with bird-blind is to provide a formal location to view birds and estuarine habitat without disturbing nesting birds. Not providing a formal access point for the public could encourage social paths and lead to unwanted harm to the surrounding habitat.

Trail 3

The third trail would connect trail 1 to the third overlook. It is important that the trail design does not compromise slope stability, prevent unnecessary erosion, significantly disrupt the bluff canopy or impede on the large mammal corridor that runs along the edge of the bluff (*Map 4: CCENA master plan*, pg.12).

Overlook 3

The third proposed viewing platform is west of the first at the foot of the bluff. The intention of this platform is to experience the estuary, provide up close views of the creek and vegetation, and the broader diversity of birds and other wildlife that use the ecotone transition area between marsh and uplands. The primary concerns are to protect estuary soils, existing vegetation, and to avoid disturbing the existing mammal corridor (*Map 4: CCENA master plan*, pg.12).

Rustic Fence

To protect the bluff slope and control circulation, it is recommended that a rustic fence extend from the southwest edge of the meadow to the first overlook at the southeast corner, then extend to the 3rd overlook.

Because of the sensitive estuary ecosystem and crane nesting habitat it is also recommended that a rustic fence be placed along the east edge of the meadow, blocking the existing trail down into the estuary at the southeast end of the bluff. (*Map 4: CCENA master plan*, pg.12).

Signs educating visitors on why access is discouraged should be included along the fence. This is an opportunity to reference the property's developmental history by overlapping the new fence with the fence that historically existed in some areas and visually suggest the fence as a relic of the homestead era.

Security

With any public space a level of security should be maintained to protect the health and safety of the community. Given the necessity of some 24-hour presence to deter late-night intrusions, a caretaker was determined to be appropriate. Natural barriers and appropriate signage should be placed throughout the site to control access.

On-Site Caretaker

Space should be provided for a seasonal on site caretaker in the Limited Development Area (LDA) adjacent to parking. The agreement for a caretaker is mirrored after other programs used in Anchorage; the caretaker is provided space for a trailer/camper with the responsibility of maintaining security of the site.

Policies

The following rules are suggested to maintain quality and regulate its character. Displaying these requirements at the entrance in an entry kiosk is appropriate.

Please:

- Respect wildlife
- Respect other visitors
- Keep noise level down
- Use provided restroom
- Dispose all trash in appropriate receptacle

Prohibited:

- Accessing restricted zones
- Bikes from March-December
- Motor vehicles
- Domesticated animals * (Please see *Dog & Domesticated Animal Policy* section for specifics)

Closures:

- Time closures should comply with MOA standards (Title 25, Public Lands)
- Seasonal: as required to recognize habitat concerns

West Deciduous Woodlands

This area is currently compromised by social trails coming from the intersection of Jade Street and Byrd Lane (both at the park boundary and where



Image 8: Eagle's nest in bluff canopy.

the trail meets the meadow). Access should be detoured from this area because of the sensitive eagle and crane habitat, and currently disturbed areas should be repaired with planting moose browse vegetation. Additionally, boulders and signs should be placed near entries to the social trails to block access. The forest should be managed in accordance with Best Management Practices as described in the Conservation Easement.

East Spruce Forest, Bog & Herbaceous Area

This habitat area does not lend itself to trails and access due to the dense vegetation and moose activity. In order to maintain the vital habitat for large mammals, the area should remain undeveloped. Its characteristics should be discussed in interpretive material at the entry or overlooks. The forest should be managed in accordance with Best Management Practices as described in the Conservation Easement and should be monitored for the incursion of social trails.

Estuary

The estuarine habitat provides an undoubtedly unique scene. The dramatic seasonal colors of the sedges and wildlife viewing opportunities make experiencing this habitat priceless any season. It is



Image 9: Current state of the meadow area.

necessary to balance public access with habitat conservation for this fragile portion of the property. It is recommended that this balance be met with access directed to specific locations for minimal impact. These locations include Overlook 2 and 3 as shown on the master plan (Map 4: CCENA master plan, pg.12). Overlook 2 would provide the public with an elevated vantage point while Overlook 3 would provide access to an additional vantage point at the toe of the bluff.

Because of the sensitive nature of the estuary's wet soils, vegetation, and nesting birds, access by the public to the wetland habitat would be discouraged from April through October. Some use would be discouraged until there is good snow and ice cover to protect the habitat (e.g. bicycles access). It is possible that a seasonal closure of part or all of the property may be necessary in order for GLT and the MOA to follow through on their responsibilities to protect the conservation values of this valuable property. Wildlife viewing blinds would be included at both Overlooks 2 and 3 and signage on the property would address the importance of the coastal wetland habitat and the rationale for the restrictions by including information about the susceptibility of the soil, vegetation, and nesting birds to disturbance. Signs may also include educational information about the estuary habitat, enjoying its birds and wildlife, conservation needs, and respect for the valuable habitat in the adjacent Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.

