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## Cottonwood Eastland Public Comments With All Identifiers Removed

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I fully support developing this trail to hiking standards with accessible year-round parking.

I have walked the proposed route and found the terrain to be varied and the route to be interesting, taking me through a variety of plant communities and views.

I am opposed to any notion that developing a hiking trail would detract from the current neighborhood "peace" or "beauty," this area has been ravaged by illegal grazing and motorized vehicles in the state park. Further, the broader neighborhood norm has been trespassing and heavy traffic of loud motorized vehicles year-round.

Back to the specific proposed route, it is logical and does seem to choose the least active erosion areas etc. It appears this could be maintained by volunteers after initial construction.

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I am in full support of improving access into Cottonwood/Eastland and I support the proposed trail layout. The immediately bordering neighbors have used vandalism, theft and harassment as a means of excluding the public from the park while they illegally use motorized vehicles and graze livestock in the Park. These practices have led to introduction of many invasive weeds, erosion, degradation of riparian zones and disruption of habitat for wildlife.

The proposed trail will help make this area accessible to the public in a way that is safely removed from the violent harassment of a handful of immediate neighbors to the park, and as such, I support it in full. There is an existing network of well-established trails already in this unit, regardless of how Parks chooses to define those trails, they exist and should be available for public use, not maintained for the sole use of a handful of hostiles who exploit the Park for their own personal profit.

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I believe this state park is a valuable public resource that deserves equal access to the area. I hike this trail as well as the untrailed areas year-round.

I completely am in support of the new proposed trail. The section in Department of Natural Resources has been cleared of brush and downed trees which makes travel significantly smoother and markedly less dangerous. Hiking through the burned areas at present is a chore and a risk. The new proposed route is a solid choice for a route as it follows the viewshed of Kachemak Bay in a wonderful way and it remains out of view from the road and the one private residence that has visibility. The downhill section is currently steep and I do like the new flagged and mapped section keeping the trail to less than 15 degrees slope and adding switchbacks for ease of walking.

All in all, the preparatory work has been great and the actual trail maintenance in DNR is fantastic. My whole support is behind this trail endeavor.

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I am emailing you to let you know that I support the cottonwood Eastland trail. I walk and ski these trails at least once a week in the fall, winter, and spring. I would love it if they were more accessible in the summer. Thank you for all you do!

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I have hiked extensively in the area, I support a trail, and trailhead from East End road...

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I support it

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I have hiked on some of these trails—it's beautiful, and a wonderful piece of Kachemak Bay State Park that is accessible without a boat. I support the trails and creating a sustainable access point for the public. Let's make it happen!

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I agree with the proposed plan.

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I support all the public access, trail, and parking improvements in the Cottonwood - Eastland area of Kachemak State Park and DNR land.

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It would be great if you could keep the trail high enough that you don't have to slog through muddy sections. It's a great place for a hike though and would be nice being able to join off East End Road instead of parking by the side of the current street.

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I am writing in support of trails in Cottonwood Eastland section of Kachemak Bay State Park. I am an avid hiker and appreciate the effort to create trails on the north side of K bay. I have walked this area for years. The parking situation is poor and unclear. The trail is overgrown and needs work. Fortunately, many people are willing and eager to improve this. Last year's volunteers did some maintenance work. It cannot be overstated that there is local support for this. I applaud the work the hiking community in figuring out options for access. This is our public lands; access enhances our community.

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I totally support the State Park trail presented on this website: <https://www.friendsofkachemakbay.org/public-input>

Its about time we have more trails on Homer Side of the Bay!

Thank you for making this happen

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It's a no-brainer to seek whatever means of access is available for this State Park property, which landscape is ideal for supporting a network of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. I personally support this project and can add the greater support of the Homer Cycling Club, its tools, and its volunteers to help make this happen.

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I think trails are crucial for the health of our community. Trails are also enjoyed by those visiting our beautiful hamlet.

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I am writing to support the development of the proposed Cottonwood Eastland multi-use trail. Much of the Kachemak Bay State Park land which is on the north side of the Bay is inaccessible. This proposed trail is in an area which does not presently have much access except to local residents. With the exceptionally great snow we have been getting in the Homer area these past few years, I can see utilizing this trail year around, even with its lower elevation.

