



FISH CREEK ESTUARY AREA PLAN

FINAL REPORT

2022

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fish Creek is within and near the lands of the Áak'w Kwáan and the T'aakú Kwáan people.
We thank them for their stewardship of the land.

The process of creating this new comprehensive Fish Creek Plan involved many stakeholders.

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SPECIAL THANKS

TO THE PASSIONATE NEARBY RESIDENTS AND FISH CREEK USERS WHO ATTENDED MANY PROJECT MEETINGS!

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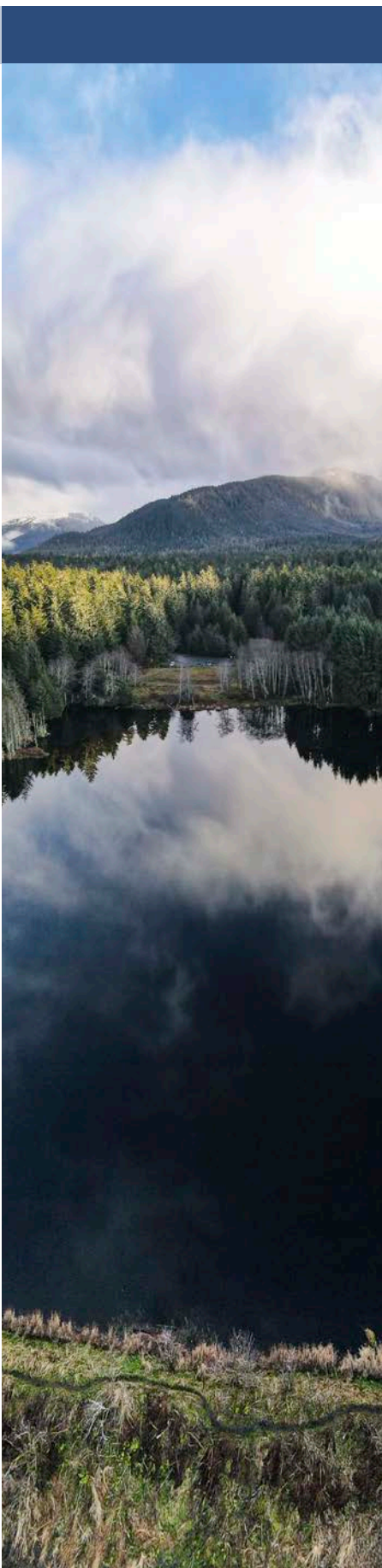
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“LIFE BEARS THE MEMORY OF ITS AQUATIC ORIGINS.
EVERY LIVING CREATURE, ANIMAL OR PLANT...
EVEN MAN... IS ABOVE ALL A FORM OF WATER.”

JEAN DORST, WATER, 1990



Northeast Pond looking towards the parking lot

This plan is the result of a partnership between CBJ Parks and Recreation and the Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition to identify opportunities for improving habitat and recreation infrastructure in the Fish Creek Estuary Area. The area is comprised of municipal and state lands at the junction of Fish Creek and tidelands at the northwest end of Douglas Island. The municipal land is managed by the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Parks and Recreation Department as a Natural Area Park (Fish Creek Park), while the state land is managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) as part of the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge. The area is bordered on two sides by private residential property and other CBJ lands.

For many years the Fish Creek Estuary Area was used by Áak'w Kwáan and T'aakú Kwáan people for fishing, gardening, and other activities. In the 1960s, gravel was mined from the area to construct North Douglas Highway. Mining operations eliminated 22 acres of estuary wetlands, which were replaced with two freshwater ponds surrounded by dikes. Today, the area is a popular recreation site used for numerous outdoor activities. Hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, dog walking, fishing, and harvesting of berries, mushrooms and plants are frequent activities in the area. The southwest pond is a terminal fishing area for King Salmon in June and July. As one of the few areas where King Salmon can be caught from the shore in Juneau, it gets heavy use during these months.

In 2021 MRV Architects (MRV) was contracted to facilitate public engagement in the Fish Creek Estuary planning process. The process involved conducting site visits, virtual meetings, and a survey to develop a common understanding among the public, other stakeholders, and land managers of existing conditions, uses, and concerns about the area. Concepts for improving habitat and recreation infrastructure were developed, discussed, and modified based on input. This planning document describes existing conditions at the site, concepts for improving the area, and a final plan for improving the Fish Creek Estuary Area.

This plan recommends a light-handed approach to both recreational amenities and habitat restoration, as outlined in the site plan at the end of this document. Suggestions include a new vault toilet, a paved parking area, trail improvements, and fish habitat improvements in Fish Creek. In addition to these upgrades, two large-scale habitat improvement concepts were developed to improve the Northeast Pond, a freshwater gravel pit surrounded by a dike on the north side of the area. During the planning process, it was decided that modifying the dike and pond is not desirable at this time. However, it is important for landowners and community members to understand that Fish Creek Estuary is a dynamic ecosystem that is changing over time. This change is evident today as ongoing erosion of the dikes occurs. Land managers may choose to revisit these habitat concepts if continued erosion threatens to breach the dike that contains the Northeast Pond.



Fish Creek Park welcome sign

Short History of the Site

The Fish Creek Estuary Area was once an intact and dynamic wetland complex intersected by stream and tidal channels. The dynamic nature of delta-estuary areas like Fish Creek makes them one of the most productive habitats in the world. In Southeast Alaska places like the Fish Creek Estuary are rare.

Formed at the junction of a freshwater stream delta and a marine tideland, the area consisted of mudflats, fresh and saltwater marshlands, meadows, stream and tidal channels, and the surrounding old-growth forest. These habitats collectively provided a diverse and productive place for fish, wildlife, and other species to feed, nest, rear, and rest. As the terminus of Fish Creek branched and migrated across its delta, sediment was deposited in some areas and eroded in others. In this way the character of the estuary was constantly changing as the stream created, erased, and recreated various habitats.

Áak'w Kwáan and T'aakú Kwáan people, the original inhabitants of the Juneau area, used the Fish Creek estuary for fishing, gardening, and other activities. In the 1960s gravel mining activities eliminated portions of the delta and estuary and altered the natural course of Fish Creek. Dikes were constructed to isolate the stream from gravel extraction areas, confining the flow to a single channel detached from its delta. Gravel mining behind the dikes replaced tidal wetlands and delta channels with two freshwater ponds. While many of the area's original wetlands remain intact today, 22 acres of estuary and meadow were lost to the mining.



The Fish Creek Estuary Area in 1926 (left) and 2009 (right).

Today the Fish Creek Estuary Area is a popular recreation site. The gravel ponds and remaining estuary are used for duck hunting, fishing, picnicking, walking, birding, and other outdoor activities. Existing infrastructure consists of a parking lot, a footbridge, interpretive signage, a trash can, trails, and a seasonal portable restroom. ADFG manages a recreational fishery at the site for King Salmon, which are reared and released in the Southwest Pond as part of the Division of Sport Fish Statewide Stocking Program.

A Plan for Fish Creek Estuary

For more than 100 years, wetlands were filled to create developable land in Juneau. In this way, more than 1,500 acres of the and other functions they provide. About three years ago SAWC saw an opportunity to restore wetlands lost to gravel mining at the Fish Creek estuary. This plan is the culmination of three years of effort by SAWC, CBJ, and ADFG to identify opportunities to restore and enhance habitat as well as to improve and expand recreation infrastructure at the site.

Habitat Improvement

Existing Conditions

Gravel mining had a profound impact on the Fish Creek Estuary Area. Estuary wetlands, the Fish Creek delta, and meadows areas have been converted to freshwater ponds. Fish Creek, confined by dikes, is prevented from branching naturally across a delta.

Ponds

The two ponds created during gravel mining are referred to as the Northeast Pond and the Southwest Pond. Both ponds were isolated from the estuary and Fish Creek by dikes for many years. The Southwest Pond is now connected to the estuary and Fish Creek after a dike breach in 1984. It serves as the site for a terminal King Salmon fishery. No habitat improvement projects are being proposed for the Southwest Pond at this time.

The Northeast Pond remains a freshwater pond and is used by fish, waterfowl and other birds, beavers, toads, and little brown bats, and other organisms. A social trail has been established on the dike that surrounds two sides of the pond. As a former gravel extraction site, most of the pond margin is deep and the bottom is dominated by cobble and gravel. These conditions prevent the establishment of aquatic plants, which provide food and habitat for aquatic insects, fish, birds, bats, and toads. A 30-foot section of dike next to Fish Creek is experiencing serious erosion and will likely breach without intervention. An existing swale between Fish Creek and the pond conveys stream water into the pond during floods.

Fish Creek

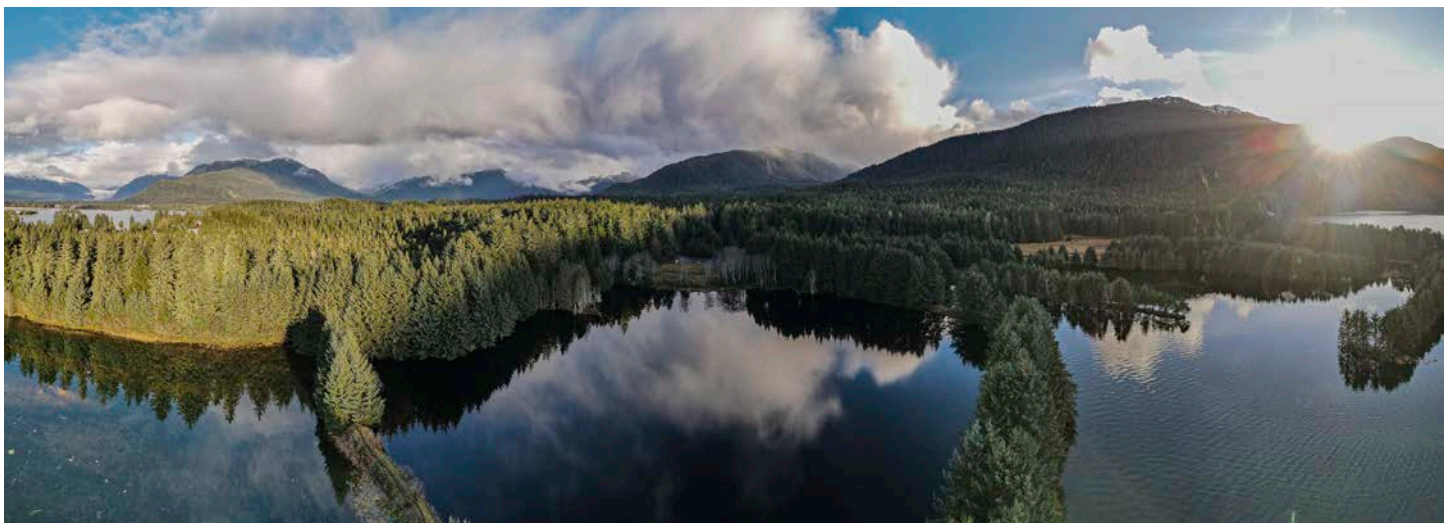
Prior to gravel mining, lower Fish Creek fanned out over its delta in multiple branching channels. To isolate the stream from mining areas, dikes were constructed that confine the flow to a single channel.

Today, lower Fish Creek lacks the level of habitat complexity seen in similar natural channels. Greater habitat complexity contributes to better salmon habitat. Some of the most important attributes of good salmon habitat include the number, size, and depth of pools in a stream reach, as well as the amount of large woody debris (i.e., whole trees with root wads attached).

Streams with more large woody debris provide better habitat for salmon. While spruce trees are common on the banks of lower Fish Creek, very few have fallen into the channel. Consequently, pools are uncommon and shallow. As the trees next to the channel get older and taller, they are more likely to fall into the channel and create better fish habitat, but this could take well over 100 years.



A section of dike between Fish Creek (right) and the Northeast Pond (left) that is experiencing severe erosion.



Habitat Improvement Concepts

With information obtained from on-the-ground assessments, discussions with ADFG staff, and existing reports, SAWC developed concepts to restore lost wetland habitat and enhance existing pond and stream habitat at the site.

A. Estuary Restoration and Northeast Pond Enhancement

This concept restores lost estuary using a portion of the pond and enhances habitat in the remaining portion. New estuary is created by removing a portion of the dike, filling and grading the former pond, and planting marsh grasses. Tides will access the new estuary area. A new dike (topped with a trail) is constructed to retain the remaining portion of the pond. Fill is placed along the deep edges of the pond to create shallow margins, which are planted with a variety of native aquatic plants. A spur trail constructed on the south side of the former pond leads to views of the estuary, pond, and Fish Creek.

B. Northeast Pond Enhancement

This concept enhances the Northeast Pond in its existing form; no estuary is restored. Fill is placed along the deep edges of the pond to create shallow margins. The new margins are covered with organic soil and planted with a variety of native aquatic plants.



A gravel mining pond on Duck Creek before (left) and after (right) enhancement in Juneau.

C. Fish Creek Habitat Enhancement

This concept enhances fish habitat in the lower dike-confined reaches of Fish Creek. Excavators place large trees with intact root wads in the channel, either as single trees or as multi-tree structures. The location and number of placed trees will be determined by an engineer. One or more of these structures will be designed to raise the streambed elevation near a dry swale connecting the pond with Fish Creek. The higher bed elevation will increase the frequency of stream flows into the pond during high water, increasing fish access to the pond and improving pond water quality. To further enhance habitat in Fish Creek, a small side channel is excavated on a small floodplain between the stream and the Northeast Pond. The side channel would provide rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and other fishes.



An example of a multi-tree structure assembled in a stream to improve salmon habitat in Margaret Creek on Revillagigedo Island near Ketchikan.

The planning process consisted of four major components:

1. Gathering existing information
2. Identifying opportunities and needs
3. Developing concepts
4. Public outreach and input
5. Plan development

The Fish Creek Estuary Area planning process began by gathering existing information about the area. Information was obtained from natural history and other reports about the area and from individuals with knowledge about the site. Several field trips involving SAWC staff and others were also conducted to assess the condition of fish and wildlife habitat. Members of the public, land managers, and other stakeholders participated in two site tours to develop a common understanding of the the area and to exchange information.



Residents and other stakeholders learn about the ecology of the Northeast Pond during a walkthrough in August 2021

These sources of information were then used to identify opportunities to restore or enhance habitat and improve or create new recreation infrastructure. These opportunities and needs were used to develop concepts for improving the area, and these concepts were depicted graphically to help the public and other stakeholders visualize proposed improvements. Following public review and input on the concepts, a final site plan was created (see below).

Public involvement at-a-glance:

- 60 -70 public participants from three public meetings.
- 412 online comment surveys, and emailed comments.
- 15 in-person interviews with recreation area visitors, mostly during the King Salmon fishing season.

Public Engagement and Input Timeline:

May 21, 2021 Project Start Up Meeting	The first meeting between SAWC, MRV and CBJ Parks and Recreation to establish goals and expectations for the project.
July 1, 2021 - August 2, 2021 Public Survey For Recreation Area Planning	A user survey was conducted during the King Salmon fishing season to learn how people use the area and what concerns and what information and ideas they had about the area. See Appendix Section 6 for survey final results.
August 25 - 26, 2021 Community Walkthroughs	Two community walkthroughs were held during the summer of 2021 to develop a common understanding of existing habitat and recreation conditions, propose improvement concepts, and to address questions, comments and concerns. See Appendix Section 7 for takeaways.
September 24, 2021	Members of the local Tlingit community and Tlingit culture experts participated in a video conference to discuss concepts for improving the area and to share information about historical use of the site by Native Alaskans. See Appendix Section 8 for takeaways.
October 8, 2021 Alaska Native Linguist Meeting	A follow up meeting was held with the Alaska Native Community and linguistic professionals from Sealaska Heritage Institute to learn about the traditional names of spaces around town. The research into the history of the name Fish Creek was addressed. See Appendix Section 9 and 10 for takeaways.
December 3, 2021 ADFG Sports Fishing Department Meeting	As the one of the major landowners and stewards of the area Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game joined the project team to talk about how they use the area and concerns they had about proposed improvements.

Graphic Plans Development

The habitat and recreation improvement concepts were transformed into two draft plans to visually depict the proposed improvements on the landscape (see appendix item 11). The habitat improvement plans depicted modifications to the Northeast Pond that would either improve the pond in its current state or transform a portion of the pond into an estuary. These plans also showed where large woody debris structures could be placed in Lower Fish Creek to improve fish habitat. The plans also showcase a suite of recreational enhancements to make the area more ADA accessible and better positioned to handle larger numbers of anglers.

Public Reaction

The draft plans were then presented to the community for review and comment during a video conference public meeting held in December 2021. Following this meeting public comment was accepted on the proposed concept plans (see appendix item 12). Respondents were passionate about Fish Creek, with a wide range of opinions on suggested recreational and habitat improvements.

Ponds & Dike System

The dike system at Fish Creek was created to allow for gravel extraction to build Douglas Highway in the 1960s and 70s and has a significant impact on the natural habitat and ecological processes in the area. With the creation of freshwater habitat, the Northeast Pond hosts populations of bats and toads and the Southwest Pond supports a hatchery-release terminal King Salmon fishery. It is important to note that Fish Creek is eroding the dikes in several locations. A portion of the Southwest Pond dike has been breached and continued erosion is widening the breach. A portion of the Northeast Pond dike is at risk of breaching.

Northeast Pond

RECOMMENDATION: Leave most of the dikes in place and consider using large woody debris to protect and prolong the integrity of the eroding portion of the Northeast Pond dike. The northeast portion of the Southwest Pond dike should be flattened, and a portion removed to increase the width of the breach. Evaluate opportunities to enhance the freshwater connection between Fish Creek and the Northeast Pond.