Meadow

It is rare to find open meadow in the Anchorage bowl. Although the meadow is the result from previous human practices it is recommended that the meadow be maintained to its current form

and condition. This will preserve the edge habitat and the unique aesthetic quality. Invasive species should be identified and removed appropriately. Native woody species may be managed to maintain meadow habitat.

Interpretive Suggestions

Educational material should be presented at the trailhead, and at the overlooks. Signs should meet the standards from the Conservation Easement and maintain a natural character. Potential topics: history of human influence on the property, geology, wildlife, human relationships with nature, aspen stands, moose bark peeling, estuary ecosystem, water cycle, Sandhill Cranes and overall ecosystems in the area.

Revegetation

Revegetation is recommended in disturbed areas where development will not be taking place. Because moose browse is decreasing in the Anchorage bowl enhancing moose browse of willow, aspen and birch shrubs is recommended. Plantings should be transplants, propagated cuttings from on-site, native grasses present on-site or native vegetative mats. Areas with compacted soils should be scarified. Planting should incorporate humus and mulch to add moisture and nutrients to disturbed soils.

Partnerships

Development of this plan and the overall vision of the site have been due to the numerous citizens and groups that have dedicated their time. Relationships should continue to be cultivated to guide future construction, maintenance and management, and educational programs which users will help create over time.

Existing Trail into the Estuary

An existing trail runs down the southeast bluff to the estuary. Due to the proximity of the trail to Sandhill Crane nesting habitat it is recommended that the trail be closed and revegetated. A rustic fence at the top of the slope should deter visitors from access.

Dog & Domestic Animal Policy

Due to the sensitive habitat it is recommended that domestic animals be prohibited. Doing so would maintain the goals of the vision statement and Conservation Easement by protecting wildlife and would reflect the public's desire as determined through public involvement (*Diagram 2*, pg.25). This management recommendation will require an additional MOA legislative process—namely, the Assembly will have to adopt an ordinance to prohibit dogs and domestic animals on the property.

Winter Access

It is recommended that winter access into the estuary wetlands not be advertised or maintained at this site. If access is maintained in the winter people might access the area during nesting and migrating seasons. Also creating any new access points for winter use will leave a construction footprint that could be abused in the summer.



Image 10: Estuary during the winter

Resource Protection Strategy Limits of Acceptable Change

Philosophy

The potential for degradation of resources and amenities is a reality in making CCENA publicly accessible. Vandalism, littering, entering off-limit areas, and basic overuse that comes with time are potential impacts and planning for them is vital.

The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) is a framework used by federal agencies as a means to maintain desired conditions of recreational natural areas (Stankey, 1985). The LAC method of management defines desired characteristics of a recreational area, determines what resources and social conditions give the area its preferred character, establishes qualitative limits of change at which the conditions are compromised, and a method to manage the issue. This concept was used as reference to develop a modified LAC for CCENA.

Strategy

The goal of opening CCENA is to provide walking, wildlife viewing, access to scenery, and education while minimally impacting the natural environment. This natural area has specific conditions, both natural and social, that create a desired atmosphere. At some point these conditions may be compromised and action should be taken to heal or resolve the issue. This LAC provides limits of change for when action should be taken.

The process to set standards came from answering four questions:

- What resource and social conditions create quality and character of place? (Factor)
- At what point is the character of that factor compromised? (Indicator/Standard)

- What caused the issue? (Evaluation)
- What are appropriate solutions to protect the resource? (Proposed Management Approaches)

Responses are categorized by factor, given multiple indicators with standards, a list of possible reasons for damage and a list of possible solutions.

This LAC can be used to evaluate site conditions, prescribe solutions, and take action. For example, if during scheduled yearly inspection by GLT under the easement requirements, numerous social trails have developed in the west woodland and the issue is lack of information and an under-defined trail; a prescription could be native plantings, obstacles on the social trail, a rustic fence and signs that tell visitors that off trail walking is prohibited.

Another example would be if the on-site caretaker saw paths going out to the estuary during the summer. Actions could include adding additional signs and fencing or restricting the area to docent led tours only.

This method of analyzing conditions is recommended in conjunction with the requirements in the Conservation Easement. The evaluation and recommended prescriptions for the LAC indicators are speculative and any future obstruction of standards should consider possibilities and solutions not listed. Budget will play a big factor into what solution is most appropriate.