Please approve this new trail and give us one more area to explore in this marvelous land in which we live.

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We would absolutely LOVE to see an East End Rd access with a parking lot to these trails! We live nearby and it would be so great. This trail has so much potential! Please, let's make it happen!

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Your trail proposal is a good first step..... Good Luck – glad you are advocating for the C-E park

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I fully support the development of, and access to this trail.

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I am a strong supporter of this. Thank you for the opportunity to give a public response

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I am in support of the new trail development at Cottonwood Eastland. Thank you for your work to establish access to this public land.

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I support the Cottonwood Eastland trail proposal. As a long time Homer resident, I've always felt that we need more access to trails on the Homer side of the bay. Trails in the state park are excellent, but most of us can only get to them a couple of times per year at most. Trails in Homer get year-round use from a wider array of trail users.

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Hello, I'm in favor of the proposal to build trails in Cottonwood/Eastland. I'd like to see the new trailhead off of East End Road be developed. I'm available to help with trail work.

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I support the proposed location of the Cottonwood/Eastland trail. It avoids conflicts with neighboring landowners and provides access to great hiking.

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Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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Yes! I support development of Cottonwood Eastland trails!  
We need legal access and sustainable trails. This plan looks like a winner. Thank you.

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We have a jewel on our side of the bay that only a few can use. The Cottonwood Eastland State Park land has the potential to provide access to many outdoor activities without crossing the bay. We need to develop access from East End Road with safe and adequate parking.

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I believe it is critical for the public to have clear, functional, and enjoyable access to their public land. Cottonwood Eastland is one of the portions of Kachemak Bay State Park most accessible to the largest number of people, and it absolutely needs good trail access from the Homer road system. There is an active community of outdoorspeople and volunteers in Homer that could take the lead on building and maintaining the proposed trail. I encourage the park to move forward with a community-led trail project to provide access

to this critical area of the park.

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I wanted to express my support for building the trail as proposed in the Cottonwood Eastlands unit of Kachemak Bay State Park. There seems to be clear community interest in such a trail, and I think that it would provide long-lasting benefit by providing another opportunity for hikers to experience the wilderness of Kachemak Bay State Park.

I have visited the area of the proposed trail and I think that as proposed this would be a sustainable and appealing trail for hikers.

A few thoughts to consider:

When building the trail, I believe the best option to ensure long-term sustainability of the trail is to build a community group that is committed to its long-term maintenance. Even if the trail is constructed by professionals, engaging community members (either paid or volunteer) to have leadership roles in its construction will be the groundwork for those same people to take responsibility for its long-term maintenance. Ideally, there should be regular users of the trail that are genuinely embarrassed if something is going wrong and are ready to do the work to set it right.

Trail layout is a challenging process of balancing numerous variables and guessing at the unknowable future. Think in terms of options for reroutes even during the layout of the trail so that if some part proves problematic it's reasonable to reroute it. Also consider that coming decades may include unprecedented weather events - notably flash floods and mudslides associated with extreme rain. Designing the trail to minimize vulnerability to such events will facilitate recovery in the wake of a disaster.

It may help in the layout of this first trail to do some preliminary mapping of potential future trails. Depending on where they will be built, some details of this trail may be best tweaked to maximize the sustainability of intersections.

Thank you for your efforts to expand the trail system available to hikers in Kachemak Bay State Park!

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I support Cottonwood Eastland trail.

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I am writing in support of development of the Cottonwood Eastland trail in Kachemak Bay State Park. As a avid lover of the outdoors with a now toddler, it would be a great assets to the Kachemak Bay State Park to have an accessible trail that does not need boat or plane access. I want to get out to more of the trails than I currently am able because I only have 5-hour windows to do things with my toddler between naps and bedtime, not to mention all the snacks and meals. It's just not feasible to hike and it really hurts to not be able to end till the same love for the outdoors in my daughter because of inaccessibility. I also believe building the trail on this side will make it more easily maintained, again because more people will be able to volunteer, and costs and equipment are a bit easier in the more developed side of the bay.

