

Kachemak Bay State Park Trails Working Group Discussion Topics 06/14/2023 Amended 06/28/2023

Next Meeting: 07/12/2023 at 5pm.

**Islands and Oceans Visitor Center, Seminar Room
95 Sterling Hwy. Homer, Alaska**

General

- These working group meetings are continuing over the summer to gain input from the public regarding trail topics that are of importance, which the Citizen Advisory Board can address come the fall.
- We need to focus on the core/high use trails for maintenance, and that other trails will be not maintained. We do not have the staffing and there is no adequate funding in the near future.
- A request help from Friends and the general public to help us with general maintenance of the core/high use trails across the bay.
- State Parks would like to focus on high use areas instead of creating use because of the lack of staffing. Example is Mile 17 East End Rd. vs Diamond Cr. SRA. Also, potentially partnering with HTA with the connector trail between Diamond Cr. And Baycrest. More bang for the buck.
- Updates on:
 - Saddle Trail RTP24: Working on ground truthing a proposed alignment that was mapped out in a GIS program. Slow going due to vegetation being green
 - CPL RTP 23: Still waiting to hear from the RTP Grant Administrator on approval.
 - Alpine Ridge: No new updates. Still planning on new alignment for the whole trail
- There are 5 pre-fabricated latrines that are ready to be placed where needed in Kachemak Bay State Park. Parks raised the concern of maintenance of them since we do not have the staffing to do so.
- Next meeting is scheduled for July 12th at 5pm I&O

Eveline:

- Status update on vaulted latrine for Eveline will be sought once the FY24 budget is signed.
- Kachemak Bay Nordic Ski Club Representative present and asked about:
 - Does Parks have bear proof garbage cans? No. Check with Fish and Game for recommendations
 - Would parks supply TP? Parks does not have the resources to supply toilet paper. Suggested asking the public to help out with supplying TP out there via donations to KBNSC
 - Would Parks be willing to supply dog poop bags? Same as above
- Enforcement presence: There is someone on FB, Homer Comm., that is threatening to dispatch loose dogs that get into a neighbors chickens. Parks can give volunteers training on how to approach and talk to the public regarding pets off leash.

Cottonwood Eastland

- Parks encourages the public to use the parking area along East End Rd. at mile 17.4 to access the park and discourages parking along Ratone and/or Elmers Way for park access.
- Suggestions for PUCs were:
 - Along the bluff near the existing swing

- Off Elmers Way near old Jone's saw mill.
- Parks requested GPS locations for Pub. Use Cabins
- Parks expressed that water source is important for PUC location. There are other forms of securing water for PUCs in areas without surface water. Rain catchment etc.
- Concerns of PUC maintenance and access for PUC maintenance. Vehicle/ATV? Along the existing trails of different access? Access from where along the boundary.
- Concern re PUC being vandalized
- Continuing conflict regarding public access to the park off Elmers Way. Expressed that Parks does not encourage the public to access the park via Elmers Way and that there is parking at mile 17.4 East End Rd.
- Resuming brushing of the social trails: Brushing any ~~existing~~ social trails *are not authorized*. or potential trail alignments are not allowed without prior approval from Park Management. We are in the process of working with Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park and Interior Trails in developing a sustainable trail alignment that will become the preferred future access to the lower bench area.
- ~~A concerned individual of a brusher being purchased for trails and not being used~~ *Concern of a brusher purchased being under utilized.*
- Individuals requesting permission of removing junk that is within the park near the end of Elmers Way.
- The removal of the sign erected along Elmers Way that directed the public to the park was felt like a slap in the face to the individual that erected it
- Parking area at Mile 17.4 East End RD. can handle up to 8 vehicles if the public parks to maximize the area.

Alpine Ridge:

- Concerns regarding a couple of steep fall line sections of trail and if short switchbacks could be put in or rope. Explained that parks can not put rope up due to liability issues, and can't stop the public from doing so. Explained that interest in quick fixes is not the direction that parks wants to go and that we are in the process of working with other organizations in regards to rerouting the trail in a sustainable manner, which will be multiple years to completion.

Diamond Creek:

- Yurt is close to being rented out. Latrine is the last needed structure. However, soils are very wet. Discussion on using a poly barrel that could be pumped instead of just digging a hole.
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