

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage Park Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 412205907****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition****Anchorage Park Foundation - Campbell Creek Estuary****State Funding Requested: \$150,000****House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Campbell Creek Estuary

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$7,750,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$7,400,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$150,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$200,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This 60 acre project site contains Campbell Creek, Campbell Creek Estuary, associated estuarine wetlands, and associated upland buffer. The project parcels are adjacent to and extend into the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. The southern end of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge contains Potter March, a heavily used and popular public access point and important recent project supported by numerous community groups. Currently there are no other developed public access points to the 32,000 acre Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge in the entire southern portion. The project is also at the terminus of the 7 mile long Campbell Creek greenbelt and bike path that connects Chugach State Park with the Coastal Wildlife Refuge. This parcel would connect those two critical public resources and make them more accessible to the citizens of Anchorage. Great Land Trust purchased the property in late 2010 and transferred the parcel to the Municipality of Anchorage as a Natural Area. GLT retained a conservation easement over the entire property ensuring that it will be maintained as a natural area in perpetuity.

Campbell Creek Estuary is the last, unprotected functional estuary in Anchorage. It is critical to conserve the high degree of functionality of this estuary to support current population levels of anadromous fish that inhabit the estuary and the watershed, including all five species of N. Pacific salmon that migrate through the offshore waters of the ACWR, as well as Campbell Estuary. Conserving the estuary would enhance the integrity of the ACWR and the greater Campbell Creek watershed. The Campbell Creek watershed (Campbell and Little Campbell Creeks) is the most intact, ecologically functional watershed in Anchorage in relation to salmon habitat.

Campbell Creek was a very important site for the native peoples of the Anchorage area because of the abundant fish resource and the importance for navigation and viewing wildlife and other native peoples. Campbell Creek was one of the last places in the Anchorage Bowl where the Dena'ina went for their traditional fishing lifestyle as recently as 50 years ago.

During the winter of 2012 a Master Plan was developed with funding provided to the Anchorage Park Foundation by the Great Land Trust. Identified improvements including access and trails will be constructed in the summer of 2013 with

assistance from the Youth Employment in Parks program.

In the summer of 2014, the Anchorage Park Foundation and Parks & Recreation Department plan to complete the work identified by the master plan for the Campbell Creek Estuary. We invite the Alaska State Legislature to join us in investing in the future of the Campbell Creek Estuary, the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Refuge, and the Anchorage community.

Project Timeline:

2014

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

Municipality of Anchorage

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Beth Nordlund
Title: Executive Director
Address: 3201 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone Number: (907)274-1004
Email: Beth@AnchorageParkFoundation.org

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

Anchorage Park Foundation

Since 2004, the Anchorage Park Foundation has invested more than \$18 million in Anchorage parks, trails and recreation programs. Join us this summer to revitalize parks in your district.



2013

CAPIS Project Number

59740

Legislative District: J - 20

Anchorage Park Foundation

Anchorage has 10,946 acres of municipal parkland, 223 parks, and over 250 miles of trails and greenbelts linking neighborhoods with natural spaces.

The Anchorage Park Foundation partners with the Parks & Recreation Department to promote Healthy Parks and Healthy People in the Anchorage community. Together, we revitalize the safety, function, and appearance of Anchorage parks and the neighborhoods that surround them.

The Anchorage Park Foundation mobilizes public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities. Do you have a vision for parks, trails, open spaces and recreation in Anchorage? Consider the Anchorage Park Foundation your opportunity to fund community projects through public-private partnerships.

Tax ID Number: 41-2205907

907.274.1004



Anchorage Park Foundation

Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area - Phase 2

The 60 acre Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area contains Campbell Creek, Campbell Creek Estuary, associated estuarine wetlands and an upland buffer featuring a meadow and forested areas. The natural area extends into the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge and contains significant wildlife habitat and native plant species.

Great Land Trust purchased the property in late 2010 and transferred the parcel to the Municipality of Anchorage to be developed under the management authority of Parks & Recreation. GLT retained a conservation easement over the entire property ensuring that it will be maintained as a natural area in perpetuity.

In 2012 a Master Plan was developed with funding provided to the Anchorage Park Foundation by the Great Land Trust. The Master Plan included extensive public involvement and identified objectives to balance public access and trail development with minimal disturbance to the natural area. Improvements are targeted for construction in the summer of 2013 with assistance from the Youth Employment in Parks program.