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I am writing in support of the trail system in Cottonwood Eastland portion of Kachemak Bay State Park. There are very few available trails on the northside of Kachemak Bay. This trail was a lovely addition. I understand the concerns of the people living off Ratone with the increase of traffic on a road maintained by locals. It is too bad that was not able to be resolved. I totally support the relocation of the trailhead to mile 17 or 17.4 of East End Road. This seems to be a fabulous solution. It takes the traffic off of Ratone and Elmers and adds more distance to the trail. Thank you for coming up with a compromise.

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I support expansion of this trail into the Park boundary. I would love to have another trail to recreate. Winter trail use around McNeil and Eveline has gotten very crowded within the last few years and both are managed by the ski club and not very open to multi rec users, and with the uptick in popularity having dogs on trails has been seen with criticism. It would be nice to have a trail that is truly for non-motorized multi recreational users.

I would be happy to discuss ways to make this trail inviting to all. I have experience in making accessible trails and experience as a biker, skier, hiker, forager, and dog owner.

I support this plan.

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I strongly support the development of the Cottonwood Eastland trail. I regularly visit the park through the social trail developed off of Elmer's Way. This new trail would provide park access while avoiding parking problems on Elmer's Way. I favor providing access to the park now through this new trail rather than waiting years for other possible developments. The Cottonwood Eastland trail would be a wonderful addition to the Homer area, since much of the best hiking in the Homer area is located on the south side of Kachemak Bay and requires expensive boat transportation.

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I support putting the trailhead and parking along East End Road. It gives access to the park without interfering with residents along Elmer's Way. We need a way to use this wonderful park land on this side of the bay without paying for a water taxi to cross the bay.

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I definitely love a new trail. It's sad that trails are limited in the Homer area. Most people except tourist don't have time or money to cross the bay and hike. Hiking is a great for physical and mental health! It can also be a great healthy and affordable way to socialize. I am a mental health provider and know well that Alaska needs options for healthy activities! Thx!

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I'm writing to voice my support for a trail connecting East End Road to the Cottonwood/Eastland unit of Kachemak state park. I'm in favor of the proposed layout of the trail and feel we should proceed and make it an official right-of-way.

Also, I'm aware of the presence of illegal vehicle use and cattle grazing in the park, to the detriment of the land. I hope better attention will be paid to the management of these precious areas in the future.

Thank you for your time. Best wishes,

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I am writing in support of the trail system in the Cottonwood Eastland portion of Kachemak Bay State Park. There are very few available trails on the northside of Kachemak Bay and this trail would be a welcome addition for locals and travelers alike who lack the resources to access the across the bay state park trail system.

I am in support of relocating the trailhead to mile 17 or 17.4 of East End Road to address the concerns of the residents along Ratone and Elmers.

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I am writing in support of the proposed improvement/creation for the access of the cottonwood eastland state park area. This is a wonderful section of the park that I personally would like to visit but haven't been able to access readily because of an inability to securely and comfortably use the existing one.

I would look forward to, and offer to help, bringing this access to usability.

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This email is in very strong support of the revised Cottonwood Eastland section of trail that has been proposed within the State Park Park. This is public property and as such the public has a right to comment on where trails are located within the State Park. Herein I declare that Cottonwood Eastland needs a trail that gets people into the park from a location other than Elmers Way. Additionally, this proposed solution would connect to a parking area on East End Road making it much more accessible to hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians, all of which include me and many people with whom I recreate on a weekly basis.

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I support the proposed parking lot being moved to East End road and the trail reroute for the Cottonwood Eastland State Recreation area. There are few hiking trails on the Homer side of the bay, so creating an easy access to this area will increase the recreational opportunities. In addition, it moves the trail out of the Ratone/Elmer neighborhood where residents were unhappy with the parking and trailhead. Please approve and implement these proposed changes.

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I'm supportive of this route that lies wholly on public lands to access KBSP from designated parking along East End Road. However, its course through burned over areas and meadows means that it will need continual brushing or lots of hiker use to keep it open during the summer. Lots and lots of volunteer efforts to keep it from getting overgrown.

