



Homer Trails Alliance

*To promote, maintain, and develop sustainable trails in the Homer area.
North shore of Kachemak Bay from Anchor Point to Fox River*

Connecting Community through Trails

Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access and Development Plan Attachment A

The goal of this project is to connect existing and new non-motorized transportation routes that enable pedestrians, bicyclists, and wheelchair users, of all ages and abilities to travel between trailheads and trail systems along the Sterling Highway within the state-owned Homer Demonstration Forest (HDF), the City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA), and the Alaska State Parks' Diamond Creek State Recreation Site (SRS).

The following access trailheads would all connect via pathways designed and constructed throughout the proposed project:

1. Beginning at south Intersection of Rogers Loop and MP 169.9 of the Sterling Highway: Resurface Rogers Loop and link sidewalks to existing trailhead. At trailhead, construct restrooms and an accessible parking area to provide access to the 360-acre Homer Demonstration Forest (HDF). These improvements would be located on City of Homer property on Rogers Loop. (Note: HDF is managed collaboratively by multiple entities under an Interagency Land Management Agreement, or ILMA, with the Alaska Division of Forestry).
2. At Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) trailhead at MP 168.9 of the Sterling Highway: Improve trailhead and parking area, including accessible parking and restrooms accessing the 270-acre City of Homer (COH) Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA). These improvements would be located on DOT&PF property. Existing and proposed trails from the DOT maintenance yard into the DCRA cross Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) property.
3. Green Timbers Trailhead on the east side of the Sterling Highway at MP 167.8: Construct trailhead and parking area, including accessible parking and restrooms on City of Homer DCRA.
4. At the existing trailhead of the Alaska State Parks Diamond Creek SRS Milepost 167 of the Sterling Highway; this trailhead is located on the west side of the Sterling Highway near the intersection of Diamond Ridge Road on the east.

The proposed project includes design and construction of a bicycle/pedestrian multi-use non-motorized separated pathway along the Sterling Highway connecting the improved trailhead within the DOT maintenance yard to the new trailhead across from Green Timbers Road. This separated pathway continues from the "Green Timbers trailhead" to the trailhead into the Diamond Creek SRS. This is not an amenity but a safety necessity.

Funds will also be allocated to improve existing boardwalks and trail surfaces on trails within the HDF known as the Nature Trail and the Homestead Trail; certain sections of these trails will become wheelchair accessible.

When completed the project will provide the community and its thousands of visitors with a non-motorized trail system that connects the central business district of Homer west to the Diamond Creek SRS. With the inclusion of the existing Homestead Trail, the entire system will also connect the Roger's Loop trailhead north through the HDF and DCRA to the city-owned reservoir on Crossman Ridge Road via a series of new and existing trails totaling over 8 miles.



Homer Trails Alliance

*To promote, maintain, and develop sustainable trails in the Homer area.
North shore of Kachemak Bay from Anchor Point to Fox River*

Connecting Community through Trails

Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access and Development Plan Attachment B

The City of Homer, (COH), and the Southern Kenai Peninsula's population have increased rapidly over the last five years. As a renowned tourist destination, recreational opportunities drive Homer's economic engine. The northern area of Kachemak Bay desperately needs expansion of safe, accessible transportation corridors and trails that connect the central business district and highly-used outlying recreational and neighborhood areas. The Homestead Trail alone, located in the Homer Demonstration Forest (HDF), recorded over 700 visitors *per week* during the summer of 2022! The Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access and Development Plan (the proposal) trails will pass through the Homer Demonstration Forest (HDF), Kenai Peninsula Borough lands, Department of Natural Resources, and private properties. In collaboration, we look forward to developing vital connectivity to expand opportunities for people of all physical and financial abilities. (See map, Attachment C)

The only accessible non-motorized pathway from the central business district to the outlying neighborhood and recreation areas currently ends with the sidewalk at the intersection of Sterling Highway and Rogers Loop. The Rogers Loop trail system includes the HDF, a 360-acre recreational area home to thirty-five kilometers of volunteer-maintained ski and hiking trails. Currently, Rogers Loop trailhead users have to park vehicles on the crowded, unpaved roadway creating unsafe conditions and snow removal conflicts. The proposal designates a safe and accessible link between the Roger's Loop intersection and the trailhead with a parking lot and restroom facilities.