This approach preserves the existing freshwater habitat in the Northeast Pond for the near future. This option has the benefit of maintaining existing conditions for an ongoing Brown Bat study. This option is also the least invasive option. Flattening a portion of the Southwest Pond dike will provide a casting area and increasing the gap in the dike will make it easier to move net pens in and out of the pond. Managers should consider using spoils from the dike to create a more diverse bathymetry in the or Southwest Pond. Fish Creek is dynamic and natural changes will occur over time. Managers are encouraged to revisit recommendations and the options considered in this process as these changes occur. Future management considerations may include:

Erosion of the dike. Prior to gravel extraction, the Fish Creek estuary was a dynamic delta, constantly changing as the stream migrated back and forth. The same natural forces that caused Fish Creek to migrate are still at play and causing the dikes to erode in several places. The dikes at Fish Creek are manmade features that have failed or are actively failing, and it is likely that without intervention the Northeast Pond dike will breach in the near future. A breach will transform the freshwater pond into a tidally influenced wetland. While interventions have been suggested to prolong the life of the dike, it is unlikely that these changes will eliminate the risk of erosion or dike failure. For example, a large flood event could drastically change the course of Fish Creek and breach the dike isolating the Northeast Pond, like the breach that occurred on the Southwest Pond dike during a storm in 1984. If the Northeast Pond dike fails, it may be prudent to reconsider estuary restoration options for the site.

Water Quality in the Northeast Pond. ADFG biologists have noted that the Northeast Pond is becoming eutrophic (becoming more nutrient rich) over time. This pond has no permanent inflow or outlet. Water sources are largely groundwater, runoff, and a side channel to Fish Creek that activates only during flood events. With no outlet, water appears to exit the pond by slowly seeping through the dike, suggesting a long residence time in the pond. Placement of large woody debris in Fish Creek could raise the stream elevation and activate the side channel more frequently, but this alone is unlikely to completely abate the natural eutrophication of the pond. While changes in water quality could be negative for bat use and for overwintering juvenile coho salmon, the changes are natural and will benefit many wetland species. If bat use at the site is affected by water quality or other factors, manager may want to consider creating shallow vegetated margins around the pond to increase aquatic habitat diversity and productivity.

Southwest Pond

DIPAC and ADF&G staff have noted low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in the Southwest Pond. Hatchery king salmon smolts are sometimes released from net pens early because of low DO. Options for increasing DO were considered during the planning process, but interventions were considered too intrusive. Natural eutrophication of the site is not surprising, particularly because of the large number of salmon carcasses that likely sink to the bottom of the pond. These recommendations will increase knowledge for futures action, if necessary.

RECOMMENDATION: Anchor net pens closer to the existing breach in the Southwest Pond where dissolved oxygen (DO) levels are likely higher. Create a detailed bathymetry map of the Southwest Pond. Continue monitoring DO levels. Conduct an educational campaign encouraging anglers to clean fish in the stream or at the North Douglas boat launch.

Fish Creek & Fish Habitat

The lower diked reaches of Fish Creek contains poor fish habitat due to the lack of large woody debris. Similar natural channels exhibit greater habitat complexity created by fallen trees, which create pools and provide cover for fish. Greater habitat complexity contributes to better salmon habitat.

RECOMMENDATION: Enhance fish habitat in the lower dike-confined reaches of Fish Creek through the addition of large woody debris to the channel. Create a side channel in this area to provide habitat for juvenile fish. To improve access between the Northeast Pond and Fish Creek for fish, evaluate options for enhancing the existing high-water connection.

Forest Health and Invasive Species

After gravel mining ceased, Sitka Spruce trees colonized several sites in the recreation area. The young growth stands of these densely crowded trees prevent most sunlight from reaching the forest floor, which is nearly devoid of shrubs and other plants that provide browse for wildlife. Further, invasive species, such as reed canary grass, has invaded wetland areas and is displacing native plants.

RECOMMENDATION: Selectively remove trees in dense stands of young-growth forest to enhance tree growth and allow an understory community of native plants to develop. Manage reed canarygrass infestations to restore the displaced native plant community.



This dense stand of spruce next to the Northeast Pond could be thinned to enhance the understory plant community.

Recreation

Fish Creek Park is loved by neighbors and community members throughout Juneau. The existing trail system works well for users to access various destinations and experiences, however improvements should be made to allow for better accessibility and to reduce impacts to habitat. The trail system can be uneven, bumpy and unsafe for mobility impaired individuals seeking the outdoors. Fish Creek Park also offers an opportunity for a fishery that is ADA accessible and requires only minimal improvements to realize this goal. In places, the trail impedes on sensitive habitat, such as the wetland fringes of the NE pond that support toads.

RECOMMENDATION: Add accessible paths throughout the park with moderate grades, appropriate side slope for drainage, and non slip tread material.

RECOMMENDATION: Stabilize areas along the shoreline of the SW fishing pond for accessible fishing areas, this could be in the form of boardwalk or small fill platforms.

RECOMMENDATION: Relocate areas of trail that impact sensitive habitat, such as the section of trail along the NW pond wetland fringe.

The most intense use of the park occurs during the King Salmon fishery in Juneau and July. DIPAC operates a fish pen in the SW pond and the fish return creating a terminal fishery in the summer. Fish Creek is one of the few areas in Juneau where King Salmon can be caught from shore and therefore experiences heavy traffic from anglers. The SW pond shoreline is also one of the few places in Juneau where snagging is allowed. The snagging method of fishing involves swinging large weights and hooks and can create user conflicts with other park users.

The heavy use of the park during the King Salmon fishery and fish waste and litter becomes a problem. Fish carcasses are discarded on the shoreline and land and attract wildlife. The issue is difficult to manage as throwing the carcasses into the water will lower dissolved oxygen (DO) thereby harming aquatic life. The maintenance that would be required to keep the area clean by state or city staff exceeds their capacity.

RECOMMENDATION: Educate anglers and post signage in the area to reduce fish waste left at the site. Anglers should pack out all of their waste.

Fish Creek is used to educate youth on environmental studies as well as serves as a study site for many fauna and flora research being observed. The area also see many artists recording the landscape and many walkers stretching their legs. Beyond the single picnic table near the parking lot there are no established places to sit down and soak in the views.

RECOMMENDATION: Create a series of simple stopping points (three to four) for users to be able to sit down. One of the stopping points, preferably the one near the parking lot should host a covered picnic shelter for refuge from the weather. These stopping point should be situated in a manner that highlights the history or existing uses of the area such as the following spaces:

- Hut Point Viewing
- SW Pond
- NE pond field in front of Parking lot
- Trail split at NE pond northern dike

Interpretive signage is something already present in the Fish Creek Estuary Recreation area, but throughout this project it was determined it could benefit from some improvement. The existing signage material is mostly focused on ecology and tells the tale was used by the Áak'w Kwáan for fishing and housing. First for slaves then later for bachelors who set up smoke houses along the banks of Hut Point. In addition, there use to be homes, farms and a school for early European settlers during the early 1900s.

RECOMMENDATION: Update existing interpretive signage to include more of the cultural history of the area. This includes but is not limited to acknowledging the traditional inhabitants, their uses, European settler roots and uses prior to the area's current layout.



A trash can near the Southwest Pond during an extreme high tide

portable sanitary unit (toilet) stationed at the gravel driveway of the SW pond for anglers. During high-tide and storm events it is flooded making it unusable. The main driveway entrance into the parking lot is also in need of repair; each year, potholes develop and there is no established stormwater treatment. During fishing season the parking lot is full resulting in unsafe parking along Douglas Highway.

RECOMMENDATION: Install a permanent vault toilet next to the parking lot. Pave the main entrance roadway. Expand parking if possible and install stormwater treatment best management practices.

Additional Considerations

There is a rich history of land use at Fish Creek and the name of the area presents an opportunity to convey this history of the land and acknowledge the traditional cultural uses of the land. The Áak’w Kwáan traditionally inhabited and stewarded the land and Sealaska Heritage Institute has begun researching the etymology of Fish Creek. See appendix item 10.

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct further research into the traditional name of Fish Creek and explore possibilities for renaming the space to reflect the Alaska Native culture for the past, present and future on the site.

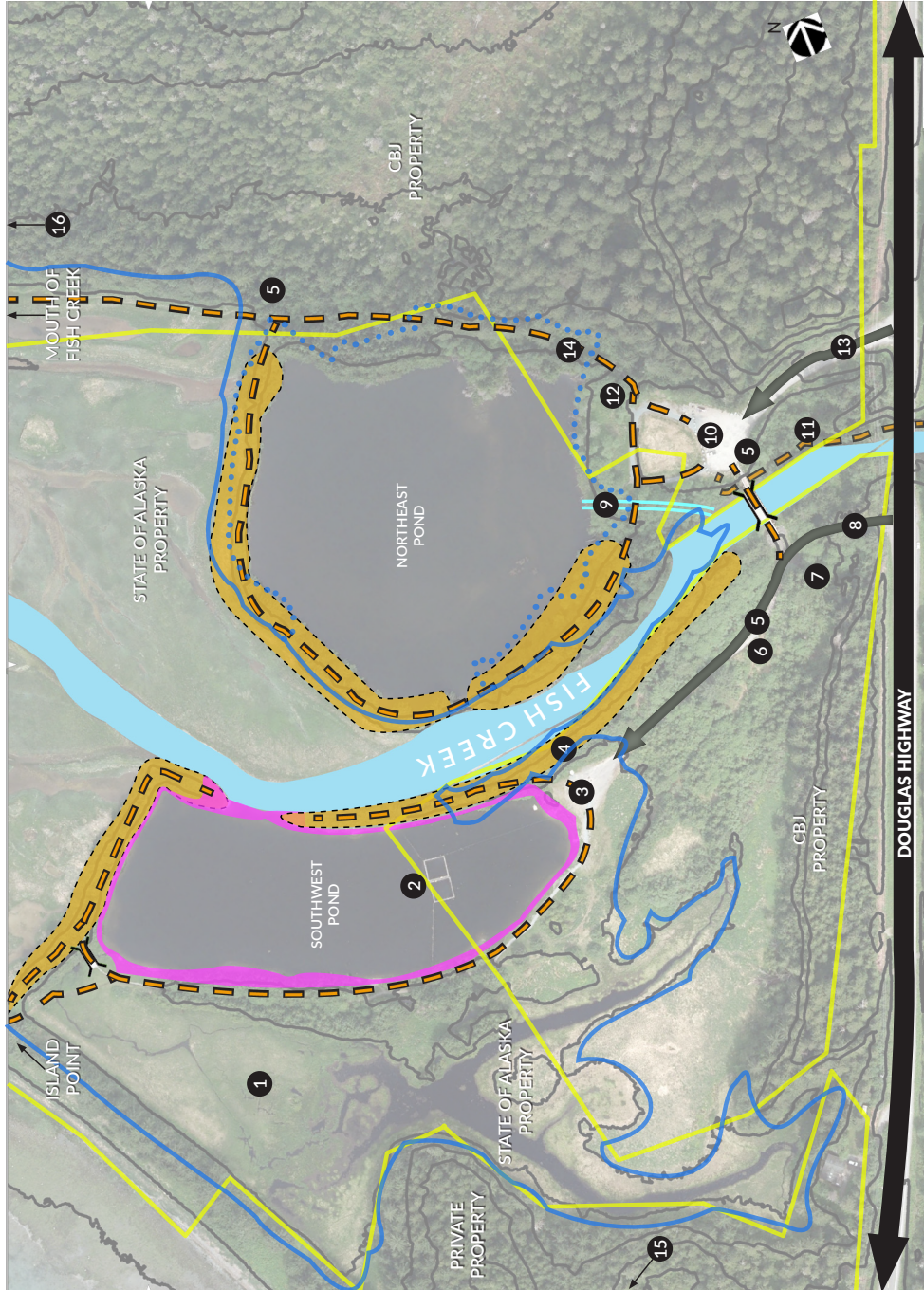
Juneau is a dog-friendly town and Fish Creek users are often accompanied by their canine companions. Sometimes dog owners are unaware of the regulations for outdoor space with regards to leashed or unleashed behavior. Those without pets can feel encroached upon by unleashed dogs sharing the trails and outdoor spaces. Fish Creek Recreation Area frequently experiences these issues. CBJ Ordinance 11 CBJAC 03.030 prohibits dogs in certain areas of Fish Creek Park, specifically “East Pond Spur trail designated as a no dog area due to abundant wildlife.”

This is the trail from the NE Pond to Hut Point area that anglers use to access the mouth of the creek.

RECOMMENDATION: Post signage in the parking lot and along the trail informing users of the ordinance. Provide dog poop bag dispenser for pet waste management at parking lot.

Area Plan

The plans below depict the Fish Creek Estuary Area as it exists today and with the recommendations discussed above. Natural processes, like floods and erosion, will likely change the area in the future. As these changes occur, new recommendations may be considered to protect or enhance existing habitat and infrastructure.



LEGEND

- 1. BIRDBOX STUDY AREA
 - 2. DIPAC SALMON REARING FISH PENS
 - 3. AREA PRONE TO TIDAL FLOODING
 - 4. SEASONAL PORTABLE TOILET
 - 5. INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
 - 6. INFORMAL CAMPING AREA
 - 7. 1923 GARDENS & HOUSE LOCATION
 - 8. VEHICLE SERVICE ROAD
 - 9. HIGH WATER CONNECTION CHANNEL
 - 10. PARKING LOT
 - 11. FISH CREEK STREAM ACCESS TRAIL
 - 12. PICNIC TABLE & BBQ GRILL
 - 13. MAIN ENTRY ROAD
 - 14. FLOOD PRONE AREA
 - 15. HISTORIC SCHOOL FROM 1930s
 - 16. HUT POINT HISTORICAL AREA
- Trail
 - 20 foot Hightide
 - Hightide If Dikes Breached
 - Road
 - Property Line
 - Bridge
 - Dike
 - Angler Casting / Erosion Area
 - Point of Interest

FISH CREEK AREA PLAN
January 2022

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Fish Creek 2021 - 2022 Sire Area Plan Concept





FISH CREEK AREA PLAN
January 2022

AREA PLAN



Fish Creek 2021 - 2022 Sire Area Plan Concept

This guiding plan reflects nine months of effort to engage managers, users, and other stakeholders in the future of the Fish Creek Park. It draws upon multiple complete and ongoing research documents. It provides a clear set of concepts for enhancement of the ecology and improvement of the existing recreational amenities on site. This is a concept laying out a vision for what could be. It does not represent any actions being permitted or designed for Fish Creek. Further, the plan is intended to be a living document, revisited as use and environmental conditions at the site change overtime.

Additional Information Sources used during the Planning Process

- Travels in Alaska, The Trip of 1879, By John Muir
- Haa Aaní, Our Land: Tlingit and Haida Land Rights and Use, By Walter R. Goldschmidt and Theodore H. Haas
- 2003 Master Plan for Fish Creek Natural Area Park, By Judy Sherburne of J.L. Sherburne Landscape Design
- Fish Creek Delta Scoping, By Richard Carstensen of Discovery Southeast
- Concepts for Fish Creek Estuary Enhancement, By Southeast Alaska Watershed Council



Fish Creek SW Pond



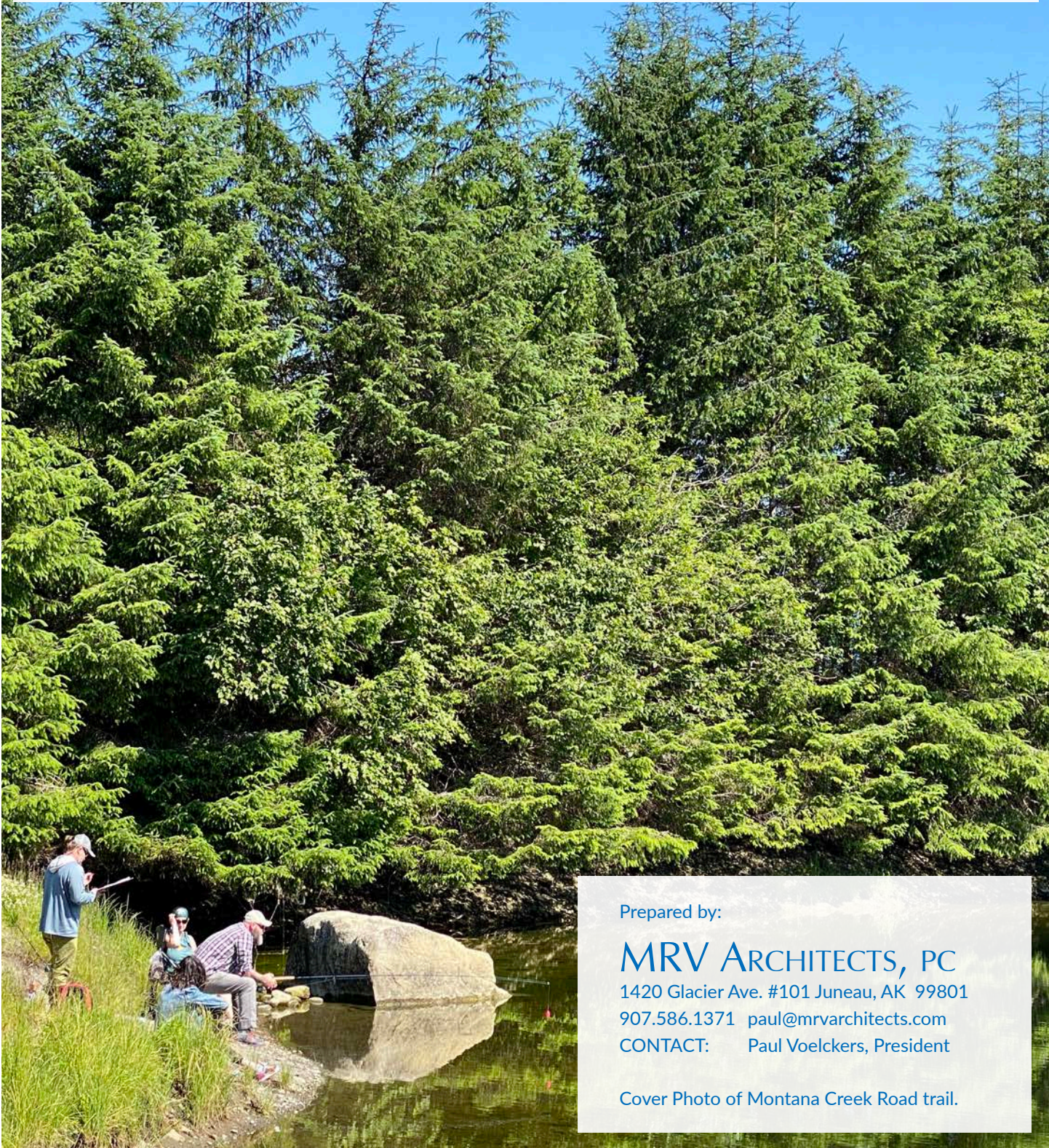
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FISH CREEK ESTUARY AREA PLANNING
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APPENDIX

SECTION 06:

RECREATION AREA PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

FISH CREEK

RECREATION AREA PLANNING COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



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Cover Photo of Montana Creek Road trail.