In fact, there is much easier access from the parking area via Ratone Rd and Elmer Way. I have heard of neighborhood concerns about auto traffic and parking on these roads that are (I understand) privately maintained. But those roads are public easements and pedestrian access to them should not be an issue. I resent hearing reports that local residents have taken down flagging for proposed trails and erected their own "No State Park Access" signs. The left hand side of those roads is indeed private land but the entire right side is public. And the public should have access to them from those roads, if only pedestrian access. Perhaps a public meeting to air out these issues should be on the table.

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I am writing to support the alternate route proposed to access the Cottonwood Eastland Trail system. There are so few hiking options on the North side of Kachemak Bay and the C/E Trail is such an incredible trail! So much work has been put into developing this trail system but to really promote the trail there needs to be good access and parking. This proposed new route/reroute allows access into the park from East End Road on public property and peace keeping mission with the private landowners in the neighborhood of Elmer's Way. Thank you for seriously considering this effort to make The Cottonwood Eastland Trail a boon to the hiking system on this side of the bay.

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Thanks very much for the opportunity to comment publicly on the proposed trail layout at Cottonwood Eastland from East End Road down to Green's access road.

I have walked and snowshoed most of the proposed layout and approve whole heartedly. It has minimal gully / stream crossings, makes good use of high points in the burned area and of open meadows through much of the existing wooded area. The trail layout shows in making good use of the terrain including the switchbacks down the one steep portion. From previous information I know the trail was laid out with

keeping the grade as much as possible to the 10% or less ideal with a few areas hitting the 15% grade for short distances.

This linear layout makes for numerous opportunities for loop trails to be developed to accommodate different user groups. There are many opportunities for scenic overlooks on the ridges and high points in the burned area as well as meandering wooded trails. By sticking to mostly high ground the layout avoids fragile soils, wet areas and keeps drainage crossings to a minimum.

I sincerely hope DNR, State Parks and others take a forward thinking approach and approve this concept / layout as soon as possible and then approve the beginning of actual construction.

Lastly, this layout provides great opportunities for those wanting access to this portion of KBSP while having little or no impact on the residents or users of Ratone Road or Elmers Way.

I hope it finds full support from all actual, potential users as well as the local neighborhood.

It has been 43 years, since 1979, that the recreational potential of this land has been recognized by the state, I.E. Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, "An Evaluation of the Recreation Potential of the land in the Cottonwood and Eastland Creeks Area, Kachemak Bay Alaska" `1979.

Personally, I think it is time to finish the marathon of study, discussions, delays and artificial roadblocks and line up for the Sprint-developing access off East End Road, providing the items suggested in the implementation portions of the 1995 KBSP Management Plan and the currently Adopted KBSP Management Plan.

We just need the starting gun to be fired by the Commissioner and others in the position of being the sprint officials.

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I support opening more access to Cottonwood Eastland trails. Many folks and families can't get across the bay and this trail is right on our road system! As we know- getting outdoors, fresh air and exercise not only improves our quality of life it saves the state \$ in health care costs and in fighting crime!

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I just send you my comments on the trail and I have one other tidbit that concerns me. I like to walk down to the bluff and sometimes I camp overnight down there. All the cow pies (poop piles) really have an effect on the smell of the place and the ability to relax without rolling over into cow poop. I do not believe cows should have such a place in State Park lands.

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Please DO make this access possible forever! We really need more trails with road access, for people to get out on that don't require a boat trip across! Thank you,

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I am writing in support of trails on the Homer side of the Bay, specifically the proposed new route that would relieve stress on neighborhoods near the Cottonwood/Eastland trails and create designated parking off East End Rd.

As I understand it, the new route would not impact private property and instead would go through the park itself. This is a good option as many people are not able to access the state park by boat; sustainable, thoughtful development (that doesn't have a negative impact on property owners) is a great investment.

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I support of the proposed trail access route from East End Road to the Cottonwood Eastland trail. Such an access route would provide a parking area and ease the burden on Elmers Way residents.

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Yes, I approve the Cottonwood Eastland trail route from Mi 17.4 East End Rd. This should take care of the Elmers Way neighborhood tensions.