Non-motorized pedestrian access will continue north to the Department of Transportation (DOT) trailhead, which is currently used primarily for winter recreational activities. The proposal outlines upgrading existing ski trails currently routed through swamp land to extend accessibility for summer travel. This accessible trail will connect the DOT trailhead to Green Timbers looping through forested areas. The top of the Green Timbers area has ideal terrain for additional parking lot and trailhead construction.

The proposal connectivity will continue up the Sterling Highway along the DOT right-of-way with a detached pathway from a new trailhead at Green Timbers on the east side of the Sterling Highway to the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA). The DCRA, a city managed conservation area houses developed and maintained hiking and biking trail systems. The proposal establishes accessible non-motorized transportation pathways from the City of Homer's central business district to the Rogers Loop trail system, the adjacent and

growing Green Timbers and Diamond Ridge neighborhoods, completing at the DCRA.

The proposal is essential to improve safe and accessible non-motorized transportation along the Sterling Highway and through sections of adjacent forest. As the sole roadway to the northern end of Kachemak Bay, the Sterling Highway is laden with commercial, vacation, regional, and local vehicles. The proposal solves the lack of non-motorized access to some of the most well used recreational areas of Kachemak Bay and the Cook Inlet. Pedestrians, bicyclists, hikers, and users of all abilities will finally have access to miles of wilderness and safe access for non-motorized transportation needs. The proposal is in complete alignment with an approved Diamond Creek Recreation Area Multi-Resource Management Plan prepared by Homer Soil and Water Conservation District for the City of Homer.



INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER
*"Promoting choice, independence and quality of life
 For persons and families living with disability"*



HOMER
 SELDOVIA
 PORT GRAHAM
 NANWALEK
 ANCHOR POINT

P.O. Box 2474
 265 E. Pioneer Ave, Homer AK 99603
 907-235-7911
 Fax: 907-235-6236
 www.peninsulailc.org

NINILCHIK

October 27, 2022

CLAM GULCH

Dear Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities:
 RE: The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant

KASILOF

SOLDOTNA

The Independent Living Center (ILC) wishes to express strong support for the **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** project proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA). The proposed project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along the Sterling Highway — as well as creating a recreational All Ages & Abilities Loop Trail — and will address some of the key transportation and recreation needs of individuals and families served by ILC. In particular, the project will improve connectivity, safety, and accessibility of multiple trail systems and travel routes on the west side of Homer and will provide recreational trail loops enabling wheelchair users to enjoy natural settings in both the Homer Demonstration Forest and the City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area.

KENAI

NIKISKI

STERLING

COOPER LANDING

MOOSE PASS

SEWARD

Since 1991, the ILC has provided a wide variety of services and resources on the Kenai Peninsula so that individuals who are aging or experiencing a disability can live with dignity and as much independence and self-reliance as they choose. ILC services promote choice, independence, and quality of life. Among the most important contributors to quality of life are:

HOPE

KODIAK

GLENALLEN

- access to appropriate means and routes of transportation and/or pathways to move around one's community and visit one's friends
 - recreational opportunities that promote physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing by providing accessible activities in beautiful settings, as well as the camaraderie of recreating with others.
- ILC works to improve and support recreational opportunities through our TRAILS program: Total Recreational And Independent Living Services. Likewise, ILC is a strong advocate for accessible transportation options that increase mobility opportunities throughout the community.

COPPER CENTER

VALDEZ

CORDOVA

Toll Free
 1-800-770-7911

The **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** project will open in new and profoundly meaningful ways a large area close to town so that it can be enjoyed by users of all ages and abilities.