SECTION 1:

BACKGROUND

The Fish Creek Recreation Area on Douglas Island is a popular recreation area and contains valuable fish and wildlife habitat. The City and Borough of Juneau, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, and Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and MRV Architects have teamed up to improve recreation opportunities and restore stream and natural habitat.

Recently a survey was conducted to help us learn how the community uses the area and to share our ideas for improvements. This survey asked a series of ranking and open-ended questions to gain an understanding of current creek values, uses and needs for the community. The survey ended Monday August 2nd, 2021 at 5 PM and **385 responses were collected.**

The results have been tabulated and converted into a summary contained within this document. The following are the major parts cover by the survey to which the results are reflected:

- Part 1: User Information
- Part 1.2 Family Use
- Part 2: Knowledge of the Fish Creek Recreation Area
- Part 3: Vision for the Creek

Narrative comments have been categorized and added at the end of the report.



Community Planning & Survey Administrators

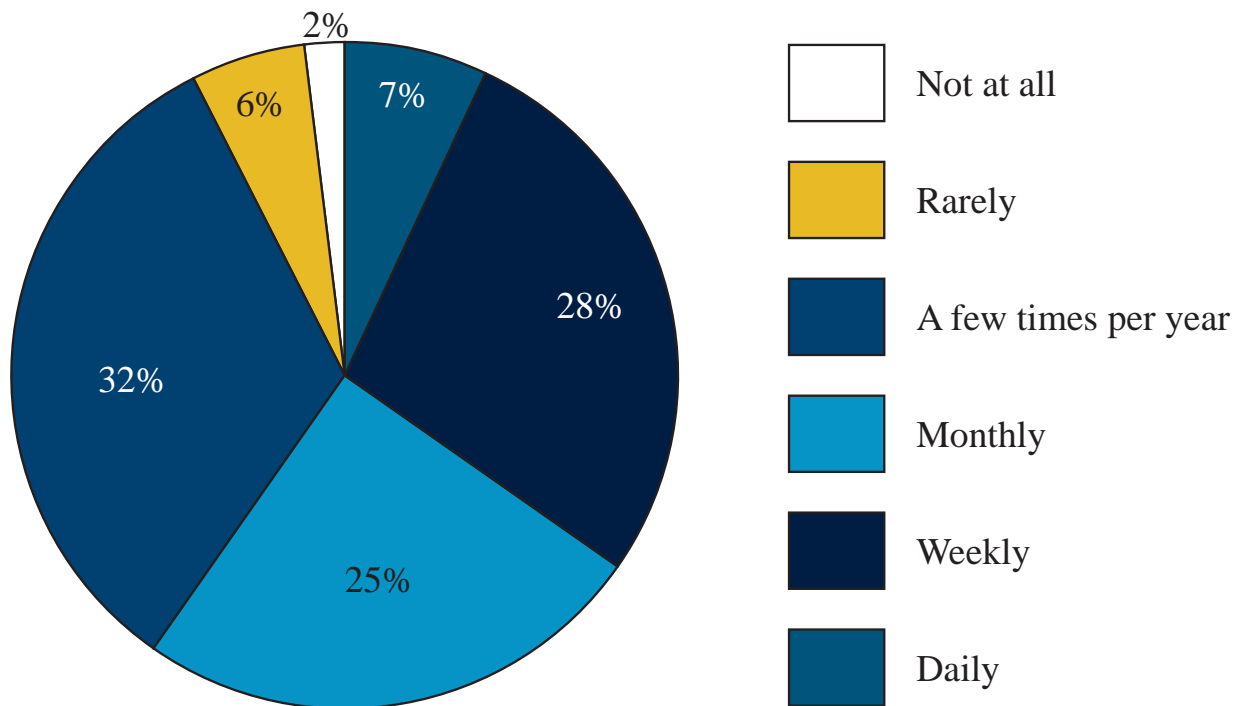


Fish Creek Recreation Area Land Ownership Map

SECTION 2: SURVEY RESULTS

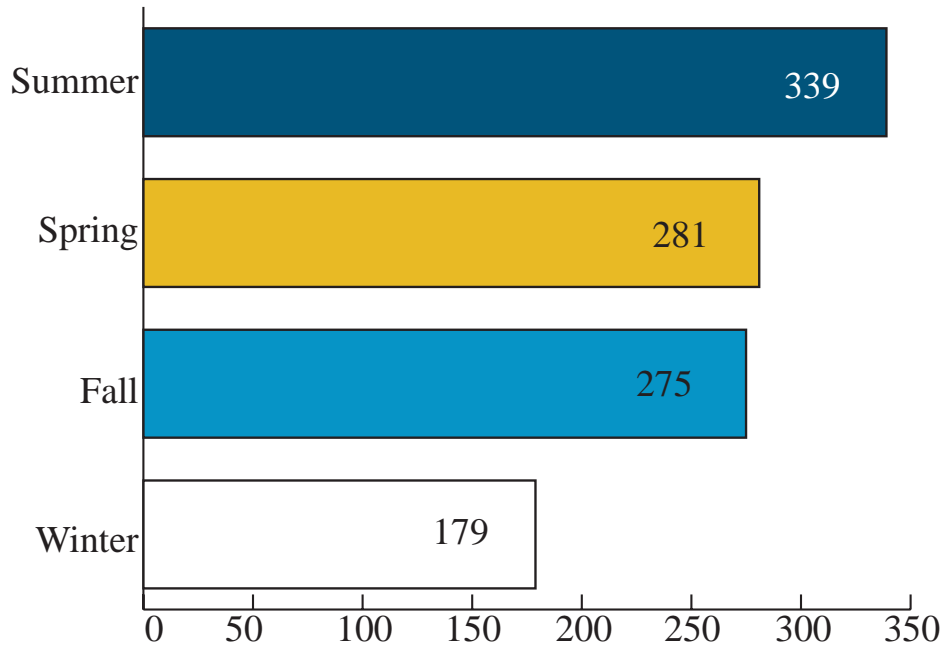
Question 1: How frequently do you use the Fish Creek Recreation Area?

Responses: 382



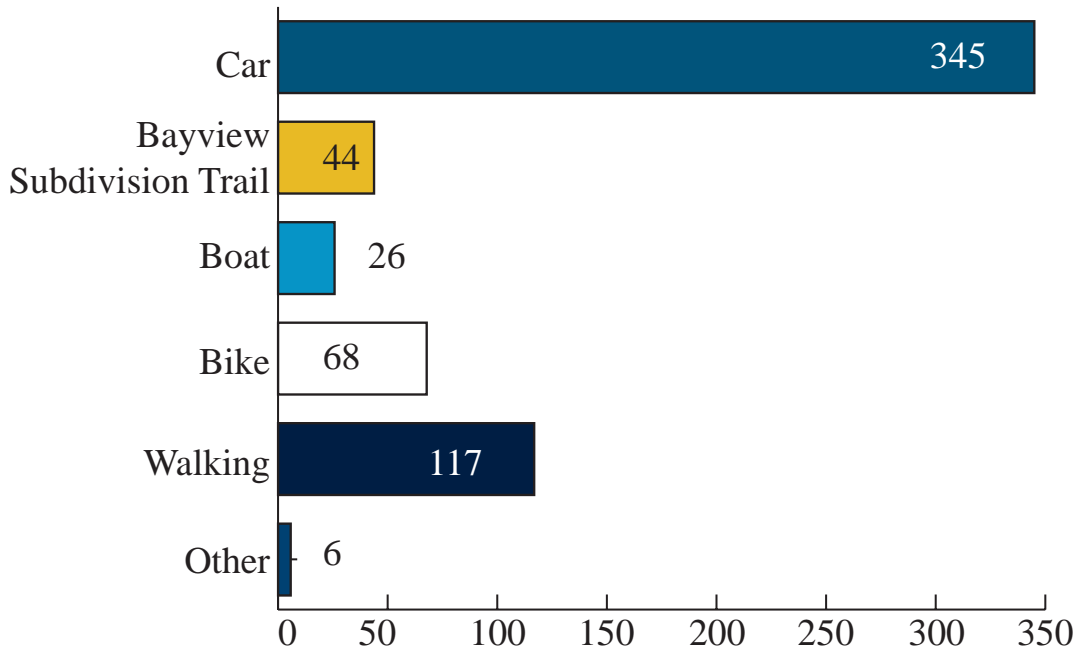
Question 2: During which seasons do you mostly use the area? (Check all that apply)

Responses: 378



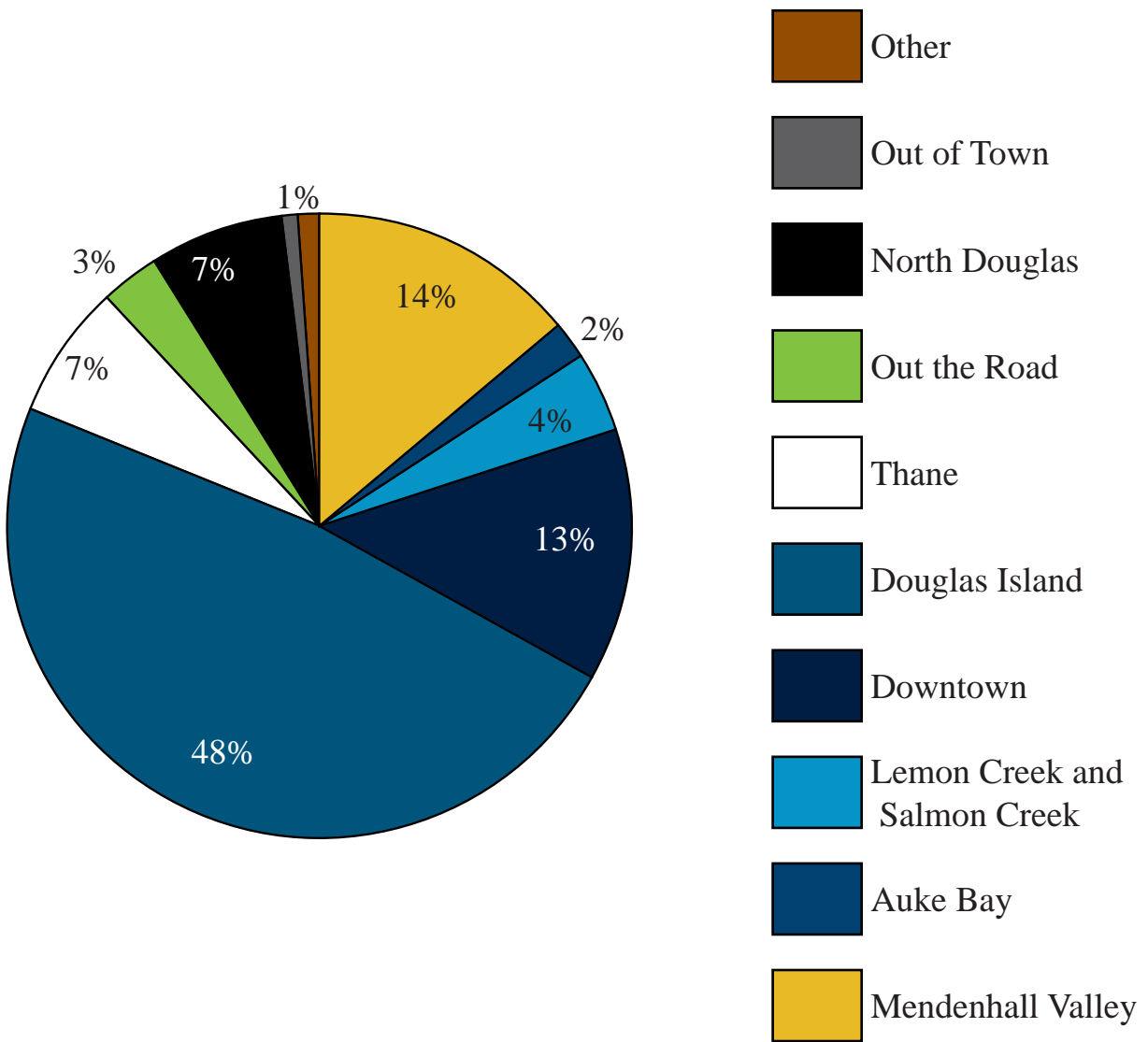
Question 3: How do you access Fish Creek Recreation Area? (check all that apply)

Responses: 382



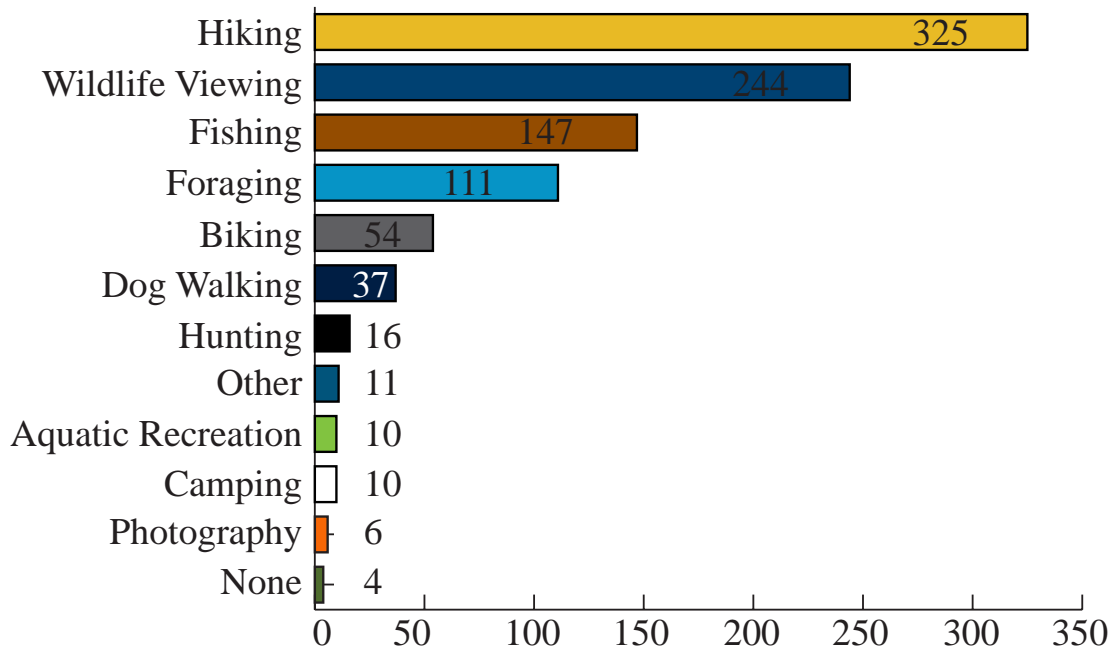
Question 4: What area of town do you live in?

