

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, I am writing to express my full support for the efforts of the Homer Cycling Club and the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park in their endeavor to establish hiking, biking, and equestrian trails in the Cottonwood-Eastland Unit of Kachemak Bay State Park.

Kachemak Bay State Park, Alaska's first state park, encompasses a vast area of 400,000 acres of mountains, forests, coastline, and glaciers. The Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit, covering 2,643 acres within the park, is located on the north side of Kachemak Bay, making it accessible from the road system. The management plan for this unit identifies a significant need for more intensive, multi-modal, trail-based recreation opportunities and the development of associated facilities to accommodate current and future recreational use.

Currently, there are no Alaska State Park approved trails in the Cottonwood Eastland Management Unit. During the public comment period held in July-August 2022, the community, including local neighborhood residents, overwhelmingly supported the creation of trails in this area, with no negative comments received. The Homer Cycling Club and the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park have proactively engaged and funded trail contractors to layout these trails, intending to construct them in the near future.

To support the construction of these trails, an RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant will be applied for, along with any other available grants. These grants require a letter of support or resolution from the local governing body, which, in this case, is the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Therefore, on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, I strongly support the efforts of the Homer Cycling Club and the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park to establish these trails. I support their application for an RTP grant and any other grants that may be available to build and maintain trails in the Cottonwood-Eastland Unit of Kachemak Bay State Park.

Sincerely,

Mayor Peter A. Micciche  
Kenai Peninsula Borough