Homer
 (907) 235-7911
 (907)235-6236 (FAX)

ILC strongly urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the project outlined here. Thanks in advance for your consideration and do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Central Peninsula
 (907) 262-6333
 (907) 260-4495 (FAX)

Seward
 (907) 224-8711
 (907) 224-7793 (FAX)

Sincerely,

Kodiak
 (907) 486-0493 IL&ADRC
 (907) 486-0491 DDRRC
 (907) 486-0409 (FAX)

Joyanna Geisler



TO: Homer Trails Alliance c/o Cameale Johnson, HTA Board, ak.fritterbug@gmail.com

RE: Letter of Support for **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development**

GRANT: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Dear Homer Trails Alliance,

The Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center would like to express its support for the **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** project proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA). Our organization represents over 530 businesses throughout the greater Homer region and our 4 visitor centers facilities interacts with thousands of visitors annually. Our goal of creating a diverse economy that showcases the abundant outdoor resources around Homer, aligns with HTA's efforts to promote, maintain, and develop sustainable Homer area trails while championing connectivity, safety, and accessibility for all ages and abilities. We understand that for this important project, HTA is partnering with several organizations, including Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Independent Living Center, and has received enthusiastic support from individuals and organizations in the Homer area. The Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center joins in that support.

The proposed project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along and just off the Sterling Highway from MP 167 to MP 170, providing improved and safe access to over 1000 acres used for travel and recreation on the west side of Homer. This acreage includes Alaska State Parks' Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area, and Alaska Division of Forestry's Homer Demonstration Forest. The project will connect trail systems within these three areas to one another and to an existing sidewalk leading into Homer along the Sterling Highway. Trails from these three areas radiate out to connect beaches along the shores of Cook Inlet to ridgetops over 1000 ft in elevation along Diamond Ridge and Skyline Drive.

With increasing numbers of locals and visitors traveling via foot, bicycles, horses, wheelchairs, and other means along the Sterling Highway and on adjoining trail systems, concerns about the safety and inclusive accessibility of these routes have steadily grown. The **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** TAP grant proposed by HTA and its partners will address many of the most crucial concerns now affecting non-motorized uses in the project area. Proposed improvements and increased accessibility will benefit the many hundreds of individuals now using the project area for travel and recreation, as well as the many peninsula businesses serving these users.

The Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the project outlined here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Anderson".

Brad Anderson

Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Soderholm".

Tom Soderholm

Board President



October 28, 2022

Homer Trails Alliance
c/o Cameale Johnson, HTA Board
ak.fritterbug@gmail.com

Dear Homer Trails Alliance:

Cook Inletkeeper is pleased to support the **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development Project** proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA) for a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities.

Cook Inletkeeper is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization with the mission to protect the Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains. Fostering local climate solutions is a pillar of our work. This year, Cook Inletkeeper is supporting Homer Drawdown: a community-driven effort to reduce local carbon emissions, in organizing solutions that make it easier for people to choose to walk or bike when they would normally drive.

This effort aligns well with HTA's mission to promote, maintain, and develop sustainable Homer area trails while championing connectivity, safety, and accessibility for all ages and abilities. We would like to add our support to the list of individuals and organizations in the Homer area enthusiastically supporting this project and are happy to learn of HTA's partnership with Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Independent Living Center for this project.

The proposed project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along and just off the Sterling Highway, providing improved and safe access to over 1000 acres used for travel and recreation on the west side of Homer. Importantly, the project will connect three existing trail systems to an existing sidewalk leading into Homer along the Sterling Highway. Trail connectivity and access are critical design considerations for building the infrastructure needed for a vibrant non-motorized community.

With increasing numbers of locals and visitors traveling via foot, bicycles, horses, wheelchairs, and other means along the Sterling Highway and on adjoining trail systems, concerns about the safety and inclusive accessibility of these routes have steadily grown. The **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** TAP grant proposed by HTA and its partners will address many of the most crucial concerns now affecting non-motorized uses in the project area.

Cook Inletkeeper strongly supports the AK Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities funding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Mauger".

Sue Mauger
Science & Executive Director



Homer Soil & Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

432 E Pioneer Ave, Ste D
Homer, AK 99603
(907) 235-8177
info@homerswcd.org

To: Homer Trails Alliance Board
From: Kyra Wagner, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District
Subject: Letter of Support for Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development
Date: October 23, 2022

Dear Homer Trails Alliance,

It is my pleasure to express the support of Homer Soil and Water Conservation District for the work outlined by the Homer Trails Alliance in the Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development proposal. This project would create a connected trail system in Homer with a focus of transport, recreation, and equal access.

Many of the area trails in the proposal are already popular, but the idea of having a unified plan to upgrade, connect and make some of these trails accessible to people with disabilities makes the whole project worth the vigor and enthusiasm I have already seen in Homer Trails Alliance. I have been impressed with the professionalism and thoroughness that has gone into this proposal from the beginning.