Responses: 385



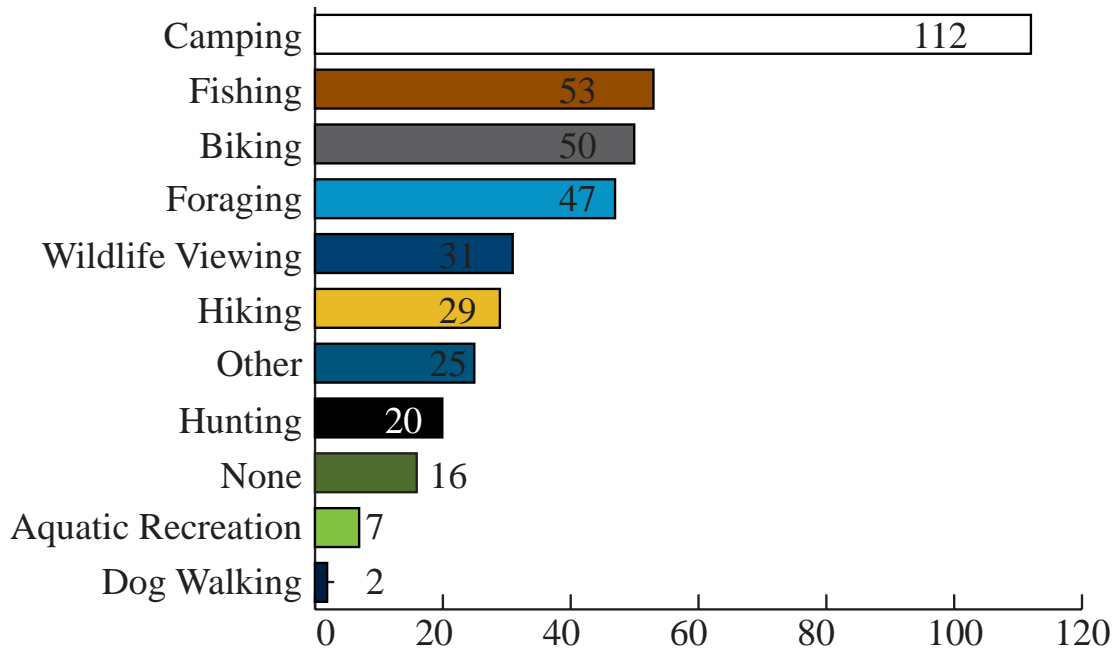
Question 6: In the last twelve months in the Fish Creek Recreation area, which recreational activities did you frequently engage in? (check the top three that apply to you)

Responses: 384



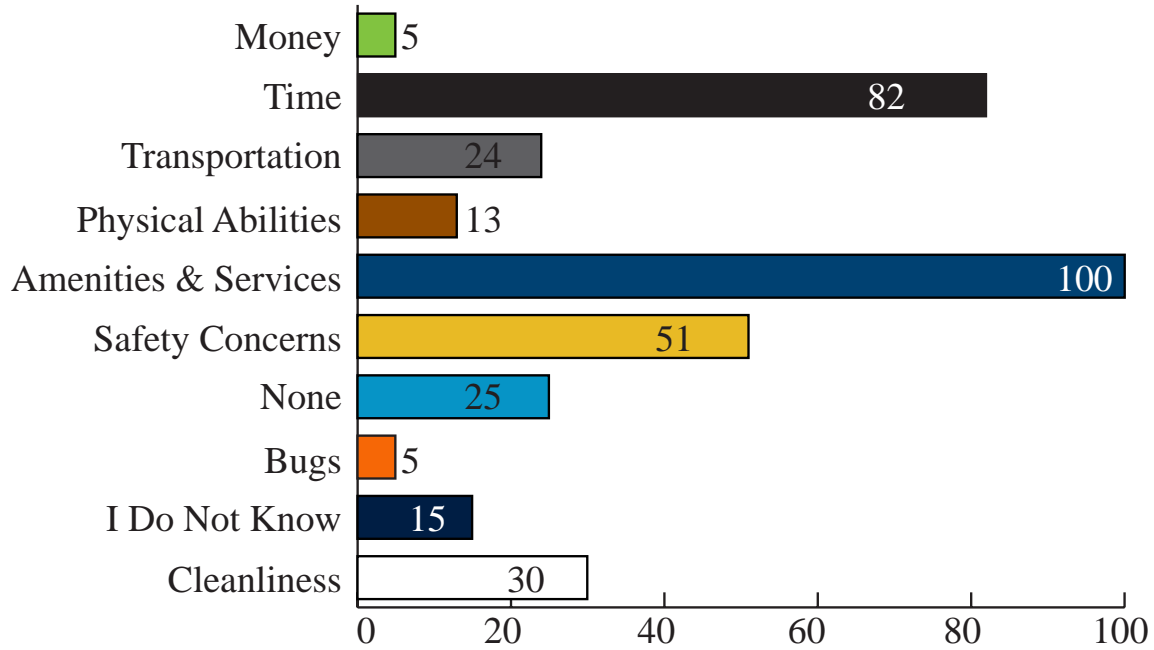
Question 7: What recreational activities do you or any others in your household NOT PARTICIPATE IN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO in this area? (check all that apply)

Responses: 240



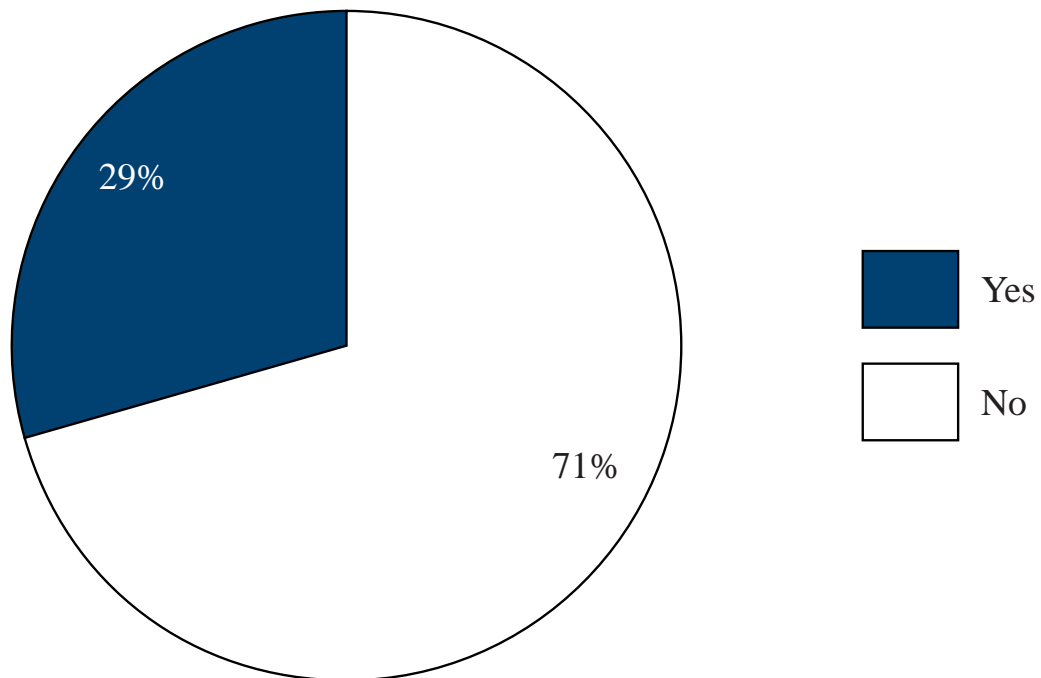
Question 8: What barriers are keeping you or any other in your household from participating in these activities in this area? (check all that apply)

Responses: 247



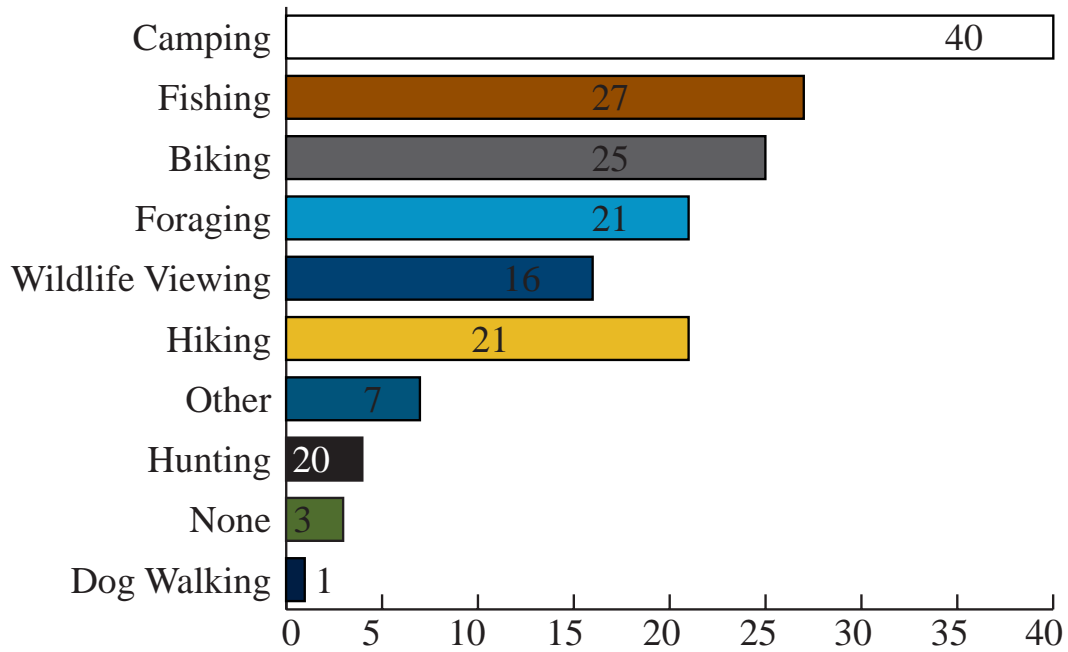
Question 10: Is anyone in your household below the age of 18?

Responses: 383



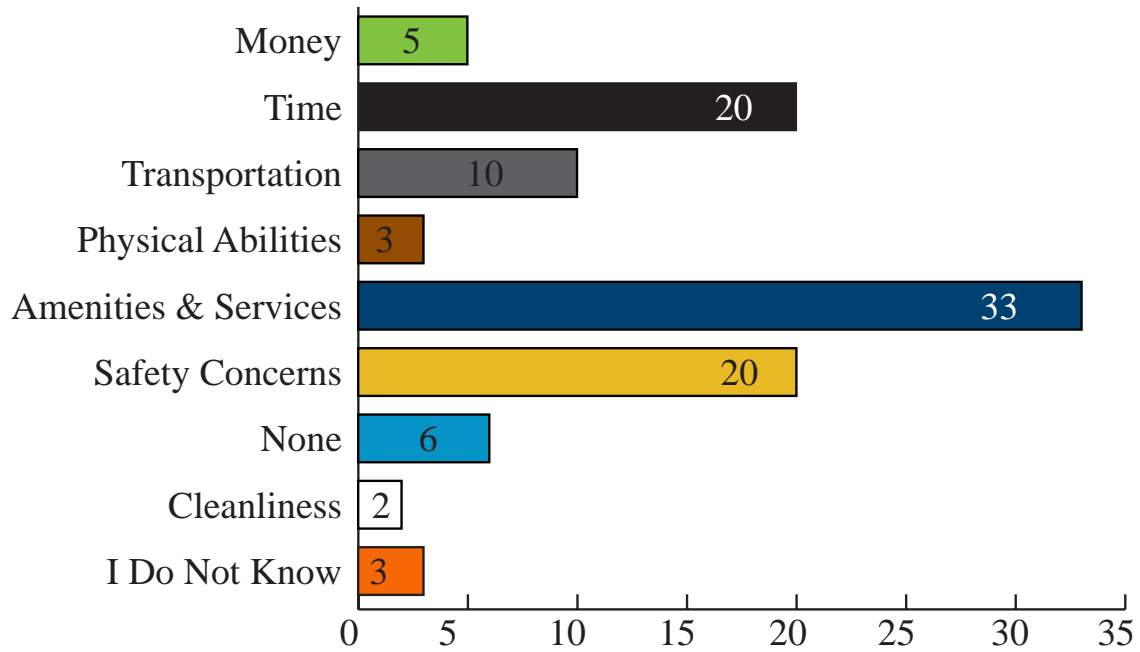
Question 11: What activities do children in your household NOT PARTICIPATE IN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO in this area? (check all that apply)

Responses: 75



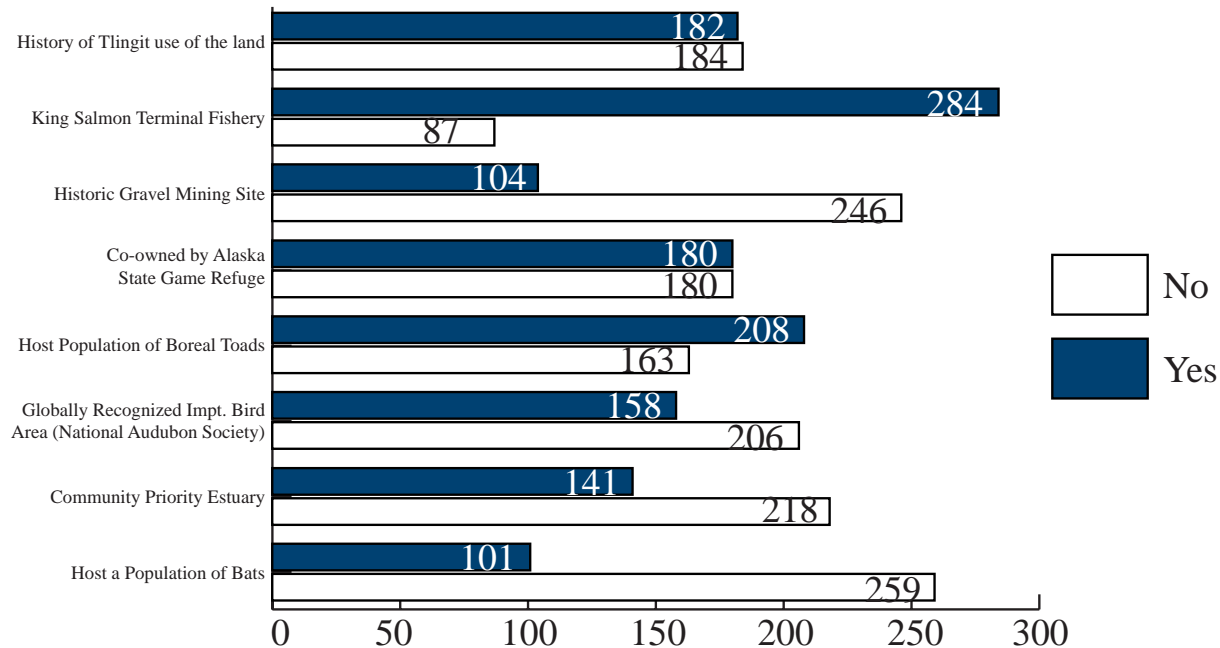
Question 12: What barriers are keeping children in your household from participating in these activities in this area? (check all that apply)

Responses: 73



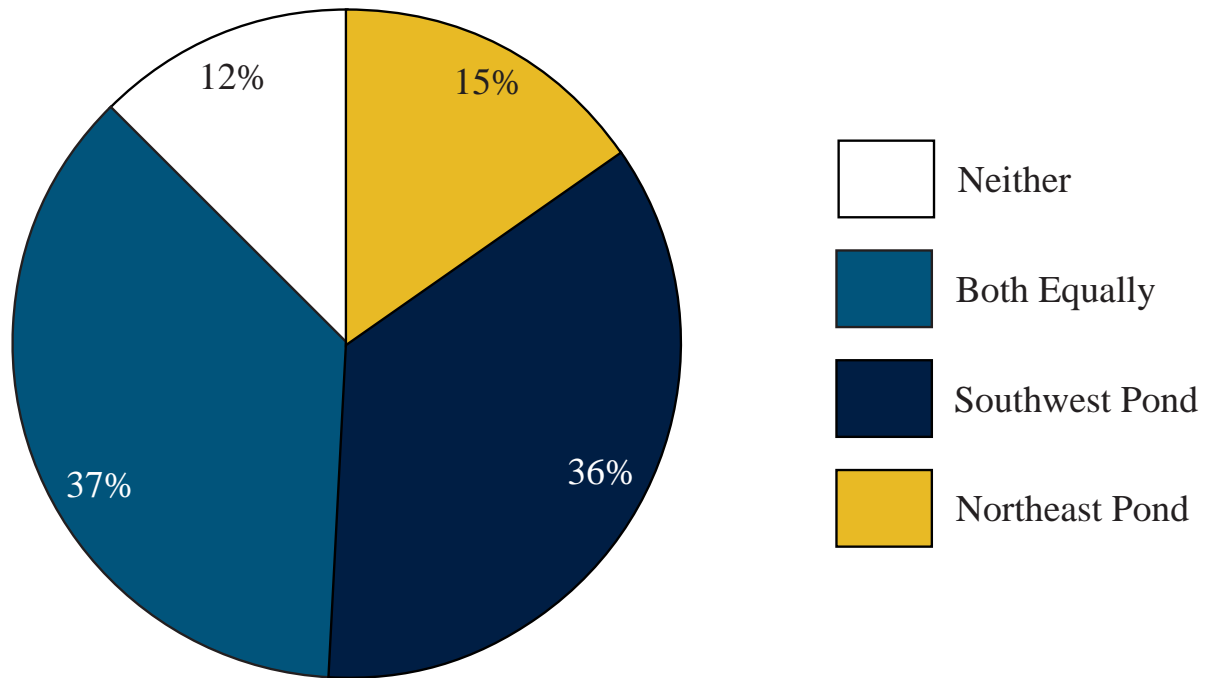
Question 14: Did you know that Fish Creek Recreation Area is particularly unique because of the following characteristics? MARK ONLY ONE OVAL PER ROW **Using a phone? Turn it sideways to see all options.**

Responses: Undetermined



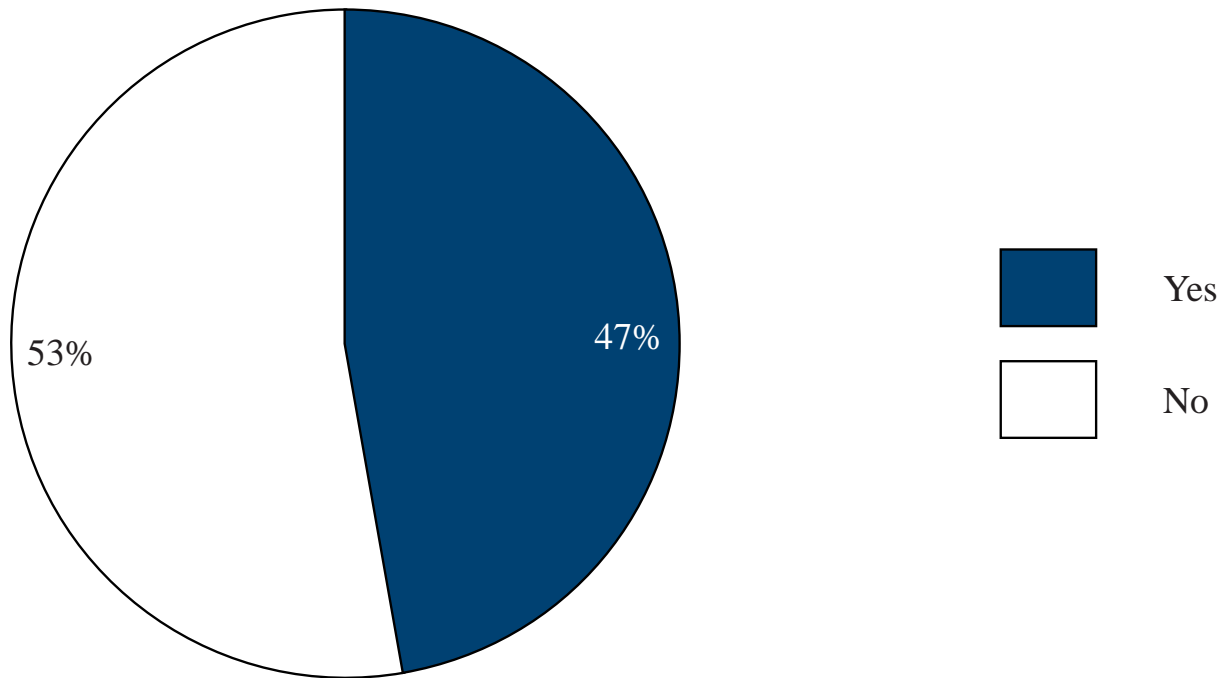
Question 15: What pond in the Fish Creek Recreation Area do you tend to engage with the most?