Limits of Acceptable Change Table

<i>Factor</i>	<i>Indicator/Standard</i>	<i>Evaluation & Proposed Management Approaches</i>	
Trail Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Braiding - Trail Widening - Social trails in upland areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail failure - Too many people - People want better access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforce trail structure - Add signage - Maintain new path - Add rustic fence
Parking Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excessive street parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More visitors than predicted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand parking - Docent led tours - Restrict hours or days open
Waste Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Littering/Dumping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receptacle not maintained - Receptacle not convenient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase maintenance - Increase number of receptacles - Change location - Add signage - Adopt-A-Park Program
Protection of Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social trails into wetland - Signs of Disturbance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barriers aren't sufficient - People want better access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend rustic fence - Add signs - Closures beyond established periods - Change/modify access points - Monitor more frequently - Docent led tours
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise pollution from park – complaints by neighborhood (disturbing both neighbors and wildlife) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noise (from parking lot) - Excessive visitors - Vandalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Move trail head - Change hours - Monitor more frequently - Docent led tours
Relative solitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large numbers of people in the area at once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More visitors than predicted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease parking space - Docent led tours - Add visitor restrictions - Increase number of trails

Table 2: Limits of acceptable change table.

Implementation

Priorities

The improvements proposed by this master plan are listed in order of priority of development starting with basic maintenance, then the necessary amenities for public access and enjoyment, and finally long term development strategies. Improvements are slated to begin during the 2013 construction season with the goal of opening the area to the public in 2013. Ordering improvements by priority provides structure for development with flexibility to change based on public input and budget.

- YEP improvements (removal of invasives, revegetation of social trails)
- Entrance drive with utilities
- Parking lot with amenities
- Signs
- Trail 1/Overlook 1
- Rustic fence
- Trail 2/Overlook 2
- Trail 3/Overlook 3
- On-site Caretaker
- Expand CCENA by acquiring 5-acre parcel to the southeast. (This is a privately owned parcel currently occupied by a tenant. Expanding CCENA would provide space to develop additional amenities, strengthen preservation of the intact bluff canopy, and enhance overall conservation of the area.)

Design and construction of the overlook structures will require an additional approval process to receive the necessary permits and is subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission. This process will allow opportunity for agency and public input on construction details.

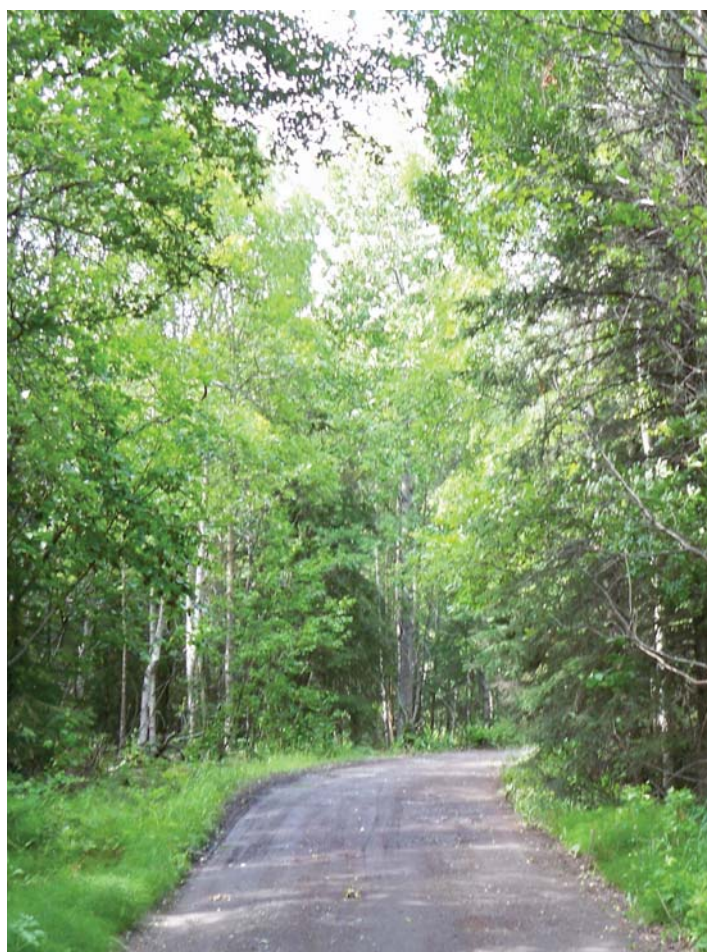


Image 11: Existing road with summer vegetation.

Resources

Great Land Trust, Inc. *Conservation Easement*. Anchorage: November 30, 2010.

Great Land Trust, Inc. *Campbell Creek Estuary Anchorage, Alaska Baseline Documentation for a Conservation Easement*. Anchorage: November 11, 2010.

Stankey, George H.; Cole, David N.; Lucas, Robert C.; Petersen, Margaret E.; Frissell, Sidney S. *The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) System for Wilderness Planning*. General Technical Report INT-176. Ogden, UT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station; 1985. 37 p.

United States Access Board. *Regulatory Assessment Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas*. Washington, DC: April 2007.

Wright, Stoney J. *A Revegetation Manual For Alaska*. Palmer, Alaska: Division of Agriculture, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, August 2008. 64 p.