Therefore, Homer Soil and Water strongly encourages the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fully fund this proposal.

Best regards,

Kyra Wagner
District Manager
kyra@homerswcd.org

"To provide education and leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of soil- and water- related resources through cooperative programs that protect, restore and improve our environment."



Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks 95 Sterling Highway, Suite 2 Homer, AK 99603, a nonprofit 501c3 organization

10/25/22

RE: Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access and Development

Dear Homer Trails Alliance,

Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks fully supports the Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access and Development project proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA).

The Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park (Friends) is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 to promote the enhancement, preservation and protection of the natural recreational, scientific and historical resources of Kachemak Bay State Park.

This aligns with HTA's efforts to promote, maintain, and develop sustainable Homer area trails. We support the development of trails with accessibility for all ages and abilities.

Friends understands that HTA is partnering with a number of organizations including Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Independent Living Center. The Friends join with the enthusiastic support for this project.

This project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along and off the Sterling Highway from mile post 167 to mile post 170 providing improved access to 1000 acres of used for recreation on the west side of Homer. This includes Alaska State Park Diamond Creek State Recreation Site. This project will connect several trail systems, from Kachemak Bay beaches to Diamond Ridge and Skyline Drive. With increasing interest in recreational opportunities here in the Homer area by both locals and visitors this project will provide more choices for safe and accessible trails.

Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the project outlined here.

Kathy Sarns
Kathy Sarns
President
and the Board of Directors
Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
<https://www.kbayconservation.org/>
3734 Ben Walters Lane, Homer, AK 99603
Phone: (907) 235-8214

DATE: October 26, 2022
TO: Homer Trails Alliance c/o Cameale Johnson, HTA Board, ak.fritterbug@gmail.com
RE: Letter of Support for **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development**
GRANT: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

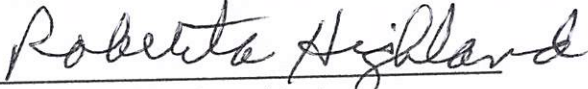
Dear Homer Trails Alliance,

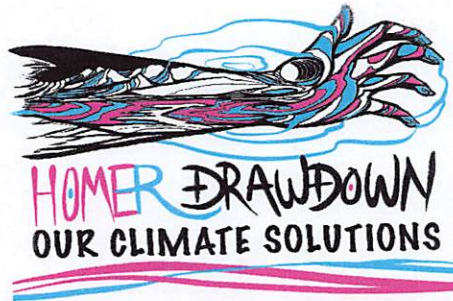
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) would like to express its support for the **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** project proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA). The mission of KBCS is to *protect the environment of the Kachemak Bay region and greater Alaska by encouraging sustainable use and stewardship of natural resources through advocacy, education, information, and collaboration*. This aligns with HTA's efforts to promote, maintain, and develop sustainable Homer area trails while championing connectivity, safety, and accessibility for all ages and abilities. We understand that for this important project, HTA is partnering with a number of organizations, including Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Independent Living Center, and has received enthusiastic support from individuals and organizations in the Homer area. KBCS joins in that support.

The proposed project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along and just off the Sterling Highway from MP 167 to MP 170, providing improved and safe access to over 1000 acres used for travel and recreation on the west side of Homer. This acreage includes Alaska State Parks' Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area, and Alaska Division of Forestry's Homer Demonstration Forest. The project will connect trail systems within these three areas to one another and to an existing sidewalk leading into Homer along the Sterling Highway. Trails from these three areas radiate out to connect beaches along the shores of Cook Inlet to ridgetops over 1000 ft in elevation along Diamond Ridge and Skyline Drive.

With increasing numbers of locals and visitors traveling via foot, bicycles, horses, wheelchairs, and other means along the Sterling Highway and on adjoining trail systems, concerns about the safety, sustainability, and inclusive accessibility of these routes have steadily grown. The **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** TAP grant proposed by HTA and its partners will address many of the most crucial concerns now affecting non-motorized uses in the project area. Proposed improvements and increased accessibility will benefit the many hundreds of individuals now using the project area for travel and recreation, as well as the many peninsula businesses serving these users.