Responses: 382



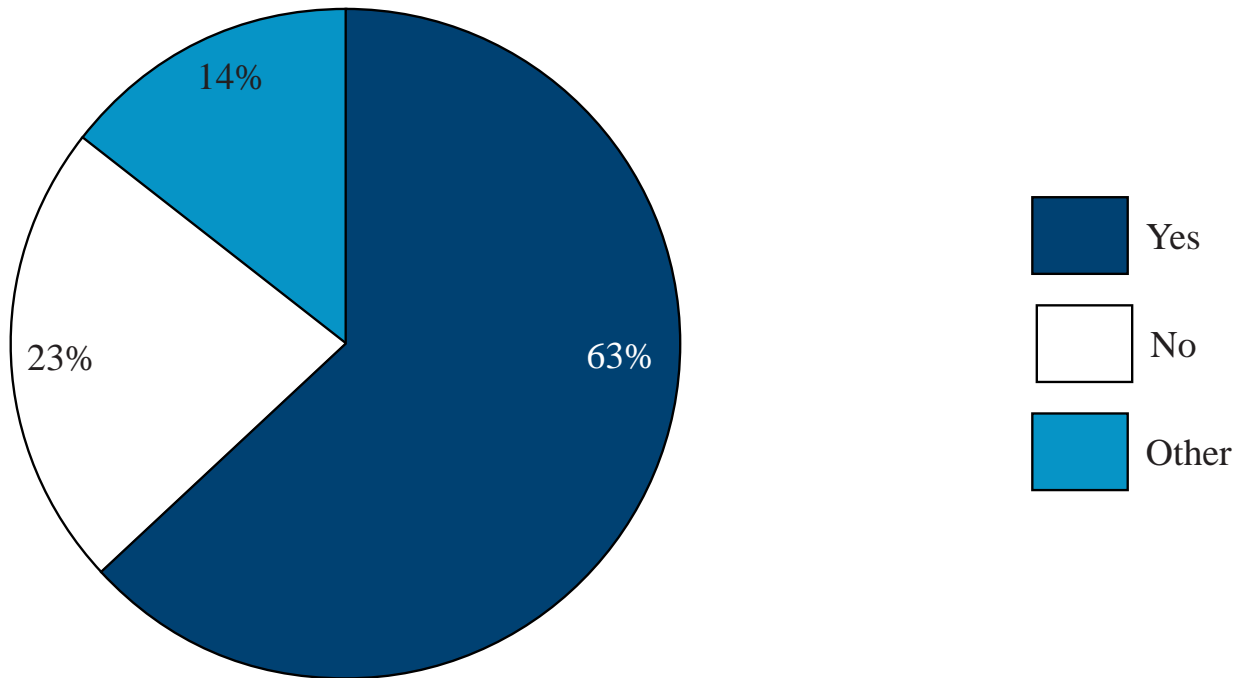
Question 16: Did you know that the two ponds in the recreation area are man made features from the 1960s and 70s?

Responses: 383



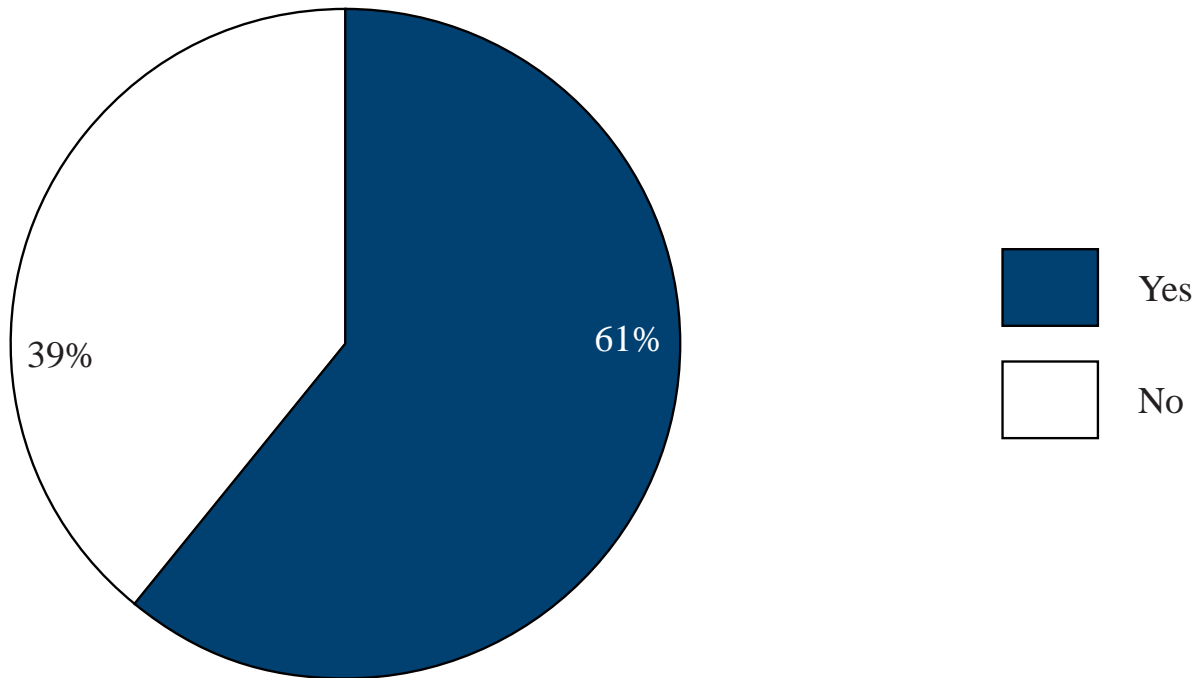
Question 17: Are you happy with the level of recreational and educational opportunities currently available for Fish Creek Recreation Area?

Responses: 377



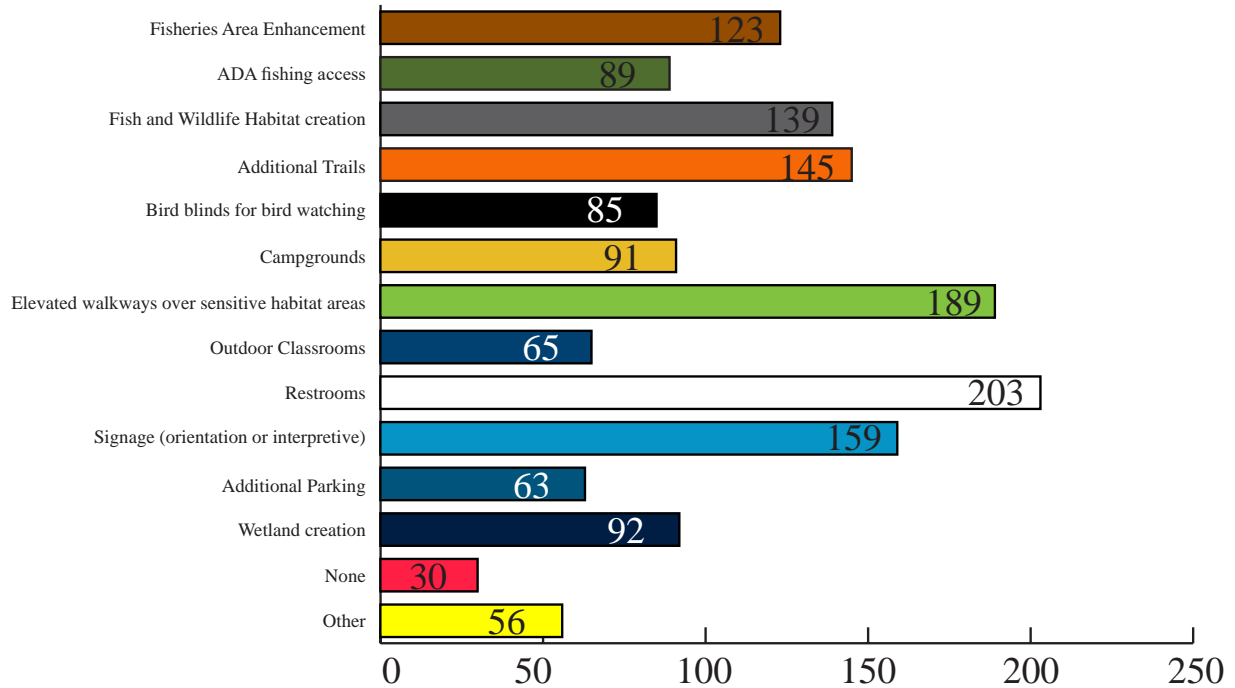
Question 18: Do you want more recreational and educational amenities in Fish Creek Recreation Area?

Responses: 373



Question 19: In the next 10 years, what types of specific investments in new habitat improvements, recreation amenities, education amenities or support infrastructure do you think should be made for Fish Creek Recreation Area? (check top three choices that apply)

Responses: 380



SECTION 3:

NARRATIVE COMMENTS

Below are all of the narrative comments received in the survey, organized and categorized by topic. Some of the comments may appear more than once if they pertain to multiple topics.

Human Amenities Comments:

Access; toilets

Benches more family oriented

Benches. Bathrooms. Water?

Better facilities

Better trails. Bike paths.

Bike parking, more benches, better maintained trails

Bike trails

Build a playground

Community guided hikes

Develop it for ATV use

Foraging guides would be cool!

Hiking / walking/info guide as to what is available there

I would use this area a lot more for hiking and wildlife viewing if it had more and improved trails. I rarely come here because the main trail is through the camping area. It can be very unpleasant walking through that when people are camping. Walking off trail (other than the beach) can be very wet and mucky.

Improve trails for biking

Install disc golf baskets

More facilities near the water and mouth of Fish Creek

Offer more picnic tables in other areas of Fish Creek Rec Area; install some play equipment

running water

Trails could be expanded and improved.

Restroom Comments:

A more stable restroom area. Sheltered area to seek refuge from bad weather

Benches. Bathrooms. Water?

Better access with closer outhouse to prevent polluting the area

Camping areas, small boat launch, public restroom, shelter area

Get a port a potty and have it serviced regularly.

It would benefit greatly from having a restroom or outhouse available to use. For safety reasons, we generally don't go when fish are running as we prefer to leave the area to the bears so they can fish undisturbed. We have multiple generations in our household and the picnic area close to the parking lot with wide even path provides stable ground for our elders and limited mobility family member the ability to sit and enjoy the area while other members of the family to enjoy the hiking and other activities the area offers.

Monitor camping and fishing more regularly, more port-a-potties, more bear proof trash cans, maybe a fish slime table. I just took my dog for a walk and there were dozens of people and fish guts and trash were everywhere.

More established camping area, with better toilets/washroom. If a couple cabins are possible, that would be lovely.

Outhouse, bike path, more picnic tables, maybe a structure for big picnics that is covered

Over crowded and messy, no bathroom amenities makes one wonder about human waste left behind, especially around the entrance island zone.

Provide restroom facilities, fix the potholes on the road and parking area, possibly pave the pathway leading to and around the picnic areas for ADA accessibility.

Restrooms

Restrooms, improved trail system, developed campsites, covered table areas

There needs to be bathroom facilities. There is heavy use during salmon snagging season and we avoid it because we do not feel safe.

Toilets

Trails that are better maintained and safer for wheelchair users. Better toilets. Move the rocks a couple of inches so a wheelchair can get to the trails more easily.

Shelter or Picnic Comments:

A more stable restroom area. Sheltered area to seek refuge from bad weather

Basic fishing services staging; bear-proof trash-cans; grills; tables

Benches more family oriented

Benches. Bathrooms. Water?

Bike parking, more benches, better maintained trails

build a small amphitheater for outdoor classroom, build covered picnic table, add play equipment

Build covered picnic areas or shelters

Camping areas, small boat launch, public restroom, shelter area

Camping sites/grills or fire pits would be awesome!

Covered picnic area

Covered picnicking areas and camping grounds.

Create more picnic and wildlife viewing spaces

Create multiple areas with picnic tables

Grade the road, picnic area and shelter

It would be nice to have a bit more amenities, like more garbage cans, picnic tables further out on the trail, etc.

It would benefit greatly from having a restroom or outhouse available to use. For safety reasons, we generally don't go when fish are running as we prefer to leave the area to the bears so they can fish undisturbed. We have multiple generations in our household and the picnic area close to the parking lot with wide even path provides stable ground for our elders and limited mobility family member the ability to sit and enjoy the area while other members of the family to enjoy the hiking and other activities the area offers.

More facilities near mouth of Fish Creek near the ocean. Facilities = campsites (maybe around corner in direction of Douglas boat landing) with picnic/BBQ fire rings near mouth of Fish Creek with views of Mendenhall Glacier and Chilkats

Offer more picnic tables in other areas of Fish Creek Rec Area; install some play equipment

Outhouse, bike path, more picnic tables, maybe a structure for big picnics that is covered

Picnic tables by the pond. more things to keep people around the pond

Provide restroom facilities, fix the potholes on the road and parking area, possibly pave the pathway leading to and around the picnic areas for ADA accessibility.

Restrooms, improved trail system, developed campsites, covered table areas

Shelters like Auke Rec is possible

wheelchair access/ sitting/rest areas

Yes! Have Trail Mix build a gravel trail all the way around the island at the end of the peninsula by Entrance Point, connecting it to the decent trail at the isthmus. And then put some benches or picnic tables along the outer edge, so we can sit and look at the view and our shoes don't get mucky.

Yes, build Lena beach style shelters! N Douglas rev areas have so few of these amenities.

Cabin or Camping Comments:

Add a dock and a cabin

Camping areas, small boat launch, public restroom, shelter area

camping infrastructure would be fun to see if not trashy

Camping sites/grills or fire pits would be awesome!

Campsites. Fishing information signs.

Covered picnicking areas and camping grounds.

I would use this area a lot more for hiking and wildlife viewing if it had more and improved trails. I rarely come here because the main trail is through the camping area. It can be very unpleasant walking through that when people are camping. Walking off trail (other than the beach) can be very wet and mucky.

I'd camp out there, but I don't know if there is designated places and access to bathrooms is a concern.

I'm not sure if camping facilities are available in the Fish Creek location, there may be now.

It would be a great spot for an actual campground that is maintained and kept clean

More established camping area, with better toilets/washroom. If a couple cabins are possible, that would be lovely.

More facilities near mouth of Fish Creek near the ocean. Facilities = campsites (maybe around corner in direction of Douglas boat landing) with picnic/BBQ fire rings near mouth of Fish Creek with views of Mendenhall Glacier and Chilkats

more obvious spots for camping

Not sure what land ownership boundaries are but a few raised gravel tent sites could be cool.

Public use cabin on the island

Restrooms, improved trail system, developed campsites, covered table areas

"Snagging season pretty much sucks. Sketchy people camping, trash everywhere, massive treble hooks flying through the air... only time of year that I steer clear of the area. Also, any "campers" at the "camp site" usually trash the place. No camping allowed would be best option. "

"The park has become a doggy toilet, dogs running freely off leash, pooping everywhere and being cleaned up. Dogs harassing fishing activities and camping. Dogs should be banned here because pet owners do not comply with leash laws and pet waste clean up. "

Yes, please have a paid designated camp area, educate public on litter impacts (bears)

Dock or Fishing Comments:

Add a dock and a cabin

Basic fishing services staging; bear-proof trash-cans; grills; tables

Camping areas, small boat launch, public restroom, shelter area

Campsites. Fishing information signs.

Concern about the flinging of big lead fishing weights at the snagging pond.

Encourage fishermen to pick up trash, not leave fishing line, food, trash etc., prohibit building camp fires randomly around the pond. Prohibit camping. Check parking lot for abandoned vehicles, and check for vehicles staying too long with folks sleeping/living out of their cars.

Irresponsible anglers leaving a dirty site

"It would be so nice to put in a small seasonal floating deck so that people in wheelchairs could fish the pond with the three pipes on it. There is already an ADA-type road from the highway to the fishing area, but amenities for folks who use wheelchairs could be improved.

It would also be wonderful to put in a year round outhouse like the one at Eagle beach or Windfall Lake cabin (solar powered!). It's gross to think about how many people defecate in the woods because the port a potty is stinky or being used. A nicer one would be so good for this area.

It would be amazing to put a fish cleaning table out for people to use. This should be Ada accessible. I'm thinking a metal one, like at the Douglas Boat Ramp, with a bearproof container for fish waste only. Currently fish entrails are EVERYWHERE in late summer because people clean their fish everywhere around that pond. There is also SO much trash from fishermen.

It would be great if the muni bus would go all the way to the N Dgls Boat Ramp, and maybe include a stop at Fish Creek. Summer tourists would love it and it would be a nice way for everyone to get to experience Fish Creek at very low cost. "

Monitor camping and fishing more regularly, more port-a-potties, more bear proof trash cans, maybe a fish slime table. I just took my dog for a walk and there were dozens of people and fish guts and trash were everywhere.

"Snagging season pretty much sucks. Sketchy people camping, trash everywhere, massive treble hooks flying through the air... only time of year that I steer clear of the area. Also, any "campers" at the "camp site" usually trash the place. No camping allowed would be best option. "

"The park has become a doggy toilet, dogs running freely off leash, pooping everywhere and being cleaned up. Dogs harassing fishing activities and camping. Dogs should be banned here because pet owners do not comply with leash laws and pet waste clean up. "

There needs to be bathroom facilities. There is heavy use during salmon snagging season and we avoid it because we do not feel safe.

When people are snagging and leaving their trash behind

Cleanliness Comments:

Areas for cleaning and disposing fish guts

Ban people leaving trash and remnants of fishing and hunting.

