

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Homer****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Homer - Karen Hornaday Park Improvements, Phase 1

State Funding Requested: \$200,000**House District:** 35 / R

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

This project will begin implementation of the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan approved in 2009, providing significant improvements throughout the park.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project:** \$1,000,000

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FY</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FY</u>
Rasmuson Foundation					\$25,000	2011
Local Funds	\$18,000	2010			\$57,000	2011
Other Funds					\$500,000	2011
Total	\$18,000				\$582,000	

Explanation of Other Funds:

We intend to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant of \$500,000. This will require a non-federal match of the same amount.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This project will begin implementation of the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan, approved by the City Council in 2009. Homer's Karen Hornaday Park encompasses baseball fields, a playground, a campground, and a creek on almost 40 acres and is heavily used by locals and visitors of all ages. Park conditions have deteriorated over the years and upgrades are badly needed. Phase 1 projects will include road and drainage improvements, trail development along Woodard Creek, ballfield and playground enhancements, and campground improvements along with work to repair damage to the Woodard Creek corridor and increase resilience to future flood events.

Project Timeline:

2010-2011: Design - \$100,000

2011-2012: Construction - \$900,000

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Homer

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

*\$250,000
Approved*

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Walt Wrede, City Manager
Address:	491 E. Pioneer Avenue Homer, AK 99603
Phone Number:	(907)435-3102
Email:	wwrede@ci.homer.ak.us

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

Anne Marie Holen

From: William Bell [william.bell@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 9:20 PM
To: Anne Marie Holen
Subject: Karen Hornaday Park Funding

Ann Marie-

Please add my name to the long list of people requesting funding support for upgrading Karen Hornaday Park. I have had the privilege of spending much of the last 20 summers at the park, involved in Little League Softball and Baseball as well as 7 years as the coach of Homer High Softball. I have seen the popularity of the park grow, not only for organized sports but also for unscripted use by children, by parents and children using the community built playground and by adult members of the community using it as an exercise area to promote health.

As you know, over the years much of the rehabilitation and remodelling of the park has come through private hands, most notably having the Little League and the High School pay for and manage the upgrades to the ball fields. While we have been happy to do that we are reaching a point that yearly patches are no longer enough to keep the depreciation on thirty year old buildings, fences and backstops at an appropriate level of safety. The fields themselves are also in need of a major overhaul to bring them up to safety standards of the day.

Unfortunately, I have observed a number of injuries over the years that have been directly attributable to poor field conditions.

This is only one small part of the work that needs to be accomplished at Karen Hornaday Park. The parking lots are a mess and a hazard and have already seen one toddler death from being run over, the buildings are routinely flooded in the winter and spring, the need for another field to relieve scheduling problems is great and the campgrounds themselves need to be rejuvenated.

I would strongly support the grant request to modernize and to decrease the inherent hazards that are currently present. It is my understanding that this grant money can be used to match other grants also.

Sincerely yours

William H Bell MD

--

Bill Bell

Head Softball Coach, Homer Mariners
Small School State Champions-2006
Small School State Runner-Up - 2007
Region Champions 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007

www.marinersoftball.net

February 8, 2010

Representative Paul Seaton
Alaska State Capital, Room 102
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Sir:

This note of support for the Homer community's efforts to improve conditions at Karen Hornaday Park will hopefully add to other voices asking for your help in this matter.

You may know that there is a new opportunity to apply for matching funds from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. The current local effort, and the request for your help for funds from the State, is to accumulate the necessary total local dollars to leverage for this federal matching grant.

Karen Hornaday Park is the most widely used park in Homer and has been developed to date by various volunteer user groups with assistance from the City. The Park's development over the years, in fits and starts, has lead to a facility that, in present form, is poorly designed and has numerous hazards. The Friends of Woodard Creek and Karen Hornaday Park have already raised \$18,000 of a \$100,000 local goal to join with hoped-for funds from the State.

The ultimate goal is a safer and even more widely used park for the community and for our visitors (a small portion of the park is used for overnight camping).

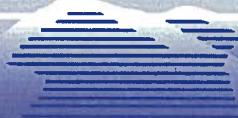
When the request makes its way to you, please lend your support to the effort to increase our matching fund balance through a legislative appropriation that can be leveraged into even more dollars through a federal grant program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Pam and Bob Brant
Patty and Chuck Jay
The employees of Jay-Brant General Contractors, LLC



460 GRUBSTAKE AVENUE, HOMER, ALASKA 99603 (907) 235-8400 FAX (907) 235-8731 www.jaybrant.com

February 8, 2010

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Sir:

This note of support for the Homer community's efforts to improve conditions at Karen Hornaday Park will hopefully add to other voices asking for your help in this matter.

You may know that there is a new opportunity to apply for matching funds from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. The current local effort, and the request for your help for funds from the State, is to accumulate the necessary total local dollars to leverage for this federal matching grant.

Karen Hornaday Park is the most widely used park in Homer and has been developed to date by various volunteer user groups with assistance from the City. The Park's development over the years, in fits and starts, has lead to a facility that, in present form, is poorly designed and has numerous hazards. The Friends of Woodard Creek and Karen Hornaday Park have already raised \$18,000 of a \$100,000 local goal to join with hoped-for funds from the State.

The ultimate goal is a safer and even more widely used park for the community and for our visitors (a small portion of the park is used for overnight camping).

When the request makes its way to you, please lend your support to the effort to increase our matching fund balance through a legislative appropriation that can be leveraged into even more dollars through a federal grant program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam and Bob Brant
Patty and Chuck Jay
The employees of Jay-Brant General Contractors, LLC

Feb. 7, 2010

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am a long time resident of Homer. I am an equally long time advocate/ volunteer for parks, trails and recreational facilities. As a private citizen, a member of the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club and the Coalition for Homer Open Space and Trails I write in support of the City of Homer's request for a state legislative appropriation in the amount of \$400,000.