Photo Credit

Cover Image	Carl Johnson
Image 1	Baseline Documentation for a Conservation Easement, GLT
Image 2	Baseline Documentation for a Conservation Easement, GLT
Image 3	USKH
Image 4	USKH
Image 5	Carl Johnson
Image 6	Baseline Documentation for a Conservation Easement, GLT
Image 7	Baseline Documentation for a Conservation Easement, GLT
Image 8	USKH
Image 9	Baseline Documentation for a Conservation Easement, GLT
Image 10	USKH
Image 11	Baseline Documentation for a Conservation Easement, GLT
Image 12	USKH

Appendix A

Public Involvement

The public involvement process was used as a forum to notify the public about the project, receive comments and concerns, and develop the plan as a community. The public was integral in creating a vision statement, schematic alternatives and the final plan. A total of three stakeholder group meetings and two public meetings were conducted in the summer of 2012 at the Bayshore Club House in southwest Anchorage.

The stakeholder advisory group included representatives from:

- Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge
- Bayshore/Klatt Community Council
- Sand Lake Community Council
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- MOA Parks



Image 12: Public meeting group discussion.

- Anchorage Assembly
- Campbell Lake Homeowners Assn.
- Neighbors
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Rasmuson Foundation
- ConocoPhillips

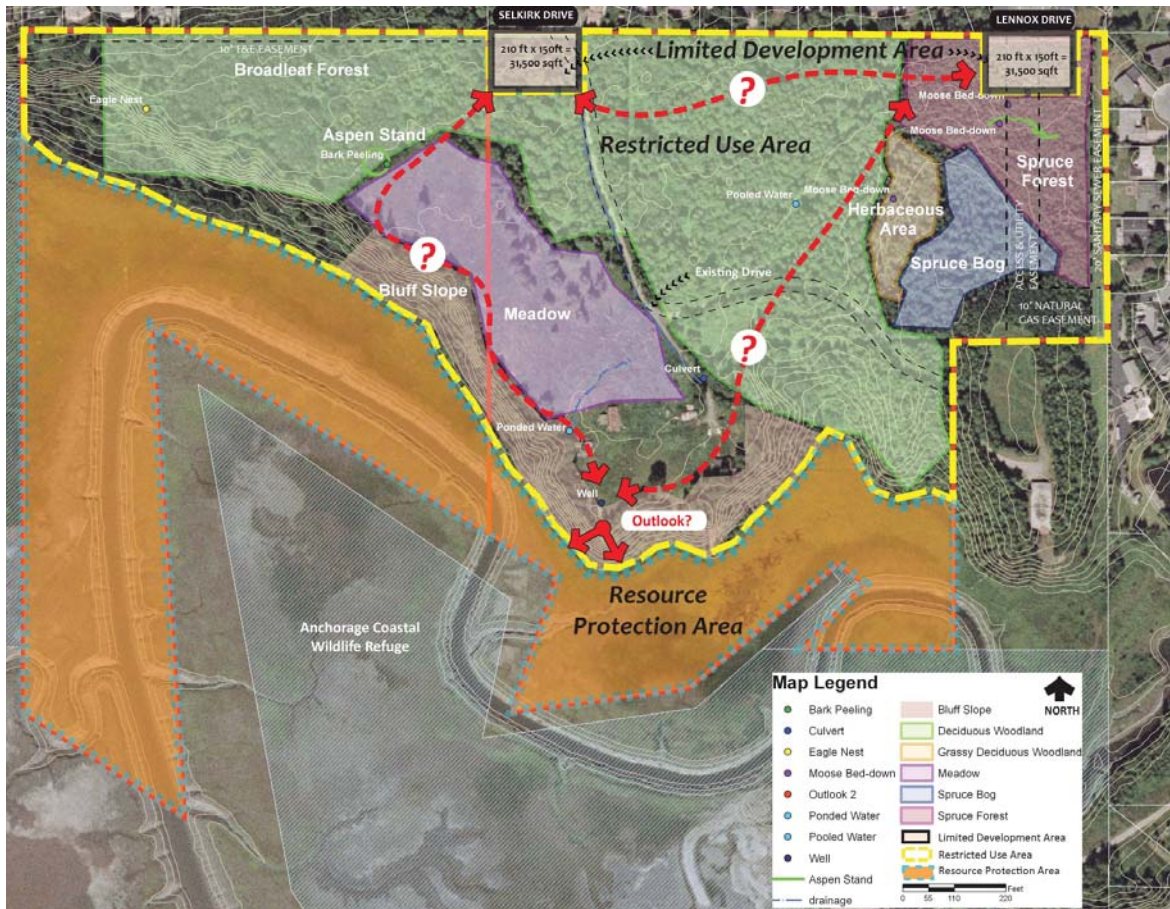
The task of the stakeholder group was to represent the interest of their constituents, ensure plans were consistent with the easement, and help develop plans for CCENA.