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I fully support providing as much access and parking as possible to enable Park users to spend time in the Cottonwood Eastland area of Kachemak Bay State Park.

I personally like the idea of getting permission from KPB to allow the Elmers Way (currently undeveloped) Right of way off East End Road to be developed into a large parking area for Park users. The right of way could be developed sufficiently (all the way to the existing Elmers Way Road, where the park boundary begins). This currently undeveloped right of way, off East End Road, if developed as a large parking lot would allow a number of vehicles to park, turn around and safely enter and exit east End Road. It would also get users directly to the KBSP boundary without jeopardizing their safety which would occur if parking was provided across East End Road. It also could mitigate the Raton Road neighbor's anger with Park users who have parked on Raton Road in order to access the Park.

I also support any other solutions providing park access, parking and development of trails in this area.

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I am very much in support of improvements to the Cottonwood Eastland Trail. I hiked it last fall and it was a lovely trail, despite the unsafe access. We have a shortage of trails on this side of Kachemak Bay and I would love to see more options for those who do not have the money or the time to go across the bay for hiking. In addition, I believe more trails will spread out the load on all of them, resulting in a better experience for hikers and less damage to the environments. I am very supportive of changes in the route to make a safer trail that is accessible by more users.

I am happy to see the proposal of safe access from East End Road. The current access is not safe, nor supported by the neighbors, and must be changed for this to become a viable recreation spot.

Thank you for considering improvements to this trail to make for better access and use by the community and visitors.

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Please approve the Cottonwood Eastland Park on Homer side of the Bay. Going across the bay to enjoy the other trails is not always feasible due to weather, time, and cost. This opens up the Park to another place to hike and enjoy our area. This benefits the people that live here as well as our visitors.

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I highly support the newly proposed trail from East End Road to the Cottonwood Eastland trail which will allow people into the park from a different location than Elmers Way and would connect to a parking area on East End Road. We sorely need more trails in Homer for non-motorized recreation!

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I am writing to support development of both access to the Alaska State Parks Cottonwood Eastland unit and to support the new routing of the trail across the unit. Appropriate development to State Parks parcels on the



Homer side of Kachemak Bay are a wonderful addition to the relatively few hiking opportunities currently available on public lands in that area.

Accessing this unit from East End Rd both extends the trail but avoids use of the Elmer's Way access which is privately maintained and therefore not a reasonable route for development. Access across the DNR lands located north of the park boundary ensures routing well away from the privately maintained roads and entirely upon public lands.

I also support development of the more sustainable reroute going downslope from the Social Trail Junction to the Green's Road. I've been curious about this state parks parcel since I saw the sign just off of Elmer's Way 12 years ago. However, I was never certain how to access it and the subsequent ditching along Elmer's Way precluded any reasonable parking space. I look forward to being able to access this State Parks unit.

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As an avid hiker of this area I support a trail system for improved access to the Cottonwood Eastland portion of KBSP. The idea of access that does not affect the neighboring property owners is appealing to lessen potential conflicts. Improved parking for this trailhead would also be great. Thank you to all the volunteers who have put time into making this a reality.

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Yes, I'm in full support of having more trails on the Homer side of the park! Please consider doing more options so we don't always have to pay for a taxi to have more hiking options. Thank you!

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We are in favor of improved trail access in Kachemak bay State Park as proposed in the cottonwood Eastland information. Access via east end road is ideal!

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We support this proposal. Thank you for your time and attention

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I would like to see trails on the Homer Side of the Bay. I am in support of access from East End road to Kachemak State Park on the Homer Side. Our family does not have a boat to get across the Bay to Kachemak State Park. It is important for others like us to have easier access to our state park on this side of the bay.

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We support the Cottonwood Eastland trails with access from East End Road.  
We do not own a boat, and we enjoy hiking on trails. It will be wonderful to have more trails in the State Park on the Homer side of the Bay.  
Thank you.

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I am writing in support of creating access from (including parking) on East End Rd so Cottonwood Eastland trail in the Kachemak Bay State Park is reachable without without using Elmer's Way. Please increase accessibility by approving this need. It will be good to have an approved trailhead in Kachemak Bay State Park which doesn't require boat access.