The Karen Hornaday Park is an important recreational facility to the residents of Homer and many of those that visit our community. Our family's use of the park goes back 25 + years to when our boys learned to play T-ball there. We have camped there, played ball there, skied there and even volunteered a little maintenance time. I fully support the request for legislative funding needed for improvements and upgrades to the existing facilities. The park serves the community well providing recreational opportunities for thousands of young and old alike. In order to continue providing for those thousands, funding for rehabilitation of the facilities is badly needed.

As Homer strives to become a more walkable community, the parks, the trails, the open spaces, play an increasingly important role in achieving those goals. Additional funding will help those already working hard to make needed improvements.

I urge you to support this request and to do what you can to obtain legislative approval. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dave Brann

Feb. 7, 2010

Dear Senator Stevens,

I am a long time resident of Homer. I am an equally long time advocate/ volunteer for parks, trails and recreational facilities. As a private citizen, a member of the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club and the Coalition for Homer Open Space and Trails I write in support of the City of Homer's request for a state legislative appropriation in the amount of \$400,000.

The Karen Hornaday Park is an important recreational facility to the residents of Homer and many of those that visit our community. Our family's use of the park goes back 25 + years to when our boys learned to play T-ball there. We have camped there, played ball there, skied there and even volunteered a little maintenance time. I fully support the request for legislative funding needed for improvements and upgrades to the existing facilities. The park serves the community well providing recreational opportunities for thousands of young and old alike. In order to continue providing for those thousands, funding for rehabilitation of the facilities is badly needed.

As Homer strives to become a more walkable community, the parks, the trails, the open spaces, play an increasingly important role in achieving those goals. Additional funding will help those already working hard to make needed improvements.

I urge you to support this request and to do what you can to obtain legislative approval. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Dave Brann

Representative Paul Seaton,

I am asking you to support the City of Homer's request for a \$400,000 state legislative appropriation to help fund major improvements at Karen Hornaday Park. This money will be used to leverage additional grant funding.

The park is very popular and is used extensively by the little league and high school baseball/softball teams, along with many other community user groups. The play ground, campground, and picnic areas are popular family recreation sites and are used by locals and visitors throughout the summer. The Karen Hornaday Park is in desperate need of major improvements for public safety and to accommodate heavy use by the public.

Friends of Woodard Creek, a creek running through Karen Hornaday Park, have committed \$16,000 to \$18,000 for improvement to the creek and construction of trail along the creek.

It is my belief that providing a safe and well maintained park in the heart of Homer, that adequately meets the needs of our multiuser groups is a high priority for the City of Homer.

I strongly request your support of this project.

Sincerely

Ralph Broses DVM
Debra Lowney

Senator Gary Stevens,

I am asking you to support the City of Homer's request for a \$400,000 state legislative appropriation to help fund major improvements at Karen Hornaday Park. This money will be used to leverage additional grant funding.

The park is very popular and is used extensively by the little league and high school baseball/softball teams, along with many other community user groups. The play ground, campground, and picnic areas are popular family recreation sites and are used by locals and visitors throughout the summer. The Karen Hornaday Park is in desperate need of major improvements for public safety and to accommodate heavy use by the public.

Friends of Woodard Creek, a creek running through Karen Hornaday Park, have committed \$16,000 to \$18,000 for improvement to the creek and construction of trail along the creek.

It is my belief that providing a safe and well maintained park in the heart of Homer, that adequately meets the needs of our multiuser groups is a high priority for the City of Homer.

I strongly request your support of this project.

Sincerely

Ralph Broshes DVM
Debra Fowney



Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

315 Klondike Avenue • Homer, AK 99603 • ph: 907-235-5263 • fax: 907-235-1503 • www.kachemaklandtrust.org

February 11, 2010

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Alaska State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stevens,

I am writing today on behalf of Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT) to enthusiastically support the City of Homer's request for a state legislative appropriation to fund major capital improvements at Karen Hornaday Park. KHLT's mission is to preserve, for public benefit, land on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula with significant natural, recreational, or cultural values, by working with willing landowners.

Karen Hornaday Park is unique in Homer because of the multiple ways that community members and visitors enjoy the park. From softball games in the summer, camping, children's play areas, and access to one of Homer's urban stream corridors, the park has something for everybody. Unfortunately, years of intense use have begun to show. The City is wisely embarking on a plan that will improve and preserve accessibility, allow multiple uses to continue, and restore the ecological integrity of Woodard Creek, which has become severely imperiled in recent years.

KHLT fully supports the City of Homer's ambitions in improving this much loved community park. In accordance with the community's wishes, and with the broad community support demonstrated by local fundraising and volunteer efforts, the City can use this legislative appropriate to leverage additional grant funds to enable the grand vision for park improvements.

I urge you to join me in supporting funding for this important capital project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Marie McCarty
Executive Director



Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

315 Klondike Avenue • Homer, AK 99603 • ph: 907-235-5263 • fax: 907-235-1503 • www.kachemaklandtrust.org

February 11, 2010

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Alaska State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing today on behalf of Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT) to enthusiastically support the City of Homer's request for a state legislative appropriation to fund major capital improvements at Karen Hornaday Park. KHLT's mission is to preserve, for public benefit, land on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula with significant natural, recreational, or cultural values, by working with willing landowners.

Karen Hornaday Park is unique in Homer because of the multiple ways that community members and visitors enjoy the park. From softball games in the summer, camping, children's play areas, and access to one of Homer's urban stream corridors, the park has something for everybody. Unfortunately, years of intense use have begun to show. The City is wisely embarking on a plan that will improve and preserve accessibility, allow multiple uses to continue, and restore the ecological integrity of Woodard Creek, which has become severely imperiled in recent years.

KHLT fully supports the City of Homer's ambitions in improving this much loved community park. In accordance with the community's wishes, and with the broad community support demonstrated by local fundraising and volunteer efforts, the City can use this legislative appropriate to leverage additional grant funds to enable the grand vision for park improvements.