Table 3: Public Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting	Attendee Qty.	Topics Covered
May 30, 2012	1 st stakeholder meeting	11	Project “kick-off”, Visions for the property
May 31, 2012	1 st Public Meeting	66-110*	Issues & Opportunities, Site walk, Brain-storming session.
June 13, 2012	2 nd Public Meeting	35-55*	Design charrette with spectrums of development and concept site layout
June 27, 2012	2 nd stakeholder meeting	14	Refine schematic design, and vision statement
August 7, 2012	3 rd stakeholder meeting	14	Site walk, design finalization.

* Both public meetings had a large turnout; the low attendance number reflects those who signed –in and the top quantity is based on a head count.

Throughout the process the public meeting minutes, relevant project documents and public input summaries were posted on GLT and Parks & Recreation project web sites to keep the public updated.



Map 5: Conservation easement & environmental map. This map was presented at the first public meeting to spark discussion on where development should occur.

Initial Meetings and Results

Curious citizens and neighbors came out to the first public meeting, held on May 31, 2012. Phil Shephard, the executive director of Great Land Trust, led the first half with a site tour. Attendees walked existing paths while Phil discussed history and key landscape features. After the site walk, the group participated in a workshop at the Bayshore Clubhouse where the environmental analysis was presented (*Map 5 pg.24*) sparking debate on what type of uses and where development is appropriate.

Small groups then discussed opportunities and concerns for the site. Comments were collected during group discussions and input forms and then consolidated and reformatted into two exercises for the second public meeting held on June 13th.

The second meeting engaged the public in a spectrum of development exercise. Potentials and issues outlined at the first meeting were categorized into 10 topics. Each topic was given four options ranging from least developed to most developed. (See *Diagram 2* for the spectrum of choices)

This spectrum of choices was distributed to 10 groups of 3-8 people at the second public meeting. Their task was to individually vote by placing a dot in the option they felt most appropriate for the category. Where opinion differed with options additional choices were written in. (See *Diagram 2* for voting results) Although there were outlying votes, the majority of votes favored the less developed end of the spectrum.

Results from 2nd Public Meeting (6/13/2012)

Campbell Creek Estuary Master Plan

June 2012

Spectrum of Development

PLACE A STICKER NEXT TO THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT, AMENITIES OR ACTIVITIES FOR EACH CATEGORY THAT YOU FIND MOST APPROPRIATE FOR THIS SITE.