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We have hiked the Cottonwood Eastland Trail on multiple occasions. It is a unique place with great potential for park access on this side of the bay. We strongly support developing access from East End Road through Kachemak Bay State Park as proposed.

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I enthusiastically support official public pedestrian trails in the Cottonwood Eastland portion of KBSP. I particularly support the concept of a trail from East End Road to the edge of the bluff in the Ratone Rd./Elmer Way vicinity. I walk this section of the park year-round and the public would benefit greatly from improved trails and improved trail; access in this section of the Park.

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It is so important that we, Homer residents, have access to hiking trails on the north side of the bay. Going across the bay to hike and enjoy nature is not an option for many. Cottonwood Eastland is a wonderful area to make readily accessible.

Please do what is necessary to develop access to this great area.

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I support the proposed Cottonwood Eastland trails in Kachemak Bay State Park, and I support access from a parking lot on East Road.

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I strongly support the addition of the cottonwood trails and any other trails that are in discussion for this side of the Bay. There are so many of us without boats who would absolutely appreciate more access to our incredible natural bounty. Actually, I've always remarked how the view from the Homer side of the Bay looking across the mountains is ironically more spectacular than the view from across the Bay looking back at Homer!

Thanks to all of you for all the work you're doing! Let me know how to help!

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I am definitely in favor of this trail being built for multiuse. Are you going to allow E bikes on the trail? And will the parking area be large enough to park a horse trailer?

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I'm in support of having a trail and access to more hiking on the Homer side of Bay. Many can't afford the water taxi to get to KBSPARK trails.

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I am writing to express my support for the proposed trail and parking lot in the Cottonwood/Eastland unit of Kachemak Bay State Park. I believe that developing a clearly established and accessible entry point will greatly increase park opportunities for those encumbered by the costs and time/scheduling commitments associated with reaching the rest of the state park by hired water taxi.

I have hiked the proposed area as well as other portions of the park and find those portions of the park to be a treasure. It is my hope that increased public presence will bring awareness to some concerning issues of exploitation and deforestation through illegal grazing. I've personally come across rotting livestock carcass and large areas of mud clearly pitted with signs of a small heard of livestock having been allowed to graze well within the park's boundaries.

Thank you for your time and efforts to provide better access to an incredibly underutilized and valuable asset

for the lower peninsula. I saw the plans for the trails being called Cottonwood Eastland. Please see they happen.

We desperately need trails in Homer. I live here and I bring tourists here for my work. We are often stuck with few hiking options on this side of the bay.

This is an access issue, especially for families that are lower income.

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I heartily endorse the extension of the Cottonwood Eastland trail to allow access from East End Road. The Homer area needs more trails on this side of the bay, and this is an example of an improvement that would provide better access.

Trails have an abundance of benefits, from opportunities for exercise to building appreciation of our natural world to economic benefits of tourism.

Please approve this extension.

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We are writing in support of the development of the Cottonwood Eastland Trails in Homer. The Trail would allow access to Kachemak Bay State Park to many residents and visitors that currently must cross Kachemak Bay to access the park. We support the plan to develop a public parking area near mile 17.4 on East End Road and then a routing of the trail across DNR land to meet the State Park trail.

This trail would provide a new and welcome trail to the Park. Many volunteers in Homer would work hard to make this happen. Please move forward on development of this trail.

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I support having more trails on north side of Kachemak Bay.

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I strongly urge the development of trails in the Cottonwood Eastland area of Homer. I think it is important that trails develop in this part of Homer---a special area that has views of the Kachemak Bay, glaciers, and a unique landscape.

I was raised in Anchorage, and participated in trail building there. I am concerned that if actions aren't taken soon to establish trails in Homer, it could be too late. We were fortunate in Anchorage that much of the trail building took place at a time before easements could not be established.

I've hiked on both the north and south shores of Kachemak Bay in State parks. The Cottonwood Eastland area is a State-owned recreation area that could offer a needed trail and trails.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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As part of the « boatless » crowd here in Homer, I'm thrilled to hear of a trail expansion on this side of the bay. I have spent countless hours on the beautiful Homer trails over almost 30 years but have seen some lost to (much needed) housing development. This is a nice opportunity to balance the development with more access to nature.