I urge you to join me in supporting funding for this important capital project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Marie McCarty
Executive Director



Homer Soil and Water Conservation District

4014 LAKE STREET, HOMER, ALASKA 99603

RESOLUTION 09-3

HOMER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, The Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) has adopted an innovative Green Infrastructure (GI) program to guide future development and conservation decisions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer has made the GI program part of its land use suitability guidelines in its draft City Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, City park land at Karen Hornaday Park has important hydrologic, wildlife, trail, aesthetics GI importance to be integrated with recreation development; and

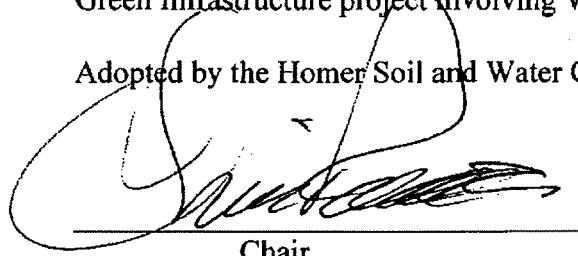
WHEREAS, The City recently adopted the Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan and the plan follows a GI model for the park development to incorporate stream restoration, storm water management, riparian habitat enhancement and connectivity with park development; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Conservation has received federal stimulus funds for green infrastructure projects, and other funding may be available from other sources,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Homer Soil and Water Conservation District supports efforts by the City, The Friends of Woodard Creek, the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society and other community interests in pursuing funding for modeling the Green Infrastructure Program at Karen Hornaday Park associated with work involving storm water and flood prevention management, stream riparian corridor restoration and enhancement, trail connectivity, landscape connectivity, and park development to include parking, , day use and camping activities.

The HSWCD is a willing partner in providing support to the development of this model Green Infrastructure project involving Woodard Creek at Karen Hornaday Park.

Adopted by the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District.



Chair

9/22/09
Date

February 11, 2010

Anne Marie Holen
Special Projects Coordinator
City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

Re: City of Homer Capital Appropriation Request – Karen Hornaday Park

Dear Anne Marie,
I was closely involved with the City of Homer, Parks and Recreation Commission and City Planning Department in the development of a master plan for Karen Hornaday Park.

In the course of developing the master plan I found a deep underlying current of need by the community for polishing this jewel of a park and providing stewardship to Woodard Creek within the park.

Community support was manifested in an outpouring of support in a community fund-raiser for the park that brought in over \$8,000 for the event. The community even held a garage sale to raise funds and one local citizen has pledged \$7,000 in support for match funds.

We enjoyed a partnership with Alaska State Parks design section with technical assistance in preparing a site plan and utilized pro bono support of a local hydrologist in developing a floodway assessment. Local trail groups, the Little League, a parent group 'No Child Left Indoors' and parents recognizing the social, economic, and environmental benefits of parks joined in the successful adoption of the park plan.

The implementation of the plan needs the support of a capital appropriation to make funding a reality. The community is ready, able, and willing to provide volunteer support, donations of time and money, and in-kind services to realize the importance of this park to the community.

I appreciate very much the City of Homer including this project as a priority in their capital funding request.

Sincerely,
JACK WILES

Jack Wiles

Letter of Support for City of Homer Parks Improvement Plan From HLL



Homer Little League
P.O. Box 11 • Homer, Alaska 99603
www.homerlittleleague.org

February 10, 2010

Letter of Support: to Anne Marie Holen, City of Homer

c.c. To: Senator Gary Stevens of the State of Alaska; Representative Paul Seaton, House District 35 Representative-Homer; and other Federal, State, and City of Homer public officials.

From: President Heidi Fielding

Homer Little League Baseball and Softball Organization, HLL

Dear Legislators and Public Officials, *Anne Marie Holen & City of Homer*

As President of Homer Little League, I was asked to address the issues and concerns involving the possible acquisition of grants and appropriation's funding for The City of Homer, for and in behalf of the local parks, playgrounds, campgrounds; and in some instances, streams, waters, and land which may fall under the jurisdiction of The Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

Homer Little League is a Non-Profit Organization. We depend on the City of Homer and the good businesses and folks of the surrounding communities to help this organization function well. Karen Hornaday Park in Homer, Alaska, is one of only a handful of parks or places where a group of people may congregate openly with family, friends, and acquaintances. My understanding is that this highly utilized public park is earmarked for some sorely needed rehabilitation, with the possibility of redesign and complete reconstruction of the entire park.

Karen Hornaday Park is a long-standing public hallmark to the City of Homer; it is beautifully situated where one may gaze out over the panoramic view of Kachemak Bay and the City of Homer. Several generations of local citizens of Homer and the surrounding communities of Anchor Point, Fritz Creek and Voznesenka, to name a few, have enjoyed this wonderful park; as well as, tourists which come in droves every summer.

Homer Little League is also a long-standing institutional hallmark that draws community members together; no matter what station they may have in life: be they

Letter of Support for City of Homer Parks Improvement Plan From HLL



Homer Little League

P.O. Box 11 • Homer, Alaska 99603
www.homerlittleleague.org

doctors, accountants, teachers, politicians, parents, relatives or volunteers. They gather when the kids play. The ball fields, playgrounds, and parking lots swarm with people, and noise and commotion which may be heard as far away as the harbor down at the Homer Spit. On Opening Day Ceremony for Little League, we may host as many as 500 or more community members at Karen Hornaday Park. Maybe the only other place in town where that many people could gather and show up at one time would be at the local high school football games! So without Karen Hornaday Park, Homer Little League would not be able to function, as we utilize the three ball fields, public facilities, and barbecue areas every spring and summer.

And most of the time the City of Homer and Homer Little League are cordial, and we have a cohesive partnership type arrangement; but other times, neither the City nor HLL are quite sure what to do. This is where *funding and appropriations grants* would be so very vital for both the Park and community and HLL. The park is very badly in need of repairs, upgrades, and improvements. Each, of the three existing ball fields, is, technically, a violation of our Little League Safety regulations, but we try, along side the city workers to maintain and repair as needed and as funds allow. Karen Hornaday Park is both a friend and foe to Homer Little League in many respects. May I elaborate for a moment on my comments of friend and foe?