USKH
United States Kitesurfing Association

CATEGORY	LEAST DEVELOPED	SOME DEVELOPMENT	MODERATE DEVELOPMENT	MOST DEVELOPED	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
Experience	<p>10</p> <p>NATURAL/LEAST DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Supervised dismount trail back only, closed except by permit, a few trails</p>	<p>18</p> <p>SOME DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Trails, some structures, self guided, walking, bird watching</p>	<p>11</p> <p>MODERATE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Decks, amenities, multiple trails, information throughout site</p>	<p>3</p> <p>HIGHLY DEVELOPED</p> <p>In Limited Development Area, covered structures, throughout site, decks, amenities, multiple trails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access by permit only. - Cranes! - Sensitive bird nesting area - Some development with decks and info
Education	<p>1</p> <p>NONE</p> <p>No information on site except for minimal signage at entry</p>	<p>13</p> <p>INFORMATION IN PARKING LOT</p> <p>Brief information at entry/trail head</p>	<p>12</p> <p>INTERPRETIVE PANELS THROUGHOUT SITE</p> <p>Multiple topics, multiple panels</p>	<p>1</p> <p>STRUCTURE FOR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM</p> <p>Amphitheater, gathering space for educational purposes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make primary use. - User groups assume most responsibility. - Phase info, first in parking lot then throughout site
Trail Surface	<p>12</p> <p>NARROW COMPACT SURFACE</p>	<p>13</p> <p>NARROW WOODCHIP OR GRAVEL</p> <p>3'-4" wide path</p>	<p>5</p> <p>BOARDWALK/OPEN GRATE</p>	<p>1</p> <p>WIDE GRAVEL TRAIL</p> <p>6'-8" wide paths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plastic netting that will allow drainage and vegetation. - No bikes
Overlook	<p>6</p> <p>WIDE SPOT IN TRAIL</p> <p>Widened trail with seating area</p>	<p>17</p> <p>SMALL DECK</p> <p>At lookout areas, seating, no amenities</p>	<p>2</p> <p>LARGE DECK</p> <p>Seating, seating, interpretive material</p>	<p>1</p> <p>CANTILEVERED STRUCTURE</p> <p>Allows viewers access to the tree canopy and an enhanced viewing space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respect crane habitat - Do not put deck out in marsh
Parking Lot(s)	<p>5</p> <p>NONE ON LENNOX</p> <p>Access to parking</p>	<p>12</p> <p>SINGLE LOT, (5-10 SPACES)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>SINGLE LOT, (10-20 SPACES)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>TWO LOTS, (5-15 SPACES EACH)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus and van parking provision
Access/Circulation	<p>15</p> <p>ONE LOOP</p> <p>Out along the bluff and back (concept, not an actual trail layout)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>TWO LOOPS</p> <p>Two linked loops (concept, not an actual trail layout)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>TRAILS TO ALL HABITAT TYPES</p> <p>Multiple loops accessing all habitat types (concept, not an actual trail layout)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>TIERED TRAIL SYSTEM THROUGHOUT SITE</p> <p>Varied trail types and surfaces aimed at more users, access to water (concept, not an actual trail layout)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - User groups develop based on importance. - Include controlled access to showable parts of estuary/mudflats - Minimal trail development
Bathroom	<p>19</p> <p>PORT-A-POTTY</p> <p>With decorative screens</p>	<p>9</p> <p>CONCRETE VAULT</p>	<p>2</p> <p>FULL SERVICE WATER & SEWER</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prefer none but vault if necessary and van parking provision
Meadow	<p>14</p> <p>NO MAINTENANCE</p> <p>Allow for natural succession to take over</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PARTIALLY MAINTAINED</p> <p>Maintain part of meadow, allow natural succession in portions</p>	<p>4</p> <p>MAINTAINED AS HABITAT LOW FREQUENCY</p> <p>Maintain all of meadow as tall grass</p>	<p>1</p> <p>MAINTAINED AT HIGH FREQUENCY</p> <p>Maintain meadow more frequently to avoid woody plant growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let it evolve - Maintain as habitat with native plant variety
Security	<p>1</p> <p>SIGNS</p> <p>Warnings, "Speak softly". No lighting in parking lot</p>	<p>22</p> <p>GATE</p> <p>Locked at certain times, lighting in parking lot</p>	<p>8</p> <p>SEASONAL CAMPER HOST</p> <p>Location provided without on-site facilities</p>	<p>3</p> <p>FULL TIME CARETAKER</p> <p>Lives on-site year round</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Electrical and water should be provided for camper host. - Seasonal camper host with periodic security service drive by. - No full-time host - No lights - Phase in full time caretaker if crime starts up - Yes to gate, unsure on lights
NO DOGS	<p>2</p> <p>ON-LEASH</p> <p>On-leash signage, no additional amenities or barriers</p>	<p>2</p> <p>DOG-USE INSTRUCTIONS (RELATED TO SENSITIVE HABITAT)</p> <p>Poop stations, disposal sites, and info regarding sensitive habitat</p>	<p>1</p> <p>HABITAT FENCING</p> <p>Fencing blocks dog access to sensitive habitat</p>	<p>1</p> <p>ALL ITEMS INCLUDED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No dog amenities.

Diagram 2: Spectrum exercise results.

Schematic Alternative 1

The second exercise was to draw physical plans on the site map. Groups drew trails, outlooks, fences, parking lots and other amenities they envisioned. The schematic drawing (*Map 6, pg.26*) is the combination of each group's design in a graphic format. Consensus is represented by larger graphic symbols while conflicts are highlighted with a red circle.