Better access with closer outhouse to prevent polluting the area

camping infrastructure would be fun to see if not trashy

Cleanliness

Cutback some slash

Encourage fishermen to pick up trash, not leave fishing line, food, trash etc., prohibit building camp fires randomly around the pond. Prohibit camping. Check parking lot for abandoned vehicles, and check for vehicles staying too long with folks sleeping/living out of their cars.

Irresponsible anglers leaving a dirty site

It would be nice to have a bit more amenities, like more garbage cans, picnic tables further out on the trail, etc.

"It would be so nice to put in a small seasonal floating deck so that people in wheelchairs could fish the pond with the three pipes on it. There is already an ADA-type road from the highway to the fishing area, but amenities for folks who use wheelchairs could be improved.

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Monitor camping and fishing more regularly, more port-a-potties, more bear proof trash cans, maybe a fish slime table. I just took my dog for a walk and there were dozens of people and fish guts and trash were everywhere.

More frequent trash service

More trash cans that are frequently emptied. Assurance that my car won't get broken into overnight.

Over crowded and messy, no bathroom amenities makes one wonder about human waste left behind, especially around the entrance island zone.

People safety concerns. Trashy people. Need conduct rules and enforcement.

Regulate the area or provide more services so less human trash and waste is left during fishing season.

"Snagging season pretty much sucks. Sketchy people camping, trash everywhere, massive treble hooks flying through the air... only time of year that I steer clear of the area. Also, any "campers" at the "camp site" usually trash the place. No camping allowed would be best option. "

"The park has become a doggy toilet, dogs running freely off leash, pooping everywhere and being cleaned up. Dogs harassing fishing activities and camping. Dogs should be banned here because pet owners do not comply with leash laws and pet waste clean up. "

The parking lot can be horribly pot holed at times. As far as safety concerns go, both the squatters who spend extended time with lived in vehicles parked in the parking lot and the riff raff that migrate over during fish runs that leave trash and smoldering fires along the pond side pose safety concerns that I often wish were not there.

There needs to be bathroom facilities. There is heavy use during salmon snagging season and we avoid it because we do not feel safe.

When people are snagging and leaving their trash behind

Safety Concerns Comments:

"Snagging season pretty much sucks. Sketchy people camping, trash everywhere, massive treble hooks flying through the air... only time of year that I steer clear of the area. Also, any "campers" at the "camp site" usually trash the place. No camping allowed would be best option. "

Concern about the flinging of big lead fishing weights at the snagging pond.

Getting better but still feels sketch at parking area.

I avoid the area during duck hunting season; the gunfire torments my dog and makes me uncomfortable as well.

It would benefit greatly from having a restroom or outhouse available to use. For safety reasons, we generally don't go when fish are running as we prefer to leave the area to the bears so they can fish undisturbed. We have multiple generations in our household and the picnic area close to the parking lot with wide even path provides stable ground for our elders and limited mobility family member the ability to sit and enjoy the area while other members of the family to enjoy the hiking and other activities the area offers.

I've seen people shooting guns presumably at ducks while I'm hiking with my children. I don't feel like those things can work together safely. Keep out one or the other

I've seen people shooting guns presumably at ducks while I'm hiking with my kids. That feels dangerous. Ban one or the other from the area.

Keep squatters away

More so in the Spring time, I notice vehicles that are parked in the lot that are clearly abandoned or are being lived out of. I do not always feel safe if I am the only other person there.

More trash cans that are frequently emptied. Assurance that my car won't get broken into overnight.

Over crowded and messy, no bathroom amenities makes one wonder about human waste left behind, especially around the entrance island zone.

People safety concerns. Trashy people. Need conduct rules and enforcement.

Re gravel East Pond Trail. Remove the too many deadfalls off the trail.

The parking lot can be horribly pot holed at times. As far as safety concerns go, both the squatters who spend extended time with lived in vehicles parked in the parking lot and the riff raff that migrate over during fish runs that leave trash and smoldering fires along the pond side pose safety concerns that I often wish were not there.

There needs to be bathroom facilities. There is heavy use during salmon snagging season and we avoid it because we do not feel safe.

We don't feel safe around unleashed pets

Parking, Access & Circulation Comments:

"It would be so nice to put in a small seasonal floating deck so that people in wheelchairs could fish the pond with the three pipes on it. There is already an ADA-type road from the highway to the fishing area, but amenities for folks who use wheelchairs could be improved.

It would also be wonderful to put in a year round outhouse like the one at Eagle beach or Windfall Lake cabin (solar powered!). It's gross to think about how many people defecate in the woods because the port a potty is stinky or being used. A nicer one would be so good for this area.

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It would be great if the muni bus would go all the way to the N Dgls Boat Ramp, and maybe include a stop at Fish Creek. Summer tourists would love it and it would be a nice way for everyone to get to experience Fish Creek at very low cost. "

better parking and access to the "pond."

Better trails. Bike paths.

Bike parking, more benches, better maintained trails

Bike racks and electric vehicle charging

Bike trails

Build a second bridge to Douglas

build the second crossing

Community guided hikes

Create a more welcoming and inviting area that is also accessible to all users

Drive too far

Grade the road, picnic area and shelter

i am unsure sometimes where private property extends to the shore line...

I would use this area a lot more for hiking and wildlife viewing if it had more and improved trails. I rarely come here because the main trail is through the camping area. It can be very unpleasant walking through that when people are camping. Walking off trail (other than the beach) can be very wet and mucky.

I'd prefer there to be more separation of user groups (it feels like I'm always in people's way out there)

Improve the roads

Improve trails for biking

Improve trails for biking

Improve trails for biking

improved parking in the fish creek parking lot

Improving the trails for bikes. It is hard to not run people over when on the main trail. Especially the one going out to the point

It would benefit greatly from having a restroom or outhouse available to use. For safety reasons, we generally don't go when fish are running as we prefer to leave the area to the bears so they can fish undisturbed. We have multiple generations in our household and the picnic area close to the parking lot with wide even path provides stable ground for our elders and limited mobility family member the ability to sit and enjoy the area while other members of the family to enjoy the hiking and other activities the area offers.

More biking trails!

More bus service out No Douglas

More so in the Spring time, I notice vehicles that are parked in the lot that are clearly abandoned or are being lived out of. I do not always feel safe if I am the only other person there.

Not many trails real good for biking

Outhouse, bike path, more picnic tables, maybe a structure for big picnics that is covered

Provide restroom facilities, fix the potholes on the road and parking area, possibly pave the pathway leading to and around the picnic areas for ADA accessibility.

public bus?

See my answer above about a possible side trail that walks people around the fish gut area of the south side of the lake.

That's a long bike ride from the Mendenhall Valley - I'm not sure if there is a wide, designated bike lane on the North Douglas highway; if not, that would be my biggest concern.

The parking lot can be horribly pot holed at times. As far as safety concerns go, both the squatters who spend extended time with lived in vehicles parked in the parking lot and the riff raff that migrate over during fish runs that leave trash and smoldering fires along the pond side pose safety concerns that I often wish were not there.

Trails that are better maintained and safer for wheelchair users. Better toilets. Move the rocks a couple of inches so a wheelchair can get to the trails more easily.

wheelchair access/ sitting/rest areas

Environmental Comments:

The parking lot can be horribly pot holed at times. As far as safety concerns go, both the squatters who spend extended time with lived in vehicles parked in the parking lot and the riff raff that migrate over during fish runs that leave trash and smoldering fires along the pond side pose safety concerns that I often wish were not there.

Create more picnic and wildlife viewing spaces

Cutback some slash

I would ban dogs or at least dogs off leash-too much pressure on local wildlife particularly migrating birds.

More facilities near mouth of Fish Creek near the ocean. Facilities = campsites (maybe around corner in direction of Douglas boat landing) with picnic/BBQ fire rings near mouth of Fish Creek with views of Mendenhall Glacier and Chilkats

nope - noseums are so bad there the place is crap

Over crowded and messy, no bathroom amenities makes one wonder about human waste left behind, especially around the entrance island zone.

Re gravel East Pond Trail. Remove the too many deadfalls off the trail.

Yes! Have Trail Mix build a gravel trail all the way around the island at the end of the peninsula by Entrance Point, connecting it to the decent trail at the isthmus. And then put some benches or picnic tables along the outer edge, so we can sit and look at the view and our shoes don't get mucky.

Trail Comments:

Better trails. Bike paths.

Bike parking, more benches, better maintained trails

Bike racks and electric vehicle charging

Bike trails

Improve trails for biking

Improve trails for biking

Improve trails for biking

Improving the trails for bikes. It is hard to not run people over when on the main trail. Especially the one going out to the point

maybe make the trails wider?

More biking trails!

Not many trails real good for biking

Outhouse, bike path, more picnic tables, maybe a structure for big picnics that is covered

Provide restroom facilities, fix the potholes on the road and parking area, possibly pave the pathway leading to and around the picnic areas for ADA accessibility.

Re gravel East Pond Trail. Remove the too many deadfalls off the trail.

Restrooms, improved trail system, developed campsites, covered table areas

See my answer above about a possible side trail that walks people around the fish gut area of the south side of the lake.

Trails could be expanded and improved.

Trails that are better maintained and safer for wheelchair users. Better toilets. Move the rocks a couple of inches so a wheelchair can get to the trails more easily.

Work with other entities (if any) to improve trail in from Fish Creek (Eaglecrest) road

Yes! Have Trail Mix build a gravel trail all the way around the island at the end of the peninsula by Entrance Point, connecting it to the decent trail at the isthmus. And then put some benches or picnic tables along the outer edge, so we can sit and look at the view and our shoes don't get mucky.

Education Comments:

build a small amphitheater for outdoor classroom, build covered picnic table, add play equipment

Campsites. Fishing information signs.

Community guided hikes

Foraging guides would be cool!

Hiking / walking/info guide as to what is available there

i am unsure sometimes where private property extends to the shore line...

I'm not sure if camping facilities are available in the Fish Creek location, there may be now.

I've seen people shooting guns presumably at ducks while I'm hiking with my kids. That feels dangerous. Ban one or the other from the area.

Not sure what land ownership boundaries are but a few raised gravel tent sites could be cool.

Post rules more clearly or have a website

spotlight the area

Yes, please have a paid designated camp area, educate public on litter impacts (bears)

Miscellaneous Comments:

Benches. Bathrooms. Water?

Deal with the homeless issue.

Deal with the homeless issue.

Develop it for ATV use

Encourage fishermen to pick up trash, not leave fishing line, food, trash etc., prohibit building camp fires randomly around the pond. Prohibit camping. Check parking lot for abandoned vehicles, and check for vehicles staying too long with folks sleeping/living out of their cars.

enforcement

I would ban dogs or at least dogs off leash-too much pressure on local wildlife particularly migrating birds.

I've seen people shooting guns presumably at ducks while I'm hiking with my children. I don't feel like those things can work together safely. Keep out one or the other

I've seen people shooting guns presumably at ducks while I'm hiking with my kids. That feels dangerous. Ban one or the other from the area.

Keep it local -- no tourists, please.

Keep squatters away

People safety concerns. Trashy people. Need conduct rules and enforcement.

Possibly broaden the non-duck hunting areas, or somehow focus the hunting to the seaward side of Entrance Point tombolo / spit. The estuarine area of the mouth of Fish Creek needs to be more for non-consumptive, non-dangerous use.

Prohibit it.

Regulate the area or provide more services so less human trash and waste is left during fishing season.

running water

"Snagging season pretty much sucks. Sketchy people camping, trash everywhere, massive treble hooks flying through the air...only time of year that I steer clear of the area.

Also, any "campers" at the "camp site" usually trash the place. No camping allowed would be best option. "

"The park has become a doggy toilet, dogs running freely off leash, pooping everywhere and being cleaned up. Dogs harassing fishing activities and camping. Dogs should be banned here because pet owners do not comply with leash laws and pet waste clean up. "

The parking lot can be horribly pot holed at times. As far as safety concerns go, both the squatters who spend extended time with lived in vehicles parked in the parking lot and the riff raff that migrate over during fish runs that leave trash and smoldering fires along the pond side pose safety concerns that I often wish were not there.

We don't feel safe around unleashed pets

SECTION 07:

AUGUST 2021 WALKTHROUGHS EVENT TAKEAWAYS

Fish Creek Park & Estuary Area Planning

August 2021 Walkthroughs Event Takeaways

The following are some key takeaways from the walkthroughs:

- **Community Walkthrough**

- Local community uses the and trails frequently. They enjoy the natural feel of the park and are concerned about too much development. General trail improvements seemed welcomed.
- There is a concern about any connections (formal as well as unformal) or development next to the western edge of the Bayview neighborhood residences.
- The NE pond's dike is perceived as a recreational walking trail that is well used.
- Desire to retain the recreation aspects to the NE pond such as the viewshed out to Gastineau Channel and Ice skating in the winter.
- Restrooms are needed and should be positioned near the parking lot.
- Camping concerns a lot of park users due to the lack of clear rules as well as signage which may warrant a separate North Douglas camping feasibility study.
- Enforcement should be increased to lower safety concerns in the area for vagrants and car campers. This is especially needed during fishing season for snagger anglers sharing space with other park users.

- **Professional Walkthrough**

- Professional in attendance include representation from ADFG, CBJ Parks and Rec, DIPAC, Discovery Southeast, Trout Unlimited, Juneau Audubon Society, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Juneau Community Foundation, Eaglecrest Ski Area and more
- There are a myriad of ecological features and functions that can be balanced whether or not changes are made to the area.
- Bat researcher Karen shared her insight that the area is a critical spot for the resident Bat population due to it being the last feeding space before winter.
- Discovery Southeast has been using the area for a long time as a destination spot for their youth programming activities.
- There is a desire to have spaces for seated group settings.
- Dave Scanlan of Eaglecrest discussed interest they have in connecting trails.
- Connections to nearby Douglas Island recreation areas should be incorporated (i.e. Eaglecrest area and trails).
- DIPAC told the group about their fish rearing operations. One concern they have for the future is low dissolved oxygen counts for rearing salmon.

- **Overall Consensus**

- CBJ defines the area as being managed to be a “light recreation [space] in semi-primitive setting”
- Desire for the Alaskan Native community involvement as much as possible to the area's vision including the history of Tlingit use within Fish Creek.
- Strong desire to improve the layout of the SE fishing pond area for universal (ADA) access as well as improved flood management.
- Desire for more human amenities to be added to facilitate cleanliness such as fish cleaning table, trash bins and restrooms.
- NE Pond options as presented by SAWC were intriguing to attendees. Rob and John walked the groups through the option being considered for improving the habitat.

For more insight on the community's view on Fish Creek please be sure to check out the [MRV project page](#) for the results of the summer survey as well as future updates.

Fish Creek Park & Estuary Area Planning

FISH CREEK FOCUS GROUP WALKTHROUGHS



Thank you to the over 40 participants who came out August 25th & 26th, 2021 to learn about and discuss potential rehabilitation plans for this beloved space.



SECTION 08:

ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITY ZOOM MEETING TAKEAWAYS

Fish Creek Park & Estuary Area Planning

Friday, September 24, 2021 Alaska Native Community Zoom Meeting Takeaways

The following are some key takeaways from the Meeting:

ATTENDEES

Desiree Duncan Kenneth Weitzel Lindsey Pierce Raymond Paddock	Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida
Chuck Smythe, Ph.D. Marina La Salle, Ph.D. Mason Auger	Sealaska Heritage Institute
John Hudson Rob Cadmus	Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition
Michele Elfers	CBJ Parks and Recreation Department
Kevin Jeffery Zane Jones	MRV Architects

MEETING NOTES

- **OVERALL SUGGESTIONS & MAJOR TAKEAWAYS:**
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** None of the options are true restoration options because the space is already heavily modified. To do a true restoration the tidal estuary would have to be brought back and this is not feasible. That would be too expensive and disregard the recreational uses it is already being used for.
 - Recognize the historic cultural use of the area. Celebrate it!
 - Find out & teach people about what went on at Hut Point Sand Bar part of the estuary.
 - Involve traditional knowledge bearers to get a better idea on the historic starting point of the space.
 - **RECOMMENDATION:** Explore spotlight lighting this history from a distance, possible on the SW part of the dike that point towards the area
 - Would be ice to have more data on usage overall vs seasonally
 - Plan for multiple users at certain times of year in order to avoid high conflict occurrence
 - Great idea overall to revitalize the Fish Creek Estuary in terms of ecological rehabilitation. Not too many tidal estuaries one can walk along in the Downtown area.
 - **MAKE A CONTACT LIST:** to share as well as gather information or opportunities that involve the Fish Creek Space.
- Community Survey this summer collected 385 responses
 - 63% want more recreational amenities in the area
- Walkthroughs for the community and area professionals happened in August 2021
 - Total of 40 folks showed up
 - CBJ P&R gave us the official definition use of the space.
 - Fishing in the area needs improvement
 - SAWC shared their ecological rehabilitation goals
 - There was a brief history given of the Alaskan Native presence in the Fish Creek Area
- In 2007 there was an archeological report made of the area
- The definition of recreational; use in the area is semi-primitive for the 56 acre space
- The ponds are not natural. They are Gravel ponds made building Douglas HWY

Fish Creek Park & Estuary Area Planning

- Most people get to Fish Creek recreational area by driving
- Opportunity to link to Eaglecrest area through trail expansion
- Fish Creek ponds are important spaces for bat population as a feeding ground
- Major options for ecological rehabilitation/improvement
 - Do nothing
 - i. Losers: Fish due to pond dike failing
 - ii. Winners: Toads and Bats
 - Enhance pond edging:
 - i. Recreate total outer edge to be gently sloped similar to the toad area
 - Partial Dike Removal:
 - i. Winners: Coho Salmon, Fish Creek Estuary functionality, Lin sedge wetland plant
- Chuck S: Like trying to bring back the alluvial aspect of the area. There is a bad example of this already in Juneau.
- Question: Will there be any immediate negative results of filling in or altering the ponds? Heavy Metal release?
 - There will be a big transition visually and it might be shocking. Will be using heavy machinery to move things around (only when there is no fish in the stream). Plan to use veggie oil for hydraulics in case there is a spill. Plants will take time to grow again and reestablish themselves. There should be no heavy metal or chemical releases from this process.
- Invasive plants are being managed for this area
 - This is going well
- QUESTION: In terms of restoration, how far back do you go in terms returning things? Refer to page 17 or Carstensen report. There has been indigenous use of this space for an extremely long time. What does drowned forest in this report refer to?
 - Drown Forest is in the Carstensen report and probably refers to a historical geological time scale. This requires further research.
 - Important to remember and it should be highlighted in the planning that this is a cultural landscape and much as it is ecological. In terms of its use and rich history
 - i. See page 39-40 in the Goswitz & Hosch Report (Chuck shared this)
- AK Native Indigenous history of the area was brought up in the community survey. 182 folks said they knew something about it and 184 said they had no idea of this history.
- **FISH IN THE AREA:**
 - DIPAC produces a lots of Dog Salmon here through there hatchery and there are not many naturally spawning here at the moment.
 - QUESTION: The area has good trout fishing up the creek. Is there a return of Dolly Varden and Cut Throat Trout from the proposed restoration work?
 - i. The plans would certainly affect the fish and other aquatic life. Most likely it will be a negative if not positive an impact on their lives.
 - ii. This planning process only deals with a short run of the actually creek (Its estuary confluence connecting it to the channel).
 - iii. There are not any current plans for the upstream part of the stream. It is mostly untouched and in good health.