First, the friendly side of Karen Hornaday Park: If, Karen Hornaday Park were just in existence for the esthetic view, it has merit alone. The playground has entertained innumerable children, including my own, over many years and has provided a wonderful location to release some anxiety and get out into the great outdoors. Many Little League parents clothed in foul-weather gear and bundled under heaps of blankets faithfully watch their kids play ball. *It's Tradition* in the spring and summer, and their other children freely romp at the nearby playground, or play tag, or roll down the grassy *Thrill Hill* giggling all the way down! (One good thing about the Hill)

Letter of Support for City of Homer Parks Improvement Plan From HLL



Homer Little League

P.O. Box 11 • Homer, Alaska 99603
www.homerlittleleague.org

But, the Foe side of Karen Hornaday Park:

- *Not handicapped friendly* at any of the fields and grassy areas. My mother tries to come in her electric wheelchair. But she's scared she's going to get bucked out of her own wheelchair because of the roughness of the terrain; no safe smooth accesses or roads.
- As a parent of a Little Leaguer, I with other parents or visitors sit on the hill overlooking Newberry Ball Field, and it's so very frustrating trying to get a glimpse of our children who run to 1st base after a hit, or fielding 1st base, either one, because the play is obscured by the dugout. The Park's 3 ball fields, adjacent playgrounds, buildings, and parking lots are in serious, serious need of repairs!
- Fields and surrounding grassy areas are potted beyond reasonable daily maintenance and may cause injury to ball players and visitors.
- Fences are aged, falling off bars and supports, and are not protective.
- Sheds, including a conex which holds supplies for many park users, are dilapidated and inadequate.
- In early spring, The Snack Shack and coaches' shed are constantly flooded underneath and surrounding the buildings from melting winter snow and ice. The Snack Shack's roof was repaired by a charitable business last year, and it looks excellent compared to the rest of the building.
- Water fountains and water to the Snack Shack are dysfunctional due to being frozen, or broken, and many a thirsty child goes without access to free H2O, which I do not think is appropriate.

Letter of Support for City of Homer Parks Improvement Plan From HLL



Homer Little League
P.O. Box 11 • Homer, Alaska 99603
www.homerlittleleague.org

- Other water problems involve the field maintenance, for Homer Little League rarely has access to water. We can not water down outfields, nor the dirt infield. The proper consistency of water, dirt, and Turfus is essential for play and support of running ball players. The reasons behind the denial to turn on the valves given to us by the City is due to frozen under ground water pipes; and by the end of May and June, we still have *no access to water*, and the fields literally turn to dust bowls or are so hard that they are like cement! And sometimes at Home Plate when a close play is occurring, it is like an explosion of dust which takes five to ten minutes to clear up as a cloud of dirt covers the players and umpire and floats over the choking spectators in the stands and into the concession stand. Some people and players suffer from Asthma-related issues which are exacerbated by the dust.
- Misplaced waters, frost heaves of ice, mud, and dirt caused by Winter Break-up, and the daily natural deformations of the topography of the dirt parking lots are hazardous to people, in addition to vehicles and cyclists. The parking lot, itself, is frightening when hundreds of small children, parents, and visitors converge in groves and attempt to get to their various ball games. Visibility and parking is poor. And lastly, but not least.
- There is the question of Woodard Creek which flows adjacent to the haphazardly smoothed-out dirt heap, we call *the other side of the road parking lot*, and any or all rehabilitation plans I believe should also address the inclusion of this fresh water resource called Woodard Creek, and to appropriately redesign the Park with the parking lot and Creek in mind.

I do not mean to rant and rave about every minor detail that bothers me concerning Karen Hornaday Park, or other local parks that stand in need of a helping hand, but if there is funding coming available through appropriation's grants and/or the

Letter of Support for City of Homer Parks Improvement Plan From HLL



Homer Little League

P.O. Box 11 • Homer, Alaska 99603
www.homerlittleleague.org

Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other Federal, State, or municipal monies earmarked for rehabilitations and improvements, then Karen Hornaday Park is 'High Priority'. For Karen Hornaday Park is one of the final destinations for travelers who traverse Highway 1, and it would be wonderful, if they had a *State of the Art, New and Improved Karen Hornaday Park* to visit as they gaze out over the panoramic views, rest from their travels, and play with their families and friends. And of course, any improvements will *wholeheartedly* be welcomed by Little League and our players and families.

Thank you, State and Local Legislators for your prompt attention to this vital issue, and hope you will be moved to make improvements to our community. We are part of the Bigger Picture!

Sincerely, Heidi Fielding, President: Homer Little League

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Fielding". It is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

February 11, 2010

To: Alaska State Representative Paul Seaton
Alaska State Senator Gary Stevens

From: Michael Illg

Re: Karen Hornaday Park funding

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this letter to you today to express my support and enthusiasm towards the possible funding opportunity for the Karen Hornaday Park located in Homer, Alaska from the State of Alaska. I am a City of Homer resident contacting you as a concerned parent and a parks and recreation advocate. This park is in tremendous need of assistance with a myriad of ongoing problems that need to be fixed sooner than later.

Hornaday Park is the premier park destination and the ideal location for the Homer area where many young children and young families use the playgrounds and parks on a regular basis during the summer months. It is the home of the Homer Little League Baseball games and practices. The annual and popular KBBI's "Concert on the Lawn" has been held at the park for the past few years as well. While it is used for many things, the park has a substantial drainage problem in the fields and parking lots. The playground portion of the park has also become very outdated and is in need of a serious upgrade.

As a recent father with a 15 month old daughter, I have a great concern to fulfill her potential need and ability to use this park but at the current rate it is in desperate of a major over hall. On behalf of myself, my family and my surrounding community I ask and urge you to support funding for the Karen Hornaday Park. It will truly be dollars well spent and utilized for many for years to come.

Sincerely,



Michael Illg
PO Box 2329
934 Larkspur Ct.
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-0798



PROTECTING ALASKA'S COOK INLET WATERSHED AND THE LIFE IT SUSTAINS

February 4, 2010

Mayor Jim Hornaday
City of Homer
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

RE: HORNADAY PARK & WOODARD CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Mayor Hornaday:

Please accept this letter of support for state legislative appropriations to improve Karen Hornaday Park and to protect Woodard Creek.