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the project outlined here.


Roberta Highland, President



TO: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

RE: Letter of Support for **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development**

GRANT: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

10/25/2022

Dear Homer Trails Alliance,

Homer Drawdown would like to express its support for the **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** project proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA). Homer Drawdown is a de-centralized, community effort to mitigate the climate crisis at the local level. Our current project is to increase and improve non-motorized transportation. This aligns with HTA's efforts to promote, maintain, and develop sustainable Homer area trails while championing connectivity, safety, and accessibility for all ages and abilities. We understand that for this important project, HTA is partnering with a number of organizations, including Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Independent Living Center, and has received enthusiastic support from individuals and organizations in the Homer area. Homer Drawdown joins in that support.

The proposed project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along and just off the Sterling Highway from MP 167 to MP 170, providing improved and safe access to over 1000 acres used for travel and recreation on the west side of Homer. This acreage includes Alaska State Parks' Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area, and Alaska Division of Forestry's Homer Demonstration Forest. The project will connect trail systems within these three areas to one another and to an existing sidewalk leading into Homer along the Sterling Highway. Trails from these three areas radiate out to connect beaches along the shores of Cook Inlet to ridgetops over 1000 ft in elevation along Diamond Ridge and Skyline Drive.

With increasing numbers of locals and visitors traveling via foot, bicycles, horses, wheelchairs, and other means along the Sterling Highway and on adjoining trail systems, concerns about the safety and inclusive accessibility of these routes have steadily grown. The **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** TAP grant proposed by HTA and its partners will address many of the most crucial concerns now affecting non-motorized uses in the project area. Proposed improvements and increased accessibility will benefit the many hundreds of individuals now using the project area for travel and recreation, as well as the many peninsula businesses serving these users.

Homer Drawdown's steering committee voted to unanimously support this project and urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the project outlined here.

Dale Banks, Steering Committee member



October 26, 2022
4658 Tamara Street
Homer, AK . 99603
907.299.7746
homercyclingclub@gmail.com

TO: Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

RE: Letter of Support for **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development**

GRANT: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Dear Homer Trails Alliance,

Homer Cycling Club would like to express its support for the **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** project proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA). The mission of Homer Cycling Club is to promote bicycling as an environmentally friendly, healthy and enjoyable pursuit within the Homer area and beyond. This aligns with HTA's efforts to promote, maintain, and develop sustainable Homer area trails while championing connectivity, safety, and accessibility for all ages and abilities. We understand that for this important project, HTA is partnering with a number of organizations, including Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Independent Living Center, and has received enthusiastic support from individuals and organizations in the Homer area. Homer Cycling Club joins in that support.

The proposed project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along and just off the Sterling Highway from MP 167 to MP 170, providing improved and safe access to over 1000 acres used for travel and recreation on the west side of Homer. This acreage includes Alaska State Parks' Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area, and Alaska Division of Forestry's Homer Demonstration Forest. The project will connect trail systems within these three areas to one another and to an existing sidewalk leading into Homer along the Sterling Highway. Trails from these three areas radiate out to connect beaches along the shores of Cook Inlet to ridgetops over 1000 ft in elevation along Diamond Ridge and Skyline Drive.

With increasing numbers of locals and visitors traveling via foot, bicycles, horses, wheelchairs, and other means along the Sterling Highway and on adjoining trail systems, concerns about the safety and inclusive accessibility of these routes have steadily grown. The **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** TAP grant proposed by HTA and its partners will address many of the most crucial concerns now affecting non-motorized uses in the project area. Proposed improvements and increased accessibility will benefit the many hundreds of individuals now using the project area for travel and recreation, as well as the many peninsula businesses serving these users.

Homer Cycling Club urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the project outlined here.

Derek Reynolds 10/26/2022
Derek Reynolds, President



Kachemak Nordic Ski Club X Homer Alaska
PO Box 44 Homer, Alaska 99603

22 October 2022

TO: Homer Trails Alliance c/o Cameale Johnson, HTA Board, ak.fritterbug@gmail.com
RE: Letter of Support for **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development**
GRANT: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Dear Homer Trails Alliance,

Kachemak Nordic Ski Club would like to express its support for the **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** project proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA). The mission of Kachemak Nordic Ski Club is to promote Nordic skiing in the Kachemak Bay area. Toward this goal, KNSC maintains over 50 miles of trails in the area. This mission aligns with HTA's efforts to promote, maintain, and develop sustainable Homer area trails while championing connectivity, safety, and accessibility for all ages and abilities. We understand that for this important project, HTA is partnering with several organizations, including Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Independent Living Center, and has received enthusiastic support from individuals and organizations in the Homer area. Kachemak Nordic Ski Club (KNSC) joins that support.