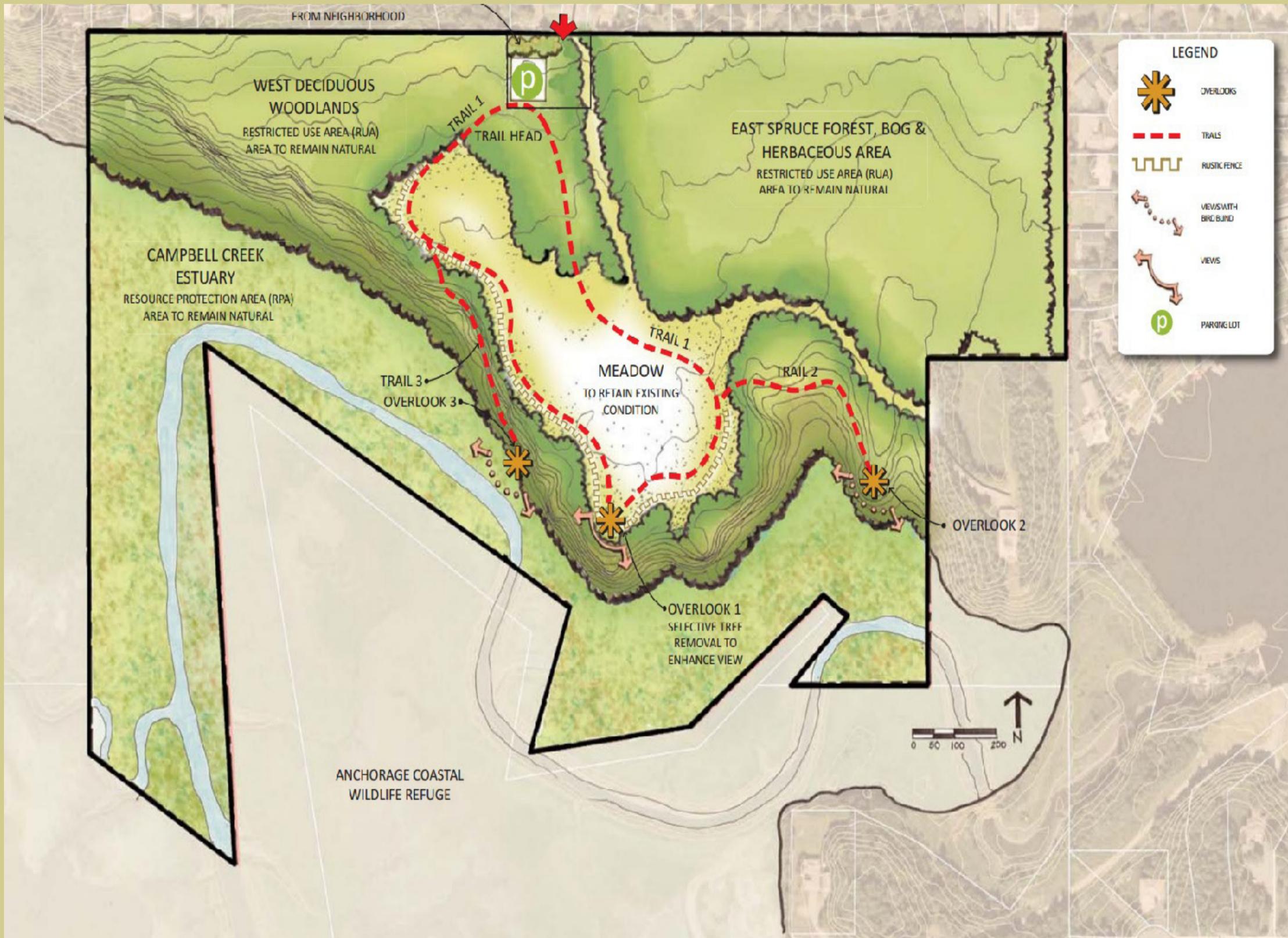
Funding for these improvements was made possible through a grant from the Alaska State Legislature. In addition, significant funding has been received for the project from such entities as ConocoPhillips, the Rasmuson Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, The Nature Conservancy and numerous private individuals and businesses.

In the summer of 2014, the Anchorage Park Foundation and Parks & Recreation Department plan to continue construction of improvements identified in the Master Plan. We invite the Alaska State Legislature to continue support in the future of the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area.



www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org

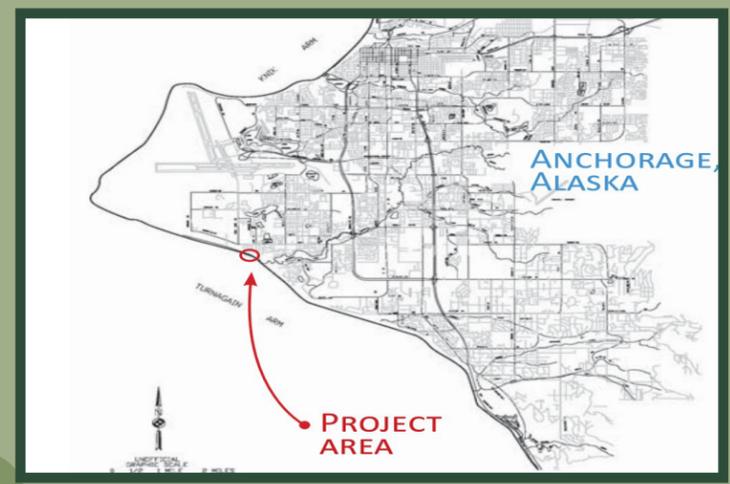
www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org