Fish Creek Park & Estuary Area Planning

- **HISTORICAL PRESENCE:**
 - Liana Wallace who use to work at the State Museum and her family had a camp at fish creek. She would be a great contact to make to learn more about the history of the space.
 - The confluence of the creek near the Bayview Neighborhood eastern edge houses was historically called Hut Point. It was supposedly a fish Smoker Hut.
 - It has other AK Native names that are not currently reflected in the signage at the recreational area. See page 48 of Carstensen report.
 - General Observation: Many Creeks in the area had camps set up at their confluences by the Áak'w Kwáan people.
 - Supposedly there was a bachelor's point/residence at Hut Point that had whites and AK natives inhabiting the space. Later in the area's history
 - There were white families farming strawberries @ Fritz Cove
 - There were four to five family homesteads occupying this space.
- **RECREATION AREA CIRCULATION:**
 - There are currently a variety of gravel types of trails on roads, trails and the dikes. Some are easier than others to traverse.
 - There are a few "viewing points" that school classrooms & campers go to currently.
 - It is a very congested space, especially during fishing season when there are multiple users in the area.
 - There is a lot of erosion at the SW Pond.
 - There is no clearly defined fishing space where people can go so they end up spreading out around the entirety of the SW Pond.
 - This needs to be added
 - There is a lot of potential to make this space better especially in terms of cleanliness for fish waste as well as litter.
 - Camping – people want to camp but it is unlikely to increase.
 - City does not have the resources.
 - This spot is a high bear traffic area, major circulation route
 - SUGGESTION: Camping should be moved further out into wooded area at fish creek or in N. Douglas
 - CONCERN: Raymond believes mixing more campers with the bear as well as other animals is not a good scenario.

SECTION 09:

LINGUIST NOTES

Áak'w (Auke Lake [note this is borrowed from Tlingit])

áa-k'w

lake-little

“Little Lake”, “Lakelet”

Chas'héeni (Sheep Creek)

ch'áas' héen-i

humpy creek-POSSESSIVE

“Humpy Creek”

X'áat'k'i T'áak (Douglas City)

x'áat'-k'-i t'áak

island-little-EPENTHETIC·VOWEL behind

“Behind the Little Island”, “Behind the Islet”

Sayéik (Douglas City/Douglas Island)

sa-yéik

having-spirits

“Having Spirits”

Wóoshde X'al.at Yé (Tee Harbor)

wóosh-de x'a-d-l-.at yé

each·other-toward mouth-RECIP-THEMATIC-lie place

“Place Where The Openings Lie Facing One Another”



Anax Yaa Andagan Yé (Douglas Harbor area)

a-nax yaa=a-na-d-gan yé

which-through PROGRESSIVE=sun-PROGRESSIVE-CL-shine place

“Place Along Which It Begins Getting Sunny”

Aangooxayé (Fish Creek)

*aa(-)n-goo(-)x(-)a-yé

UNANALYZABLE

“?”

SECTION 10:

STATEMENTS ON FISH CREEK NATIVE USES

Haa Aaní, Our Land

Tlingit and Haida Land Rights and Use

Walter R. Goldschmidt and Theodore H. Haas

Edited and with an Introduction by Thomas F. Thornton

University of Washington Press *Seattle and London*
Sealaska Heritage Foundation *Juneau*

1998

Statement of Jake Cropley

Juneau/Douglas 113

whites out of there until the Bureau of Fisheries took over. Auke Bay is called Áak'w Ta.

There were smokehouses on Fish Creek. The Indians did not fish around the lake, but trapped on Montana Creek above the lake. Fish Creek John trapped and hunted up there. He had smokehouses up there where he would partly dry the meat. He trapped in the area between Eagle Basin and the glacier. This area is no longer used by the Natives of Juneau.

We went up to Berners Bay to gather cranberries and put them up. Berners Bay was the dividing line between the Haines and Auk people. We went there to fish cohos and sockeye in the fall. There were smokehouses there, but this was before my time. Natives from here still go there to get cranberries and nagoonberries. A Native man, Salmon Creek Jim, used that place regularly until he died about five years ago. Harry Anderson, an Auk, still goes there for berries and fish. He dries fish at Berners Bay. When I was a young man, the Indians would pole up the river at Berners Bay to get to the smokehouses and cabins. They hunted goats and trapped mink, lynx, and wolverine up the river. Berners Bay belonged to the Auk people. Eagle River was one of the main places for the Auk people. It was a source of sockeyes. The Indians had big racks for drying salmon, and I have seen twenty of them covered solid. You could just gaff salmon steadily. Later, they would take their fish back home to dry. The river was good for fish from late June to early July. Indians also get nagoonberries and Indian rice and hunted in the canyon above Eagle River. William Kunz and his family occupied that territory and had fish wheels way up the Eagle River. It is now possible for us to go there in a car. We still use this river for fishing, but the Boy Scouts have a camp there.

From St. James Bay to Point Retreat was a hunting and trapping area. It was good for bear. I went there when I was young.

Natives of Auk trap mink on Benjamin, Ralston, and Lincoln islands. They also catch halibut and dry them on Lincoln Island and the northern part of Shelter Island. The Indians camp on these places when they are trolling for halibut. We also hunt deer on Shelter Island and dry the meat there. Kunz and his people still camp on both sides of Shelter Island. The hand trollers use that island. Sometimes in the spring, when the salmon are running, there will be a couple hundred in there.

Tee Harbor is still occupied, and there are still smokehouses there. Susie Nicholson, Lillian Kunz, the Jacksons, Jack Gamble, and Dave Wallace all have homes at Tee Harbor. There are no whites there, but there used to be a canery and a saltery. These people have lived there as far

back as I can remember. Their homes are on the north side of Tee Harbor.

There used to be a big smokehouse at Duck Creek, and all along this area, they used to pick cranberries, nagoonberries, and wild rice. There still is a smokehouse there. It starts on the property of the Juneau Dairy on Jordan Creek. My aunt was there until last year when she died, but since then, no one has used the house, though it is still standing. This place is called Te'cuns*.

On Fish Creek [on Douglas Island across from] Fritz Cove, there was a place called Aangooxa Yé, where we dried fish. This was a summer camp with a smokehouse. Dog salmon and humpies were the main fish we caught. I can remember four smokehouses occupied by a branch of the Auk people there. Now Dave Wallace, an Auk Native, has a boathouse, a smokehouse, and a farm there. He raises strawberries. He also goes up the creek to fish. There are also many whites farming there too. There is a sand bar outside Hut Point, and there are smokehouses all along this sand bar. The owners, all Natives, are Jack Gamble, Sam Hopkins, William Kunz, and Jimmy Hanson. They go up there in the fall to put up their winter fish. There are no whites on this bar. The fish are not caught on the bar, but people bring them there to smoke them.

Just north of Lemon Creek, there is a small creek called Eix'gulhéen. This was a very good stream, especially for a late run of dog salmon, but also for cohos. There were three or four smokehouses there belonging to the Auk people, but they were crowded out by the road. The fox ranches have gone up there and fished out this creek. There were no houses at Lemon Creek, but there was one a short way below, on a coho stream. The Native people used to go up Lemon Creek to get goat and bear, and to trap mink, marten, wolverine, and lynx.

Salmon Creek was called Til'héeni. It was a big source of dog salmon and humpies. There were two smokehouses there in my time, but there are none there now. Some Natives go there to fish for their own use, and whites also use that place. A Native named Salmon Creek Jim had a smokehouse there and claimed the place until twelve or thirteen years ago. He went up Salmon Creek as far as the falls to hunt. Gold Creek was called Dzantik'i Héeni. This was the biggest salmon creek of all, with dog salmon, humpies, and cohos; and steelhead after the freeze. This place belonged to my mother and my uncles. Two smokehouses which belonged to my aunts and their husbands were still there at the time gold was discovered in Juneau. The canyon up Salmon Creek was an important hunting place. There was a camp at Cape Horn, inland from Juneau, where they gathered up the game. There was also a number of gardens along the stream at the present site of

belongs to the Wooshkeetaan clan. He lives there the year around, and fishes and hunts at that place.

Signed at Juneau, Alaska, 1946.

21. Statement of Mrs. Cecilia Kunz

I was born and raised in Juneau. My mother's people came from Yakutat, but she was raised here in Juneau too. My father was Kaagwaantaan, and my grandfather had a house at the present site of the governor's mansion. He gave that place over to the Russians. He was a leader among the Auk people after they moved to Juneau.

My father lived at Auke Bay before my time. My husband is also a member of the Auk people. My father used to own a house at the very place we are sitting, and he had posts extending out to the water, so that this was his beach. Our people used to take canoes up the creek to the power house.

There used to be a Kaagwaantaan place on the mainland across from Funter Bay. When my father was alive, we planted gardens there. There is an old cemetery there.

Signed at Juneau, Alaska, this 26th day of September, 1946.

Witness: Phillip Joseph

Witness: Leonard C. Allen

22. Statement of William Kunz

I am a Native of Juneau, born at Eagle River—Asx'ée on May 7, 1875. My grandfather was born there. His name was Naa.ushkeiti. My father was also born at Eagle River, and his name was James Kunz—Daalgéink. I belong to the Áak'w Kwáan group of Tlingits and to the Raven Clan, known as the Yaxthitta. The name of the chief of our group was Kaalatseen. At the time of my birth at Eagle River, I estimate the number of my people to have been in excess of fifty. I was born at the place known as the Eagle River Landing [Eeyák'w], although we more frequently occupied the land and site now used by the Juneau Boy Scouts as a summer camp. In 1882, I moved with the members of my clan to the Auke Bay Village [Aanchgaltsoow] which is now known as the Auke Bay Recreational Area. However, since moving, I have always gone back to Eagle River to hunt and trap. This is in the locations previously described. My forebearers, as well as all the members of my clan prior to my grandfathers, have continuously used the Eagle River area for their summer and winter camps, although we considered Auke Bay our permanent camp.

The members of our group consider ourselves to be the owners of the land from Berners Bay [Daxanáak] to Juneau, and we never fish, hunt, or trap outside of this area claimed by our clan.

My forebearers and myself have used, continuously, the areas of Auke Bay, Tee Harbor [Wooshdeix'alatyé], and Shelter Island [Kichxaak'] for hunting, trapping, and fishing. I have had a summer camp continuously on Shelter Island for over fifty years, from which base I have carried on the preparation of my winter's source of food, fish, berries, and gardening. We also fished and hunted regularly at Fish Creek Village [Aangooxa Yé] during the summer months. I have a fish camp at Fish Creek Village which I still use every summer. I still have a fish camp on Shelter Island. However, my home is in Auk Village—the Native village in Juneau where most of my tribe are living, with the exception [of time spent at] the summer camps and hunting camps, which we still retain at our old hunting and fishing grounds.

We still depend on all of our old hunting and fishing grounds to make our living and claim them for our people. Lots of white people are now encroaching on our hunting and fishing grounds, and I request help for our people in protecting our rights so that we may not be entirely crowded out. We need to keep our hunting and fishing grounds to get [food] for ourselves and families, otherwise we will starve.

Signed at Juneau, Alaska, this 6th day of September, 1946.

Witness: Leonard C. Allen

Witness: Fred R. Geeslin

23. Statement of Katie Matsu

I was born at Auk Village, and when I was a little girl about five year old, we moved to Juneau. I don't know my age, but I am old enough to get a pension.

We go to Point Young, where there is a fish stream called Tsaatahéen. People from Auk went there, and there were quite a few smokehouses there.

Berners Bay is another place where the Native people have smokehouses for canoes. I have not gone to this place for about five years. I have to stay home because my daughter must go to school, and I am crippled. Johnny Watson goes over to Seymour Canal, which is called Kinaqayik*. He lives at Seymour Canal, but comes to Juneau every once in a while. He stays on an island in the canal called Kitquxlik*. He picks berries, hunts deer, and traps in season, which is his main reason for staying there. Johnny Wise goes in there after the fishing season is over. I used to

stay in there during the winter, but left when my daughter had to go to school about five years ago. Seymour Canal belongs to the L'eeneidí. Sam Hopkins and Jack Gamble go over to Fish Creek. I never go over there, myself. Before I was crippled, I used to cover all of Douglas Island, picking berries. I never went to Admiralty Island.

There used to be a cemetery at Auke Bay, but now there is only a medicine man's grave there. It is about eighteen miles from Juneau, toward the beach from the road. There is another grave beyond the farming plots, a little further out. It is also on the beach side of the road.

Signed at Juneau, Alaska, this 26th day of September, 1946.

Witness: Leonard C. Allen

Witness: Albert Johnson

24. Statement of Herbert Mercer

I was born in Juneau in 1915. I lived in Hoonah from 1930 until 1937. My mother is Kaagwaantaan from Hoonah and my father is a Native of Haines.

The Juneau people fish at Auke Bay and Tee Harbor for their own use. I have fished in those places with them, but not for the last eight years. Most of the people from here also fish at Hut Point. I haven't been there since 1927 myself. At that time, there were three smokehouses on the outside, and more on the inside. The Indians get humpies and dog salmon there.

There were also about four smokehouses on Salmon Creek on the mainland north of Juneau. I visited with them one year, some years ago.

Some of the Natives from Juneau go up to Berners Bay. James Miller used to go up there, but he is crippled now and can't go. William Kunz, David Wallace, and Jack Gamble and his family all go to Fish Creek. These three men all belong to one clan. Nobody from here goes up to Auke Bay unless they have gardens. There are, however, quite a few with gardens up there.

The Douglas (Taku) people trap all through Douglas Island. A few of them went there this winter. I heard one man from Douglas tell about his trapping on Douglas Island and around by Point Hilda.

I believe some of the people go over to Oliver Inlet to hunt. Henry Anderson, a Native from Juneau, has homesteaded around Oliver Inlet. Johnny Wise, another Native, also has a homestead in that area. Both of these men are out trolling now. The Natives from here only use the Hawk Inlet area for hunting now. They get deer and further winter provisions. The Juneau people also go to Seymour Canal to hunt.

A few Natives go up Taku for moose. All the Natives from here go seal hunting at Sumdum and Speel River at Port Snettisham. I went hunting there for seal in 1929, but other Natives go in there regularly. I have seen them bring in the seals from there.

My father told me that some of the Juneau people lived in Auke Bay, and some lived at the present site of Juneau since early times.

There are smokehouses at the mouth of the Antler River in Berners Bay. I was there a few years back to pick berries with my parents and saw the smokehouses.

Signed at Juneau, Alaska, this 27th day of September, 1946.

Witness: Leonard C. Allen

Witness: Bess L. Paden

25. Statement of Dave Wallace

I was born in Juneau and am sixty-seven years old. I belong to the Yaxte Hít house, of the L'eeneidí clan.

Berners Bay is called Daxanáak and was the biggest berry picking place for the Juneau people. We get blueberries here, chiefly. We also gathered berries at the present site of Juneau and Douglas. At Berners Bay we also got huckleberries, nagoonberries, cohos, and dog salmon. The Wooshkeetaan people own Berners Bay. I don't believe anybody goes to Berners Bay anymore. I go up there to buy fish, but don't go up the creeks. The smokehouses are still there, but they are all broken down now. There used to be a village at Berners Bay at two places; one up between the Berners and Lace rivers, and one down near the mouth of the Lace River. These were places where the Native people stayed the year around. The upper one of these is called Kuteqan* [Kutakaan?], but I do not know the name of the other village. Now, the houses are all gone. The Indians used to go way up the river to fish. Mrs. Henry Phillips, a member of the Wooshkeetaan, knows all about this place.

Eagle River is called Asx'ee, and belongs to the L'eeneidí people. This was a summer camp, with temporary houses, and not a permanent village. The Indians get cohos, sock-eyes, cranberries, mountain goat, and black bear there. William Kunz owns this place, and my grandfather used to have a place there. I am used to going there, but Kunz is in charge. I have not been there for seven or eight years, but Kunz still goes there. Now, whites have homesteads in that area.

Tee Harbor is called Wooshdeix'alatyé and is now used as a fish station. That is, the Natives from here go there to

Statement of Dave Wallace

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fish and pick berries for home use. My people own Tee Harbor. They have the territory all the way from Berners Bay to Auke Bay. Kunz has a house there, and I also have a house there, and was there this spring. I also have a homestead on Fish Creek, which is on the north side of Douglas Island. Fish Creek was a little town a long time ago, and I have title to that place now. We only get dog salmon and humpies at Tee Harbor. There is no trapping there.