Cook Inletkeeper has a long history working to protect water quality and watershed values in the park and surrounding areas (see enclosed report). Because Woodard Creek is the most significant perennial stream within the Homer City limits, it presents enormous opportunities to improve the quality of life for residents and tourists alike for years to come. Furthermore, the popularity of Hornaday park continues to grow, and it plays a vital role as a social and recreational center in our community.

Accordingly, we strongly support legislative appropriations for Hornaday Park and Woodard Creek, and we're happy to assist the City in any way we can to make these improvements a reality.

Very truly yours,

Bob Shavelson
Executive Director

Enc. a/s



Kachemak Bay Broadcasting, Inc.
3913 Kachemak Way ~ Homer, Alaska 99603
(907) 235-7721 ~ Fax: (907) 235-2357
www.kbbi.org

February 12, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express support for the efforts of the City of Homer to raise funds to provide major upgrades to Karen Hornaday Park. As a local non-profit with a mission to serve the greater good, we see a direct need and purpose for these improvements.

KBBI hosts the popular "Concert on the Lawn" each summer. This live music event is a major fundraiser for our public radio station and is a must-attend event of high summer, drawing upwards of 2000 guests of all ages each year. It's more than an outdoor music festival. It's an annual rite of summer. The value created by this partnership is immeasurable. It provides funds for the station, and it is a highly marketable cultural event for the City. We know that many guests make Alaska tourism plans to coincide with the weekend of the last Saturday in July.

For the past six years, Concert on the Lawn has been held at Karen Hornaday Park – a great venue because of the in-town location, spectacular views, and plenty of room for a big crowd. Concert on the Lawn is just one example of the many activities that take place at the park.

However, the park is in need of repairs and improvements. There are unfortunate parking issues, long-standing drainage issues, and a need for landscaping and other upgrades as described in the new Karen Hornaday Park Master Plan. These improvements are necessary for our event to grow and remain sustainable.

Your financial support for the efforts to improve Karen Hornaday Park will be greatly appreciated, here at KBBI and throughout the community.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Coke
Development Director, KBBI AM 890 Homer



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

3734 Ben Walters Lane, Suite 202
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-8214
•Email: kbayconservation@gmail.com

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society's mission is to protect the environment of the Kachemak Bay region and encourage sustainable use and stewardship of local natural resources through advocacy, education/information, and collaboration.

February 5, 2010

Re: City of Homer Capital Budget Request – Funding for Karen Hornaday Park

Dear Representative Seaton and Senator Stevens:

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) strongly supports the City of Homer's Capital Budget request for restoration and improvements to Karen Hornaday Park.

A master plan for Karen Hornaday Park was recently adopted by the City of Homer and involved an open public process with a city council workshop, public scoping and plan presentation meetings, plan adoption hearing and consultations with technical advisors. The plan represents an expression of community values. The plan is a collaborative partnership with KBCS, The Friends of Karen Hornaday Park, Alaska Parks and Recreation Department, City of Homer Parks and Recreation Commission, and community interests.

The Capital Budget is critical to providing match support for a LWCF grant needed to meet key objectives of a) implementing a model green infrastructure approach to watershed management and riparian restoration; b) providing park facilities for safety, traffic, parking, trails, restroom, and day use activities; c) meeting significant community recreation needs as expressed in the park master plan and city comprehensive plan.

The Friends of Karen Hornaday Park have already raised nearly \$20,000 in funds as a commitment of support. KBCS with the City of Homer and its partners is committed to providing additional support through volunteerism, in-kind matches, community fund raising, and other funding to realize this vision for the community.

Thank you for consideration and support of the City of Homer's Capital Budget request for Karen Hornaday Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberta Highland".

Roberta Highland
Board President

JANET R. KLEIN
PO BOX 2386, HOMER, ALASKA 99603
PHONE: 235-9025
jrklein@homernet.net

February 6, 2010

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens,

With this letter, I am seeking your support for the City of Homer's request for a \$400,000 Legislative appropriation to begin the much needed and long-overdue improvements to Karen Hornaday Park in Homer.

Prior to 1978, my family and I camped often at the hillside park on our many trips to Homer and, after moving here that year, we returned to the park frequently to picnic, hike, bird watch, and enjoy activities in which our children participated.

I understand that to make the park safer, especially for its many users of all ages, the existing road should be reconstructed in a slightly different place. While moving and rebuilding the road, a trail paralleling it would help improve safety for walks and bike riders.

Because this appropriation will be used to seek additional funding, I hope that you will support it during this session.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,


Janet Klein

JANET R. KLEIN
PO BOX 2386, HOMER, ALASKA 99603
PHONE: 235-9025
jrklein@homernet.net

February 6, 2010

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton:

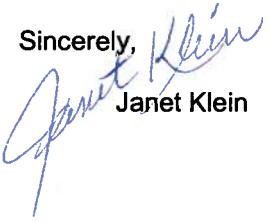
With this letter, I am seeking your support for the City of Homer's request for a \$400,000 Legislative appropriation to begin the much needed and long-overdue improvements to Karen Hornaday Park in Homer.

Prior to 1978, my family and I camped often at the hillside park on our many trips to Homer and, after moving here that year, we frequently picnicked, hiked, bird watched, and enjoyed activities at the park.

I understand that to make the park safer, the existing road should be reconstructed in a slightly different place. While moving and rebuilding it, a trail paralleling the road would help improve safety for the people who walk and bike ride there.

Because this appropriation will be used to seek additional funding, I hope that you will support it during this session.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Janet Klein

1285 Bay Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
February 6, 2010

As residents of Homer, Alaska we are strongly supportive of a grant to improve and enhance Karen Hornaday Park.



Jack Lentfer



Mary Lentfer



HOMER REAL ESTATE

February 10, 2010

State Senator Gary Stevens
c/o Anne Marie Holen
City of Homer

RE: Support for the Legislative request to upgrade Karen Hornady Park

Dear Gary,

I know that you have so much on your plate this session, but I want to encourage you to embrace, support and approve the City of Homer \$400,000 legislative request to upgrade Karen Hornady Park.