Project Cost Estimate

Project Budget	Cost
Planning and Construction of Parking Lot & Public Access Amenities	\$250,000
Trail Improvements and Outlook	\$150,000
TOTAL	400,000

2013 Request	
2012 State Legislative Grant	\$200,000
Other Funding Secured	\$50,000
2013 State Funding Request	\$150,000
* Property Acquisition: Approximately \$7.15 million	



Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area

Build Trail and Trailhead for Public Access with Youth Employment in Parks

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Pedestrian dies after being struck by car in Midtown

Campbell Creek estuary plan protects rich habitat

Published: January 9, 2013 Updated 15 hours ago

By ROSEMARY SHINOHARA — rshinohara@adn.com

Anchorage — A plan for the city-owned Campbell Creek Estuary, 60 acres of uplands and tidal flats near the mouth of Campbell Creek, calls for managing it differently than most parks in Anchorage: as a quiet, protected place for shorebirds, waterfowl and wildlife, but with trails and overlooks where people can enjoy viewing them.

The city Planning and Zoning Commission adopted a master plan for the area on Dec. 10, two years after the city took ownership of the property from the conservation organization Great Land Trust. It is a natural area within the city park system, said city parks superintendent Holly Spoth-Torres.

Great Land Trust has conservation rights to make sure the land is preserved. The conservation documents say the tidal flats area will be managed with the most restrictions, with any trails, fences or gates subject to review. The uplands area adjacent would be a little less restricted -- with mainly signs, trails and fences allowed -- and the area closest to the entrance at Selkirk Drive would be less restricted still, allowing for parking areas, outhouses, fences, bollards, gazebos, interpretive signs and even kiosks.

The estuary, along the coastline south of West Dimond Boulevard, attracts bald eagles, sandhill cranes, pintails, shovelers, grebes, river otters and five species of salmon, among other wildlife.

Campbell Creek winds through the mud and grasses on the flats. Sometimes belugas chase the salmon up the creek, says Great Land Trust director Phil Shephard.

Standing at the edge of the flats, a person can see up and down the coastline.

Some controversy has already surfaced regarding just how developed the estuary should become.

Lori Schanche, non-motorized transportation coordinator for the city, said in written comments for the Planning and Zoning Commission that the master plan should include provision for a future coastal trail, to be consistent with other city plans.

The master planners for the estuary -- a committee with representatives of the Parks Department, Great Land Trust, community councils, federal and state fish and game staff, and others -- decided early on that they didn't want to provide for any future extension of the 11-mile Tony Knowles Coastal Trail through the estuary, Spoth-Torres said.

The trail now ends in Kincaid Park. The city was actively considering a southern coastal trail extension until 2006, when the idea died.

David Moore, a retired high school teacher who represented Sand Lake Community Council on the planning committee, said the committee didn't even think about setting aside a future coastal trail connection "just because of how fragile" the estuary is.

The coastal trail, Moore said, "is basically a super-highway for bicycles. It's like building a road."

Retired state Fish and Game biologist Rick Sinnott also argued against allowing for a coastal trail connection, saying in written comments that a wide, paved multi-use trail would "destroy the natural

resources and habitats that the (estuary natural area) was intended to protect."

In the end, the Planning and Zoning Commission accepted the estuary plan as proposed, without any mention of a coastal trail.

Under the master plan, there also will be no playing fields, bicycles only during winter months, and maybe no dogs allowed either, Spoth-Torres said. The plan recommends no dogs, but enforcing that might require a city code change, Spoth-Torres said.

The city will build a lot with 10 parking spaces likely in June, said Shephard of the Great Land Trust. It will build less than a mile's worth of trails, probably in mid-summer, he said.

In September, when most of the migrating birds that shouldn't be disturbed are gone, workers will build the overlooks -- a main one on the bluff, and two smaller ones off spur trails, he said.

People will be able to walk down to the flats, but will be asked not to walk out onto the flats in summer, Shephard said.

In future winters, people will be able to ski on the flats, though. "Winter access is really beautiful," Shephard said.

The park isn't ready for individual visitors yet, he said. There are no signs to keep people on public property, and no place to park. "We'd rather people call me and get a tour," Shephard said.

Under an agreement with the city, Great Land Trust is providing the money to plan and build the trails, parking area and overlooks, and to monitor the park. It also has a special clean-up fund in case old cars get dumped there, homeless campers trash the area, or other maintenance problems occur, he said.

