

**SOUTH KENAI PENINSULA HOSPITAL SERVICE AREA BOARD
RESOLUTION 2024-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH KENAI PENINSULA HOSPITAL SERVICE
AREA BOARD RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT
FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN OF AN INCLUSIVE “DESTINATION QUALITY”
OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL TRAIL SERVING USERS OF ALL AGES AND
ABILITIES AND CONNECTING THE SILVERKING DAY USE AREA TO THE
SLIDEHOLE DAY USE AREA WITHIN THE ANCHOR RIVER STATE
RECREATION AREA**

WHEREAS the wellness benefits offered by outdoor recreation in nature have been well established, and documentation of these benefits and their significance continues to accumulate; and

WHEREAS the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area is authorized through KPB Ordinance 16.24.015 “[T]o provide for wellness programs and health education programs within the service area ... subject to such conditions as may be established by ordinance of the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and

WHEREAS developing outdoor recreational trails benefiting and accommodating the largest variety of users is consistent with promoting wellness throughout the Service Area; and

WHEREAS an opportunity exists to support an Alaska Clean Water Action (ACWA) grant from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that could contribute to wellness within the Service Area through collaborative planning and design of a trail serving all ages and abilities (wheelchair-friendly) within the Anchor River State Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS in accordance with ACWA goals, this trail would draw visitors away from walking along Anchor River riverbanks and trampling streambank vegetation, which both impairs salmon habitats and degrades water quality by increasing erosion; and

WHEREAS if awarded, this grant would accomplish essential first steps in ultimately establishing a destination-quality outdoor trail experience along the Anchor River that would promote wellness for both Service Area residents and visitors alike, while also contributing to the economic well being of nearby communities; and

WHEREAS a partnership of non profits and agencies is collaboratively developing a coordinated application for an ACWA grant to plan and design the inclusive outdoor trail outlined in this resolution; and

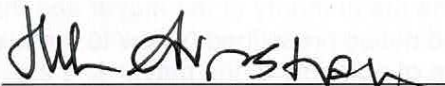
WHEREAS during this grant cycle, ACWA grants require no match from applicants, providing an unusual opportunity to fund the trail planning and design project outlined in this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE SOUTH KENAI PENINSULA HOSPITAL SERVICE AREA BOARD:

Respectfully requests that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly authorizes the Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough to sign a letter in support of an ACWA-grant-funded project to plan and design an inclusive “destination quality” outdoor recreational trail serving users of all ages and abilities and connecting the Silverking Day Use Area to the Slidehole Day Use Area within the Anchor River State Recreation Area as outlined in this resolution. This letter shall be sent as soon as possible to address grant requirements.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE SOUTH KENAI PENINSULA HOSPITAL SERVICE AREA BOARD AT ITS MEETING HELD ON THIS 10th DAY OF OCTOBER 2024.

ATTEST:

 Chair

Helen Armstrong, Chair
South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board

October 10, 2024