There has been a major community effort that began over concerns for the quality of Woodard Creek and the surrounding watershed. This has now naturally grown to include long overdue renovations and upgrades to the entire park complex. This is an incredibly vital recreational and economic resource to the Community offering camping sites for visitors (economic development), venues for non profit fundraisers like the KBBI Concert on the Lawn which attracts over 10000 participants annually (economic development again), softball fields for youth and not so young player leagues (quality of life), trails and playgrounds (quality of life), and valuable open space in an established neighborhood (more quality of life).

The City, through their expert grantmeister, Anne Marie Holen, will leverage these funds, along with a \$100,000 contribution from the City and \$16000-\$18000 of private funds raised by the Friends of Woodard Creek, to seek a \$500,000 matching grant from The Land and Water Conservation Fund program. This is a Federal grant that becomes available any day now.

This is such a natural positive allocation blending Private, Municipal, State and Federal funds to enhance our community and lead to additional environmental, economic and recreational benefits that all Homerites and visitors will enjoy and appreciate for years to come.

Thank you for your support.


Angie Newby

Cc Representative Paul Seaton



HOMER REAL ESTATE

February 10, 2010

Representative Paul Seaton
c/o Anne Marie Holen
City of Homer

RE: Support for the Legislative request to upgrade Karen Hornady Park

Dear Paul,

I know that you have so much on your plate this session, but I want to encourage you to embrace, support and approve the City of Homer \$400,000 legislative request to upgrade Karen Hornady Park.

There has been a major community effort that began over concerns for the quality of Woodard Creek and the surrounding watershed. This has now naturally grown to include long overdue renovations and upgrades to the entire park complex. This is an incredibly vital recreational and economic resource to the Community offering camping sites for visitors (economic development), venues for non profit fundraisers like the KBBI Concert on the Lawn which attracts over 10000 participants annually (economic development again), softball fields for youth and not so young player leagues (quality of life), trails and playgrounds (quality of life), and valuable open space in an established neighborhood (more quality of life).

The City, through their expert grantmeister, Anne Marie Holen, will leverage these funds, along with a \$100,000 contribution from the City and \$16000-\$18000 of private funds raised by the Friends of Woodard Creek, to seek a \$500,000 matching grant from The Land and Water Conservation Fund program. This is a Federal grant that becomes available any day now.

This is such a natural positive allocation blending Private, Municipal, State and Federal funds to enhance our community and lead to additional environmental, economic and recreational benefits that all Homerites and visitors will enjoy and appreciate for years to come.

Thank you for your support.

Angie
Angie Newby

Cc Senator Gary Stevens

Judith Lund

Sundog Consultants Inc.
165 E Bunnell Ave. #E

Homer, AK. 99603

Phone: (907) 235-5971 ext 26

► **Representative Paul Seaton**

Dear Representative Seaton

I'm writing to support the proposed improvements at Karen Hornaday Park. This is a very important area to the Homer community. Karen Hornaday Park is the largest and most used of all the parks and provides recreational opportunities from sports, games and picnics to a campgrounds and, if the improvements are made, a trail system along the adjoining Woodard Creek. To be really useful this area is in need of significant improvements in facilities available, parking, grounds upkeep etc. The local community has shown significant support and there are federal funds which could become available if the legislature approves the requested funds. Woodard Creek is a major drainage which separates the Karen Hornaday Park from the South Peninsula Hospital and borders them both. Adding trails and improvements to this area would enhance the considerable investment made by the community in their Hospital improvements.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.



Judith Lund
Co-Owner
Sundog Consultants, Inc.
2/9/2010

Judith Lund

Sundog Consultants Inc.

165 E Bunnell Ave. #E

Homer, AK. 99603

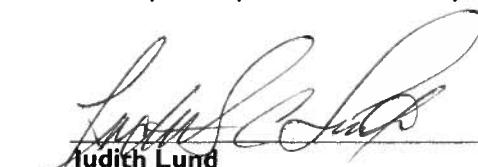
Phone: (907) 235-5971 ext 26

► **Senator Gary Stevens**

Dear Senator Stevens

I'm writing to support the proposed improvements at Karen Hornaday Park. This is a very important area to the Homer community. Karen Hornaday Park is the largest and most used of all the parks and provides recreational opportunities from sports, games and picnics to a campgrounds and, if the improvements are made, a trail system along the adjoining Woodard Creek. To be really useful this area is in need of significant improvements in facilities available, parking, grounds upkeep etc. The local community has shown significant support and there are federal funds which could become available if the legislature approves the requested funds. Woodard Creek is a major drainage which separates the Karen Hornaday Park from the South Peninsula Hospital and borders them both. Adding trails and improvements to this area would enhance the considerable investment made by the community in their Hospital improvements.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.



Judith Lund
Co-Owner
Sundog Consultants, Inc.
2/9/2010

PO Box 15261

Fritz Creek, AK 99603

Feb 9, 2010

Senator Gary Stevens

Dear Gary

I understand the City of Homer is requesting funding from the State of Alaska to use as leverage for applying for Federal funds to help with the upgrade of the Karen Hornaday Park. I just wanted to let you know I fully support any help from the State for these upgrades. As you are fully aware, the Park is used extensively by the community for many activities.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gayle Forrest".

Gayle Forrest

PO Box 15261

Fritz Creek, AK 99603

Feb 9, 2010

Rep Paul Seaton

Dear Paul

I understand the City of Homer is requesting funding from the State of Alaska to use as leverage for applying for Federal funds to help with the upgrade of the Karen Hornaday Park. I just wanted to let you know I fully support any help from the State for these upgrades. As you are fully aware, the Park is used extensively by the community for many activities.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gayle Forrest".

Gayle Forrest

Anne Marie Holen

From: George Matz [geomatz@alaska.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 10:14 AM
To: Anne Marie Holen
Cc: Gary Stevens; Paul Seaton
Subject: Karen Hornaday Park

Anne Marie Holin:

I understand that the City of Homer is submitting request for \$400,000 to the state legislator to help fund major improvements at Karen Hornaday Park. I fully support this request. I think Karen Hornaday Park is one of the jewels of Homer that can be made even better with the improvements that have been suggested by the Friends of Woodard Creek. Before my wife and I moved to Homer five years ago, we would usually camp at the Park during our summer visits and really appreciated its availability.