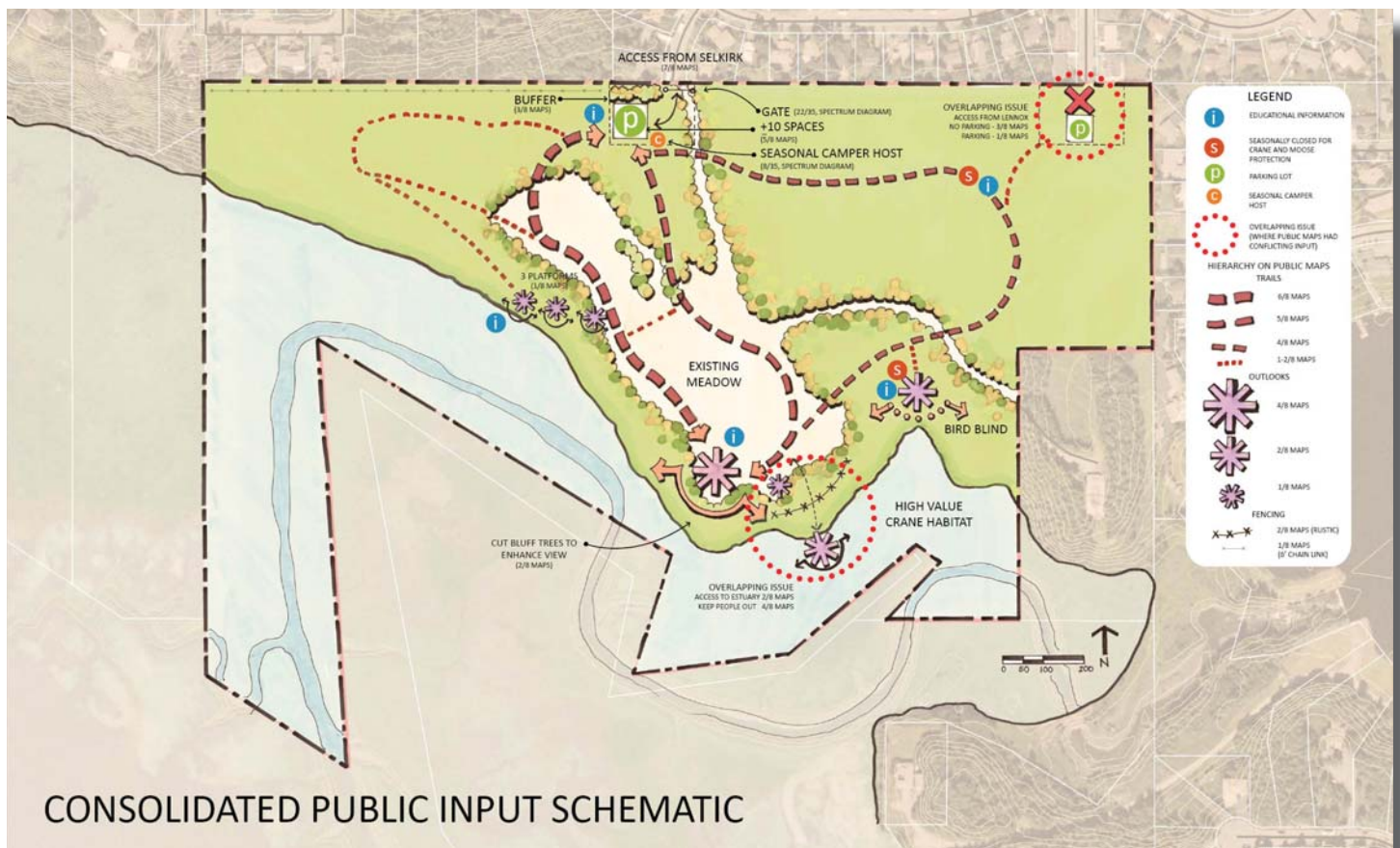
The features most drawn include:

- One main loop around the meadow
- The outlook at the edge of the bluff
- 10 car parking lot at the end of Selkirk with a buffer from neighbors

Features of conflict:

- Parking at Lennox
- Boardwalk into the estuary

Despite some differences, many drawings reflected a similar level of development, showing a few trails and outlook spots. Attendees shared a concern to protect the crane-nesting site and ensure the easement values were not compromised.



Map 6: Working Draft: Consolidated public input schematic. This graphic was developed from the second public meeting. It is included in this appendix to show how development locations were determined by informed citizens.