Great Land raised about \$7.5 million for purchase and development of the estuary from the money that builders pay in mitigation for disturbing wetlands, and from the Legislature, foundations and individual donors, Shephard said.

Reach Rosemary Shinohara at rshinohara@adn.com or 257-4340.

To read the Campbell Creek Estuary master plan, go to <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Documents/CCENA%20MASTER%20PLAN.pdf>

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SAND LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION 2011- 06
Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Infrastructure Funding

WHEREAS, The Sand Lake Community Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Administration and Departments of the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Parks in the Sand Lake area are important for our community; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, a local non-profit, has purchased a 60 acre parcel at the mouth of Campbell Creek which has been turned over to the Municipality as a Natural Resource Use Area, to be managed by the Parks Department; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust forged partnerships for the creation of the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NOAA Fisheries; the Army Corps of Engineers; AK Depts. of Natural Resources and Fish and Game; and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge to preserve sensitive wildlife and habitat for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek estuary is part of two recognized Important Bird Areas (IBA), which provide essential habitats for birds, the Anchorage Coastal IBA and the Campbell Creek IBA; the Anchorage Coastal IBA is of continental significance; and the Campbell Creek IBA is of statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, protection of sensitive Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area habitats and the wildlife that depends upon it are important so they will continue to exist for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, to prevent degradation of the resource and disturbance and harassment of migratory birds such as breeding and brood-rearing sandhill cranes (between April and September), it is critical to educate the public about pertinent regulations to protect sensitive habitats and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Access to Parks with sufficient parking, requisite educational and regulatory signage, trails and associated infrastructure greatly improves the asset to our community; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust is raising \$300,000 to do a Park Plan, design work and trail construction for the Campbell Creek Natural Area; and

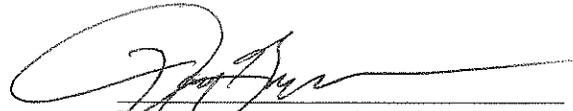
WHEREAS, The Anchorage Park Foundation is a non-profit which strives to build *Healthy Parks & Healthy People* by mobilizing public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, in partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation is seeking \$200,000 in funding from the AK Legislature to assist in the building of the parking for the Campbell Creek Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the trail construction will utilize the Youth Employment in Parks program, which provides jobs and leadership training to local youth in Anchorage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sand Lake Community Council supports The Anchorage Park Foundation and Great Land Trust in their efforts to secure funding from the AK Legislature and others for the construction of parking, collaborative work with agencies and non-governmental organizations, signage, and trails for the Campbell Creek Natural Area;

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Sand Lake Community Council this 14th day of November, 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Burgess', written over a horizontal line.

Dan Burgess, President
Sand Lake Community Council

BAYSHORE/KLATT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Infrastructure Funding

WHEREAS, The Bayshore/Klatt Community Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Administration and Departments of the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Parks in the Bayshore/Klatt area are important for our community; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, a local non-profit, has purchased a 60 acre parcel at the mouth of Campbell Creek which has been turned over to the Municipality as a Natural Resource Use Area, to be managed by the Parks Department; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust forged partnerships for the creation of the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NOAA Fisheries; the Army Corps of Engineers; AK Depts. of Natural Resources and Fish and Game; and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge to preserve sensitive wildlife and habitat for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek estuary is part of two recognized Important Bird Areas (IBA), which provide essential habitats for birds, the Anchorage Coastal IBA and the Campbell Creek IBA; the Anchorage Coastal IBA is of continental significance; and the Campbell Creek IBA is of statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, protection of sensitive Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area habitats and the wildlife that depends upon it are important so they will continue to exist for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, to prevent degradation of the resource and disturbance and harassment of migratory birds such as breeding and brood-rearing sandhill cranes (between April and October), it is critical to educate the public about pertinent regulations to protect sensitive habitats and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Access to Parks with sufficient parking, requisite educational and regulatory signage, trails and associated infrastructure greatly improves the asset to our community; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust is raising \$300,000 to do a Park Plan, design work and trail construction for the Campbell Creek Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, The Anchorage Park Foundation is a non-profit which strives to build *Healthy Parks & Healthy People* by mobilizing public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, in partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation is seeking \$200,000 in funding from the AK Legislature to assist in the building of the parking for the Campbell Creek Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the trail construction will utilize the Youth Employment in Parks program, which provides jobs and leadership training to local youth in Anchorage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayshore/Klatt Community Council supports The Anchorage Park Foundation and Great Land Trust in their efforts to secure funding from the AK Legislature and others for the construction of parking, collaborative work with agencies and non-governmental organizations, signage, and trails for the Campbell Creek Natural Area.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Bayshore/Klatt Community Council this 1st day of December, 2011.



Bob Hoffman, President
Bayshore/Klatt Community Council