Sincerely,
George Matz

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 111
Juneau AK, 99801
February 12, 2010

Homer CIP: Karen Hornaday Park Funding

Dear Senator Stevens,

I support appropriating Capitol Improvement Project funding for Karen Hornaday Park (KHP) in Homer. KHP is a beautiful park used extensively by the people of Homer. The three ball fields are used for Little League and attract huge crowds, thus a need for safer and better parking. The children's playground needs improvements. The restrooms need replacement. Woodard Creek requires restoration and flood management, and the entire park has drainage problems. The popular campground needs upgrading. The campground is one of the only places in the Homer area where visitors can camp away from the traffic and noise on the Spit.

State CIP funds are important because the City of Homer would use them to apply for a matching grant with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

KHP is important to Homer's recreation and economic infrastructure. This special park needs to be improved so it can continue to be a part of our community. Significant volunteer efforts and donations have been given to this park, but it needs State support. The things that need to be done are beyond the scope of volunteer efforts.

Sincerely,

Molly Brann
PO Box 1901
Homer, AK 99602
brann@alaska.net

Representative Paul Seaton
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau AK, 99801
February 12, 2010

Homer CIP: Karen Hornaday Park Funding

Dear Representative Seaton,

I support appropriating Capitol Improvement Project funding for Karen Hornaday Park (KHP) in Homer. KHP is a beautiful park used extensively by the people of Homer. The three ball fields are used for Little League and attract huge crowds, thus a need for safer and better parking. The children's playground needs improvements. The restrooms need replacement. Woodard Creek requires restoration and flood management, and the entire park has drainage problems. The popular campground needs upgrading. The campground is one of the only places in the Homer area where visitors can camp away from the traffic and noise on the Spit.

State CIP funds are important because the City of Homer would use them to apply for a matching grant with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

KHP is important to Homer's recreation and economic infrastructure. This special park needs to be improved so it can continue to be a part of our community. Significant volunteer efforts and donations have been given to this park, but it needs State support. The things that need to be done are beyond the scope of volunteer efforts.

Sincerely,

Molly Brann
PO Box 1901
Homer, AK 99602
brann@alaska.net

*Marti J. McCleery
59115 Meadow Lane
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-2856*

February 11, 2010

Dear Mr. Seaton:

As a member of Friends of Woodard Creek (FWC) in Karen Hornaday Park (KHP), I have witnessed first hand the broad community support for a park that needs serious restructuring. FWC has raised \$8000 from two fund raisers held last year and has a private donation of \$10,000 for a total of \$18,000 to help make major improvements to the park and provide a walking trail next to Woodard Creek. The overwhelming support of the community for these two events was an eye opening experience for me.

I am writing in support of the City of Homer's request of \$400,000.00 in State Legislative Appropriations to help fund major improvements to Karen Hornaday Park and restoration of Woodard Creek.

I personally feel that city parks are the heart and soul of a community. Karen Hornaday Park has some of the most beautiful property in the city of Homer. It's a place where families can get together, children can play, campers can camp, and softball players can knock home runs. The donation of this property to the City and Community of Homer was for the sole purpose of a park. Shouldn't we as it's caretakers make it the best and safest park it can be!

Please deeply considered the City of Homer's request for a small portion of available Funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marti J. McCleery

Marti J. McCleery
59115 Meadow Lane
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-2856

February 11, 2010

Dear Mr. Stevens:

As a member of Friends of Woodard Creek (FWC) in Karen Hornaday Park (KHP), I have witnessed first hand the broad community support for a park that needs serious restructuring. FWC has raised \$8000 from two fund raisers held last year and has a private donation of \$10,000 for a total of \$18,000 to help make major improvements to the park and provide a walking trail next to Woodard Creek. The overwhelming support of the community for these two events was an eye opening experience for me.

I am writing in support of the City of Homer's request of \$400,000.00 in State Legislative Appropriations to help fund major improvements to Karen Hornaday Park and restoration of Woodard Creek.

I personally feel that city parks are the heart and soul of a community. Karen Hornaday Park has some of the most beautiful property in the city of Homer. It's a place where families can get together, children can play, campers can camp, and softball players can knock home runs. The donation of this property to the City and Community of Homer was for the sole purpose of a park. Shouldn't we as it's caretakers make it the best and safest park it can be!

Please deeply considered the City of Homer's request for a small portion of available Funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Marti J. McCleery

P.O. Box 2460
Homer, AK 99603

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau AK, 99801

February 12, 2009

RE: Karen Hornaday Park Funding

Dear Representative Seaton:

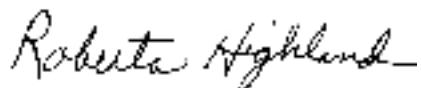
We strongly support appropriating Capitol Improvement Project funding for much needed improvements to Karen Hornaday Park (KHP) in Homer.

KHP is one of the most beautiful park settings in the state. The three ball fields have a long history of Little League which attracts huge crowds needing safer and better parking. The children's playground needs improvements. The restrooms need replacement. Woodard Creek requires restoration and flood management, and the entire park needs drainage problems corrected. Also, a long used and popular campground needs upgrading.

The state CIP funds are imperative as the City of Homer would use them to apply for matching grants with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

Because of the importance of KHP in the community's recreational pursuits and economic infrastructure, this special park deserves these improvements. It is important for those who live here now and our future generations.

Sincerely,



Roberta Highland

Robert Archibald

P.O. Box 2460
Homer, AK 99603

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 111
Juneau AK, 99801

February 12, 2009

RE: Karen Hornaday Park Funding

Dear Senator Stevens,

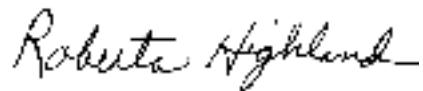
We strongly support appropriating Capitol Improvement Project funding for much needed improvements to Karen Hornaday Park (KHP) in Homer.

KHP is one of the most beautiful park settings in the state. The three ball fields have a long history of Little League which attracts huge crowds needing safer and better parking. The children's playground needs improvements. The restrooms need replacement. Woodard Creek requires restoration and flood management, and the entire park needs drainage problems corrected. Also, a long used and popular campground needs upgrading.