Thank you.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comments regarding the Cottonwood Eastland trail located in the State Park. I am in support of the proposed trail from Mile 17.4 East End Road pullout into the State Park as another option to the existing social trails in Cottonwood Eastland State Park land. I also support the creation of a parking area at the Mile 17.4 East End Road. This parking area would be able to accommodate more hikers. However, it's my understanding that these proposals are ones that cannot be immediately placed into effect.

There are other options that could also be considered and put into play more expediently. I have hiked the existing "social trails" on the Cottonwood Eastland Park Land several times. In the past there was a sign designating the entrance into the Park Land. The sign is now gone and accessing the State Park Land is kinda of a mystery if one has not used the trails in the past. So, presently the public, albeit has the right to access State Park Land, would be hard pressed to figure out the entrance.

I have become aware that the roads leading to the "entrance" of the lands are private. I fail to understand how the State could create designate State Lands as a Park when the lands are on a road system and not assume responsibility for the care and maintenance of the road. Another option would be for the State to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the road leading to access off of Elmer's Way. That is also an option that I see would take time. A more timely response would be for the State and Borough to expand the pullout of the west side of Ratone below Justin Way so that people could park and walk to the existing trailhead which needs to be reinstated.

This is a lovely piece of State Land that should be available now to all who want to hike it. We have very few trails on this side of the Bay and this is one that is on a road system and has the framework to be used by many now.

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I'm writing to send my support for the cottonwood eastland access trail.

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Please put me down as completely in favor of the trails at Cottonwood. We need more trails on this side of the bay, so more people have access without paying for an expensive water taxi.

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I am writing to support the proposal to construct new trails in the cottonwood eastland portion of Kachemak Bay State Park. This new trail will provide much-needed trail access to the Park on the North side of Kachemak Bay where no trails currently exist. I very much look forward to having a road-accessible trail to enjoy the beauty of the Park with my friends and family. Please consider this an endorsement of the proposed trail through the north portion of the Park. I support non-motorized (e-bikes included) uses on this trail. I can't wait to use it and I look forward to helping the Park maintain the trail, if needed.

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I support access to Cottonwood-Eastland KBSP from East End Road via Ratone Street by parking directly in the Park.

To access Cottonwood-Eastland KBSP we need parking now not 5, 10 or more years from now. I think we should park in the Park where Ratone Street ends at the Park and create parking there in Cottonwood-Eastland KBSP. There is plenty of room for parking and gives far better access to the main part of the Park compared to mile 17.2. A huge disadvantage with development at 17.2 is ownership. DNR controls it, parks would like to management it and has been trying since 2001 when Mako Haggerty applied for an ILMA and more recently FOKBSP applied for the same. Even if the ILMA was granted to Parks today there would be a huge delay because there is no money for a driveway and parking at mile 17.2. Not to mention the

development of the new trail and troublesome ravine that separates mile 17.2 from development to the east, the main part of the Park.

I don't get the point of creating a trail that is not accessible until some unknown time in the future when right now we have accessible trails that have been brushed and which have been used for many years. Cottonwood-Eastland is a huge asset to the community and its development should not be delayed. When the ILMA was originally applied for it incorporated all the property sandwiched between Elmers's Way, East End Road and Ratone Street. Since then the borough took control of 40 acres that parallels Ratone Street from East End Road to Elmers's Way leaving about 23 acres for the present ILMA. If this 40 acres can't be returned to the original parcel it should be made recreational and managed by Parks.

Ratone Street and Elmer's Way are public roads, they are the main public access to Cottonwood-Eastland KBSP. According to KPB records and Willy Dunn there are many roads in the borough that are public that are not borough maintained. Elmer's Way and Ratone Street are public roads. This is our Park. It is a valuable resource that needs to be developed. Living on the edge of the Park does not give you the right to keep others out. As said before, we need to establish parking in the Park where Ratone Street meets up with the Park. It is likely we could get a grant for parking as we have established trails there unlike mile 17.2. Remember we were denied a grant at mile 16.8 some time ago because there were no trails from the proposed parking area.

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