The proposed project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along and just off the Sterling Highway from MP 167 to MP 170, providing improved and safe access to over 1000 acres used for travel and recreation on the west side of Homer. This acreage includes Alaska State Parks' Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area, and Alaska Division of Forestry's Homer Demonstration Forest, which also host numerous KNSC trails. The project will connect trail systems within these three areas to one another and to an existing sidewalk leading into Homer along the Sterling Highway. Trails from these three areas radiate out to connect beaches along the shores of Cook Inlet to ridgetops over 1000 ft in elevation along Diamond Ridge and Skyline Drive.

With increasing numbers of locals and visitors traveling via foot, bicycles, horses, wheelchairs, and other means along the Sterling Highway and on adjoining trail systems, concerns about the safety and inclusive accessibility of these routes have steadily grown. The **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** TAP grant proposed by HTA and its partners will address many of the most crucial concerns now affecting non-motorized uses in the project area. Proposed improvements and increased accessibility will benefit the many hundreds of individuals now using the project area for travel and recreation, as well as the many peninsula businesses serving these users.

Kachemak Nordic Ski Club urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the project outlined in this letter.

Michael Gracz, President KNSC



Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association
www.kbayequestrian.org/
P.O. Box 3120, Homer, AK 99603
Phone: (907) 235-8214

DATE: October 26, 2022
TO: Homer Trails Alliance c/o Cameale Johnson, HTA Board, ak.fritterbug@gmail.com
RE: Letter of Support for **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development**
GRANT: Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

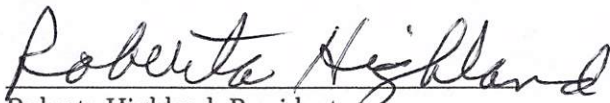
Dear Homer Trails Alliance,

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association (KBEA) would like to express its support for the **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** project proposed by Homer Trails Alliance (HTA). The mission of KBEA is to *nurture and educate equine enthusiasts, promote the conservation of green space, and encourage the development of non-motorized trails to enhance the community*. This aligns with HTA's efforts to promote, maintain, and develop sustainable multi-use trails on the southern Kenai Peninsula while championing connectivity, safety, and accessibility for all ages, abilities, and non-motorized trail users. We understand that for this important project, HTA is partnering with a number of organizations, including Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and the Independent Living Center, and has received enthusiastic support from individuals and organizations in the Homer area. KBEA joins in that support.

The proposed project will create a multi-user, non-motorized travel corridor along and just off the Sterling Highway from MP 167 to MP 170, providing improved and safe access to over 1000 acres used for travel and recreation on the west side of Homer. This acreage includes Alaska State Parks' Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, City of Homer's Diamond Creek Recreation Area, and Alaska Division of Forestry's Homer Demonstration Forest. Homer area equestrians use trails in this area, and some riders actually ride adjacent to Sterling Highway to access trails. The project will connect trail systems within these three areas to one another and to an existing sidewalk leading into Homer along the Sterling Highway. Trails from these three areas radiate out to connect beaches along the shores of Cook Inlet to ridgetops over 1000 ft in elevation along Diamond Ridge and Skyline Drive.

With increasing numbers of locals and visitors traveling via foot, bicycles, horses, wheelchairs, and other means along the Sterling Highway and on adjoining trail systems, concerns about the safety, sustainability, and inclusive multi-user accessibility of these routes have steadily grown. The **Diamond Creek Recreation Area Access & Development** TAP grant proposed by HTA and its partners will address many of the most crucial concerns now affecting non-motorized uses in the project area. Proposed improvements and increased accessibility will benefit the many hundreds of individuals now using the project area for travel and recreation, as well as the many peninsula businesses serving these users.

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association urges the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the project outlined here.


Roberta Highland, President