The state CIP funds are imperative as the City of Homer would use them to apply for matching grants with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.

Because of the importance of KHP in the community's recreational pursuits and economic infrastructure, this special park deserves these improvements. It is important for those who live here now and our future generations.

Sincerely,



Roberta Highland

Robert Archibald

Whalesong

From: "Whalesong" <whalesong@xyz.net>
To: <aholen@ci.homer.ak.us>
Cc: <rep_paul_seaton@legis.state.ak.us>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 2:05 PM
Subject: Karen Hornaday Park!

Hello,

My husband and I ask that you make every effort to support the city of Homer's request for \$400.000 state legislation appropriation for much needed funding for the major improvements for Karen Homady park.

There have been numerous volunteer fundraising efforts over many years, which is great and that is a main reason why it has gotten this far. These needed improvements will make our community and visitors alike be able to have a safer and more enjoyable park experience.

Our appreciation,
Carole and Jack Hamik
4002 Kachemak Way
Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-2564

Ann Marie,

I tried to send a copy of this to Senator Stevens and it did not send. Could you please forward this to his office. Thank you so much.

Carole

Dear Representative Seaton,

As a citizen of Homer, I encourage you to support these projects in the capital budget.

- The **proposed natural gas pipeline** will enhance the economy of the whole lower Kenai Peninsula.
- **Karen Hornaday Park** improvements are much needed. The community of Homer and outlying areas utilize this park for many activities. The park needs major work to continue to serve the community.
- Expanding **Homer's Deep Water Dock** is another project that will grow the local economy. Homer could receive direct shipments of goods.
- The **Pratt Museum** Is a local treasure. Supporting the expansion project will help to create more jobs in our community.
- The **Kachemak Bay Campus** is a vital community entity which deserves support for their much needed building.
- **Homer Community Schools** provides services to citizens all over the lower peninsula. Recreation in the winter months is an important component of a healthy community.
- Finally, please preserve the Renewable Energy Grant, which contains funding for the **Kachemak Bay Tidal Power** project. Alaska needs to continue in the direction of finding alternative sources of power.

Sincerely,

Francie Roberts

495 Mountain View, Homer, AK 99603



City of Homer

*City Manager
491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
phone: 907-235-3102 fax: 907-235-3148
email: wwrede@ci.homer.ak.us*

April 27, 2010

Governor Sean Parnell
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Parnell:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Homer to urge your support for the Homer-area projects approved for funding by the Alaska Legislature as part of the FY 2011 state capital budget.

Out of more than 50 projects identified as priorities by the City of Homer, four were included in the capital budget:

- \$4.8 million for a natural gas pipeline from Anchor Point to Homer. Natural gas in Homer has been a desire in this community for decades. The proposed project provides real hope that this wish will become a reality. In addition to providing a clean, lower-cost energy source, the project will create jobs in this area.
- \$1 million for the Homer Deep Water Dock expansion project. This project has been in the City's Capital Improvement Plan since 1989. The funding will allow us to complete feasibility and design for a project that will enable the Port of Homer to handle containerized cargo, reducing the cost of goods locally and greatly benefiting the local and regional economy.
- \$250,000 for improvements to Karen Hornaday Park. This project is strongly supported by the community, generating dozens of letters and messages and hours of volunteer time. The \$250,000 legislative appropriation is key to overall project success, as it will be used to leverage an equal amount of funding from a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. The City of Homer, Homer Little League, and Friends of Karen Hornaday Park are also contributing cash match to the project, which will address serious problems and provide major upgrades to the park, to the benefit of residents and visitors as well as the local economy.
- \$100,000 for the Pratt Museum's capital campaign. This money will help pay for engineering and design for a new building to house Homer's acclaimed Pratt Museum, winner of the National Award for Museum Service and one of only five accredited museums in Alaska.

We also support funding for other Homer-area projects approved by the Legislature, including \$250,000 for a new building on the UAA-KPC-Kachemak Bay Campus and \$30,000 to the Homer Foundation for community education and recreation programs.

In addition, we urge you to preserve the full \$50 million in funding for the Renewable Energy Grant Fund, which will benefit Homer by providing funding for our proposed Kachemak Bay Tidal Power project.

Governor Sean Parnell
April 27, 2010
Page 2

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these priorities with you further.

Sincerely,

CITY OF HOMER

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walt Wrede". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Walt" on top and "Wrede" below it.

Walt Wrede
City Manager

April 30, 2010

The Honorable Representative Seaton,

Thank you for working with the community of Homer to place \$250,000 in the capital budget for much needed renovations to Karen Hornaday Park - City of Homer.

The \$250,000 can be doubled through a Land and Water Conservation grant, and the state's investment has also resulted in a pledges of \$130,000 in a cash match by the City, a \$5,000 cash match by the Homer Little League, and a \$9,200 cash match by The Friends of Woodard Creek at Karen Hornaday Park along with numerous commitments of volunteer time and materials.

The renovation work at Karen Hornaday Park consists of work that will contribute to small business firms on the Kenai Peninsula, providing much needed work in an area where unemployment exceeds 12 percent - among the highest unemployment rates in the state. Landscaping/turf renovation of ball fields, new fencing, topsoil work, drainage improvements, parking area improvements, earth work, craftspersons to construct innovative playground structures, and engineering/design work are features that will benefit local enterprises.

The added benefit of this project is the health and social benefits of getting children outdoors and actively engaged in constructive pursuits. A parent group, 'No Child Left Indoors' has formed to design a 'natural play features' playground, The Little League is involved in youth activities, The Boys & Girls Club is ready to help, and Youth Soccer is a tremendously growing sport.

Karen Hornaday Park is the main park in Homer and the catalyst of the \$250,000 in state capital funds will reap a wealth of rewards to the locally stressed job economy and to the outdoor recreation health of our young people.

Thank you for your efforts in convincing the governor that a small investment by the state can be more than doubled through community efforts.

Sincerely,

Jack Wiles
The Friends of Woodard Creek at Karen Hornaday Park