Schematic Alternative 2

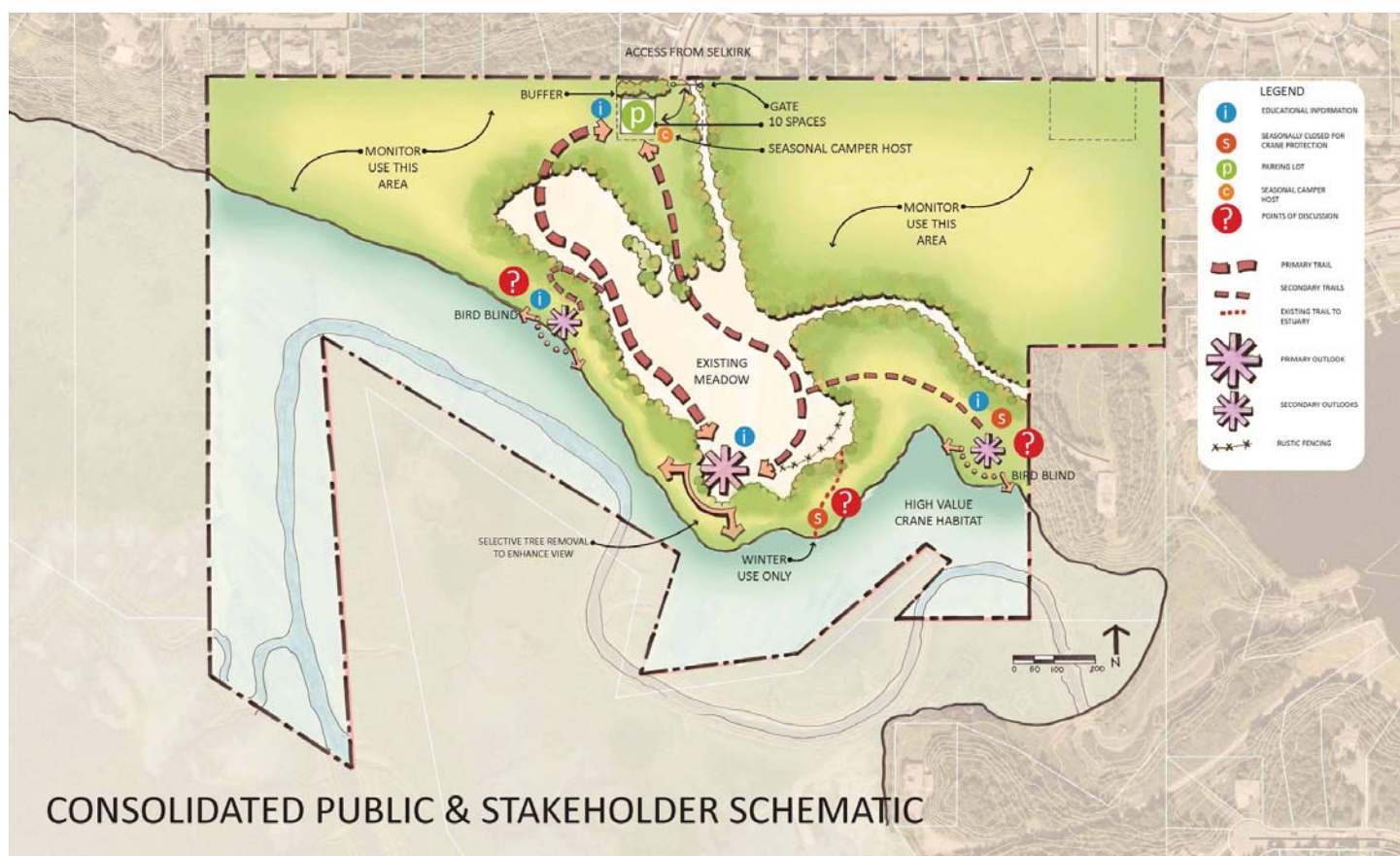
The consolidated map from the public meeting was presented to the stakeholder group. (Map 7, pg. 27) This provided an opportunity to critique proposals and resolve conflict areas (graphically noted with question marks). Points of accord included: creating one main trail to one outlook, a single parking lot with 10 spaces, an entry kiosk with interpretive material and rules, an enclosed port-a-potty, seasonal caretaker, bike racks, trash receptacle, and lockable gate.

The two conflict areas were quickly resolved. The first, the access from Lennox Drive was dismissed as a viable proposal. This road already has drainage issues and access might intrude in moose bed down area.

The second conflict, access down into the estuary was determined as inappropriate considering the sensitive crane habitat. Instead, the stakeholder group thought deterring people from that area with a rustic fence to be the most appropriate solution.

Results and Concerns

The final preferred schematic, which became the master plan, was the result of the third stakeholder meeting. This consisted of an on-site evaluation of potential development areas and discussion over management and implementation strategies.



Map 7: Working Draft: Consolidated stakeholder schematic. This diagram was used to discuss areas of uncertainty and concern (where question marks are located).

Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Boundary

Figure 3 of 5

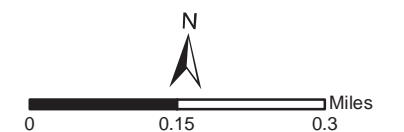
Selected Municipal Parcels

- Heritage Land Bank
- Municipality of Anchorage
- Parks and Recreation
- Water and Wastewater Utility

- Access Points
- Permit/Lease
- Permit/Lease
- Easement

- State
- MHT
- LSH
- MOAParks
- Municipal
- Private
- Native

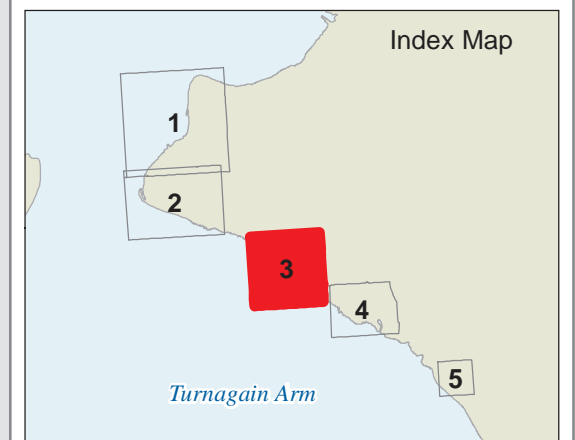
1 Parcels Associated with the MOA



DRAFT



Map Produced by Alaska Department of Fish & Game Sport Fish Division
Date: 9/18/2014



Campbell Creek Estuary
Park on Selkirk Dr

Campbell Lake

Southport Dr

Discovery
Bay Dr

Victor Rd

Victor Rd

12

11

9

10

8

7