Lincoln Island is owned by the Wooshkeetaan, who used to live there in the winter. Now, they use it for trolling and for fishing halibut, and the buyers go there to pick up fish. There are no houses there now. Shelter Island is used in the same way.

The opposite shore of Lynn Canal, all the way to Point Howard, belongs to the Haines people. There was a village at Barlow Cove, which is called Yaxwch'i Koowutáak, and was a good place to fish. Trollers go in there and all the way down to Young Bay, and on the outside of Douglas Island, but there are not trolling camps in there. The whites have taken up homesteads throughout this whole area. There were no houses at Barlow Cove in my time, but my father told me he used to go there when it was a regular village which belonged to the Wooshkeetaan.

Funter Bay [Shakananaxwk'] is a good place for king salmon fishing, and also for getting berries. There is no village or camp there. This area belongs to the Wooshkeetaan people.

The Wooshkeetaan also own Hawk Inlet, which is called Weineidei. From this place, they get deer, brown bear, mink, dog salmon, and king salmon. There used to be houses on the right side of the cannery, but nobody lives there anymore. The people who owned those houses have all died off. Charlie Johnson, an Auk Native, goes in there to catch fish for home use. He has two smokehouses about two miles below the cannery. The territory beyond Hawk Inlet belongs to the Angoon people.

Young Bay is called Weineideiyán. There are no houses or anything there now. There are two salmon streams there which used to belong to the Wooshkeetaan. Oliver Inlet belonged to the L'eeneidí. It is called Deishu Áak'w (D.W.); Noosekated* (L.C.A.).¹ The whole of Seymour Canal be-

¹ Note: In the original typed statement there are, parenthesized, "(D.W.)" and "(L.C.A.)," between the lines of the text, with a Tlingit word between them. There is no explanation for this, but "(L.C.A.*)" could stand for Leonard C. Allen, who was one of the two witnesses to sign this statement, and "(D.W.*)" could stand for Dave Wallace, whose statement this is. One possible explanation is that Allen and Wallace differed on the name or the pronunciation of the Tlingit names for Oliver Inlet and Windfall Harbor, and the transcriber chose to include both—Ed.

longs to our relations. Fish and deer are both obtained there. The only man who uses that place now is Jimmy Watson. He is a member of the Wooshkeetaan clan, but his father belongs to the clan that owns this area. He lives at Windfall Harbor, which is called Tcitenax* (D.W.); Chicknuk* [Chichnáx?] (L.C.A.). I was last there two years ago, but Watson is there all the time. This used to be a camp for smoking dog salmon, which were very good there. Watson and Johnny Wise and Henry Anderson trap there every winter. Wise and Anderson are married to sisters, and they live here and always tell me when they are going trapping. They trap the whole bay, from the mouth to the head, on both sides.

I own a place on Fish Creek. Other Natives smoke salmon at Hut Point, which is near my place. We use these houses every fall. Jack Gamble, William Kunz, and Sam Hopkins go there every year. They don't have homesteads, but I think the government holds this land for them. At my place, I can get dog salmon and deer, but there is no trapping. There are five homesteads around me which are held by white people.

At Fairhaven, between Auke Bay and Tee Harbor, there is a place that the government has set aside for the fishing people. The government has put up a sign saying that this place is for the fishermen, both white and Native, and has protected this place against homesteading. Now, however, there is a herring pot on this place which was put up by John Willis, a white man, and he is trying to prevent the fishermen from going in there.

Signed at Juneau, Alaska, this 26th day of September, 1946.

Witness: Frank Shorty

Witness: Leonard C. Allen

26. Statement of Mrs. Jessie Wilson

I was born in Juneau and have lived here all my life. I am forty-eight years old. My parents are from Hoonah. The people from here go to Funter Bay to trap mink and marten. They also go over to Hawk Inlet, where there used to be two cabins, which are now gone. These belonged to Natives named Gamble and Clark, and are part of the Wooshkeetaan territory.

I never saw a village at Auk, but I have been told by elderly persons now dead there used to be a town there.

There used to be houses at Funter Bay, and this was used for a trolling camp. We would go there in the winter. I would go there when I was a girl, but I have not gone there in recent years.

Dzantik'i Héeni 1879 as seen by John Muir

We called at an Indian summer camp on the mainland about noon, where there were three very squalid huts crowded and jammed full of flesh of many colors and smells, among which we discovered a lot of bright fresh trout, lovely creatures about 15 inches long, their sides adorned with red spots. We purchased five of them and a couple of salmon for a box of gun-caps and a little tobacco. About the middle of the afternoon we passed through a fleet of icebergs, their number increasing as we neared the mouth of the Taku Fiord, where we camped, hoping to explore the fiord and see the glaciers where the bergs, the first we have seen since leaving Icy Bay, are derived.

p. 136-7, Travels in Alaska, The Trip of 1879, John Muir.

SECTION 11:

INITIAL DRAFT CONCEPT PLANS

LEGEND

1. ENHANCED FOREST AREA
2. HUT POINT VIEWING PLATFORM
3. ADDITIONAL INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
4. REDUCE DIKE HEIGHT
5. REMOVED PORTION OF DIKE
6. ADA BOARDWALK POND ENDING
7. SIDE CHANNEL FISH HABITAT
8. VAULT TOILETS
9. COVERED PICNIC SHELTER
10. PAVED ROAD & STORMWATER FEATURES
11. TRAIL SECTION RELOCATED FOR IMPROVED HABITAT

- Trail
- TRAIL ENHANCEMENT
- Road
- Property Line
- Raised Boardwalk
- Dike
- Point of Interest
- New Structure
- Stopping Point
- Stream Restoration

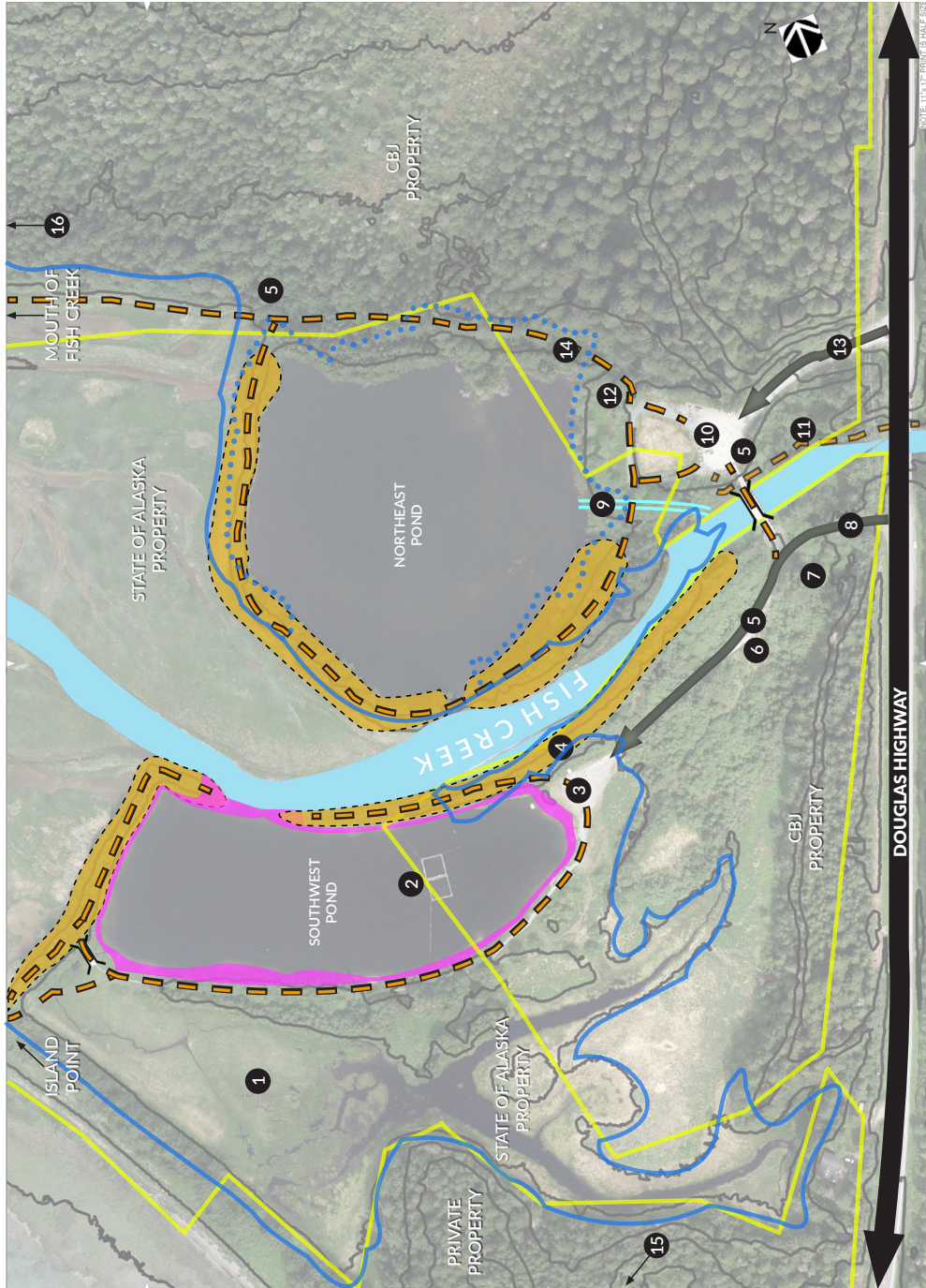


AREA PLAN

FISH CREEK AREA PLAN
 January 2022

LEGEND

- 1. BIRDBOX STUDY AREA
 - 2. DIPAC SALMON REARING FISH PENS
 - 3. AREA PRONE TO TIDAL FLOODING
 - 4. SEASONAL PORTABLE TOILET
 - 5. INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE
 - 6. INFORMAL CAMPING AREA
 - 7. 1923 GARDENS & HOUSE LOCATION
 - 8. VEHICLE SERVICE ROAD
 - 9. HIGH WATER CONNECTION CHANNEL
 - 10. PARKING LOT
 - 11. FISH CREEK STREAM ACCESS TRAIL
 - 12. PICNIC TABLE & BBQ GRILL
 - 13. MAIN ENTRY ROAD
 - 14. FLOOD PRONE AREA
 - 15. HISTORIC SCHOOL FROM 1930s
 - 16. HUT POINT HISTORICAL AREA
- Trail
 - 20 foot Hightide
 - Hightide
 - Hightide If Dikes Breached
 - Road
 - Property Line
 - Bridge
 - Dike
 - Angler Casting / Erosion Area
 - Point of Interest



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FISH CREEK AREA PLAN
January 2022

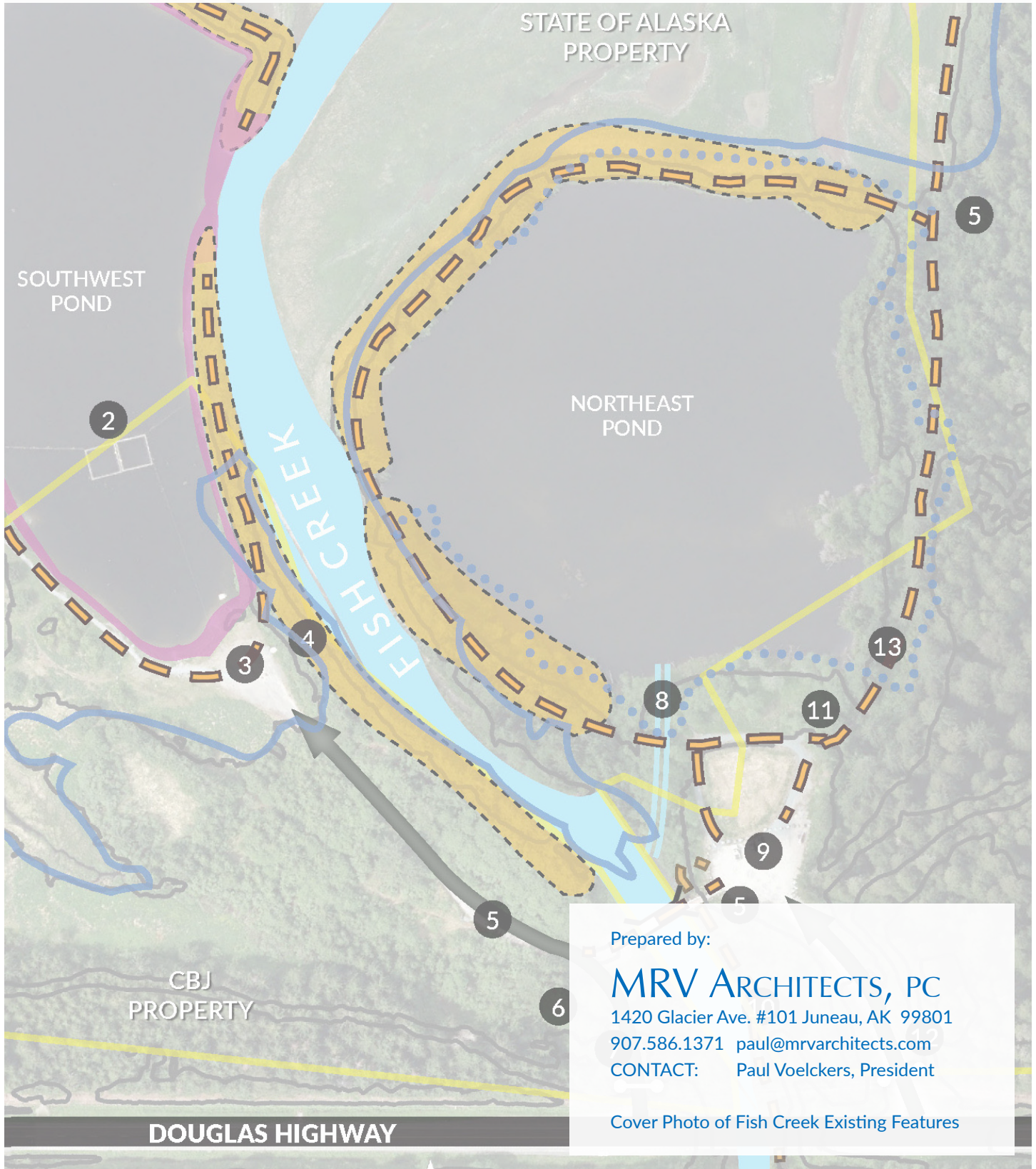
SECTION 12:

PLAN CONCEPTS PUBLIC COMMENT RESULTS

FISH CREEK

MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS PUBLIC COMMENT RESULTS

MOUTH OF FISH CREEK



Prepared by:

MRV ARCHITECTS, PC
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907.586.1371 paul@mrvarchitects.com
CONTACT: Paul Voelckers, President

Cover Photo of Fish Creek Existing Features

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

The Fish Creek Recreation Area on Douglas Island is a popular recreation area and contains valuable fish and wildlife habitat. The City and Borough of Juneau, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, and Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and MRV Architects have teamed up to improve recreation opportunities and restore stream and natural habitat.

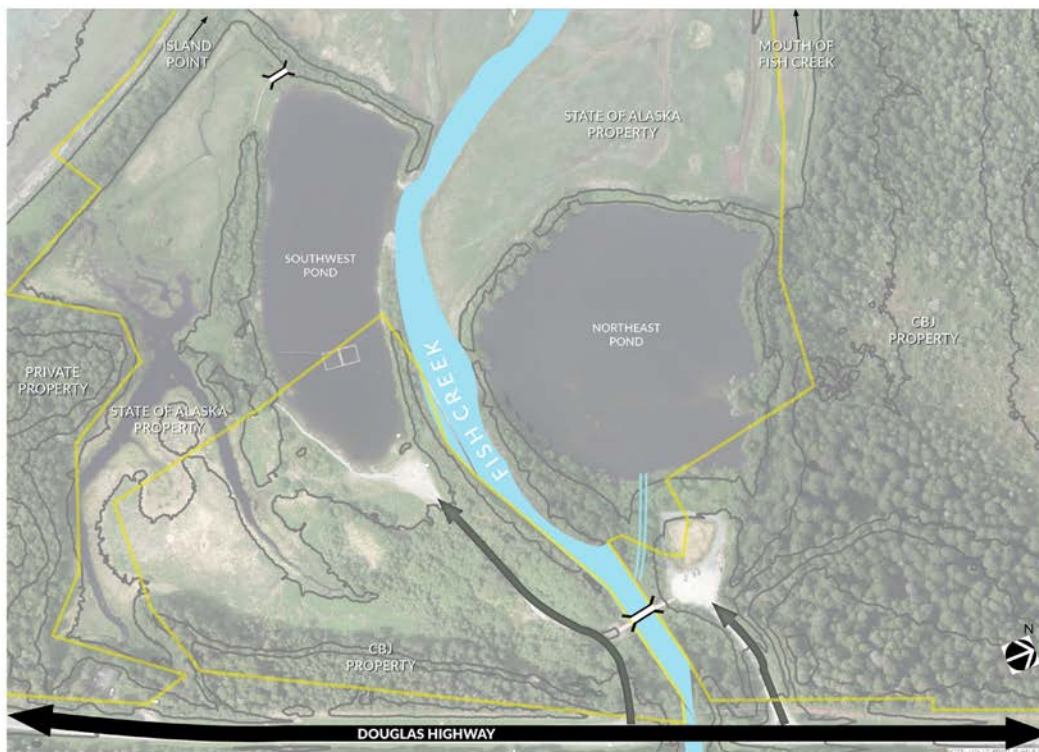
Months of coordinated community engagement, research and design iterations have produced two area site plan concepts that we presented to the public on December 16th, 2021. This document represents the public comments received on those plans from December 17th, 2021 to January 10th 2022 via email and an online survey form. The survey asked open-ended questions to gauge the community's thoughts on the concepts. **The survey collected 22 responses.**

The results have been tabulated and converted into a summary contained within this document. The following are the major parts covered by the survey to which the results are reflected:

- Existing Features
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Overall Comments
- Contact Information Collected
- Comments Received Outside of The Survey



Community Planning & Survey Administrators



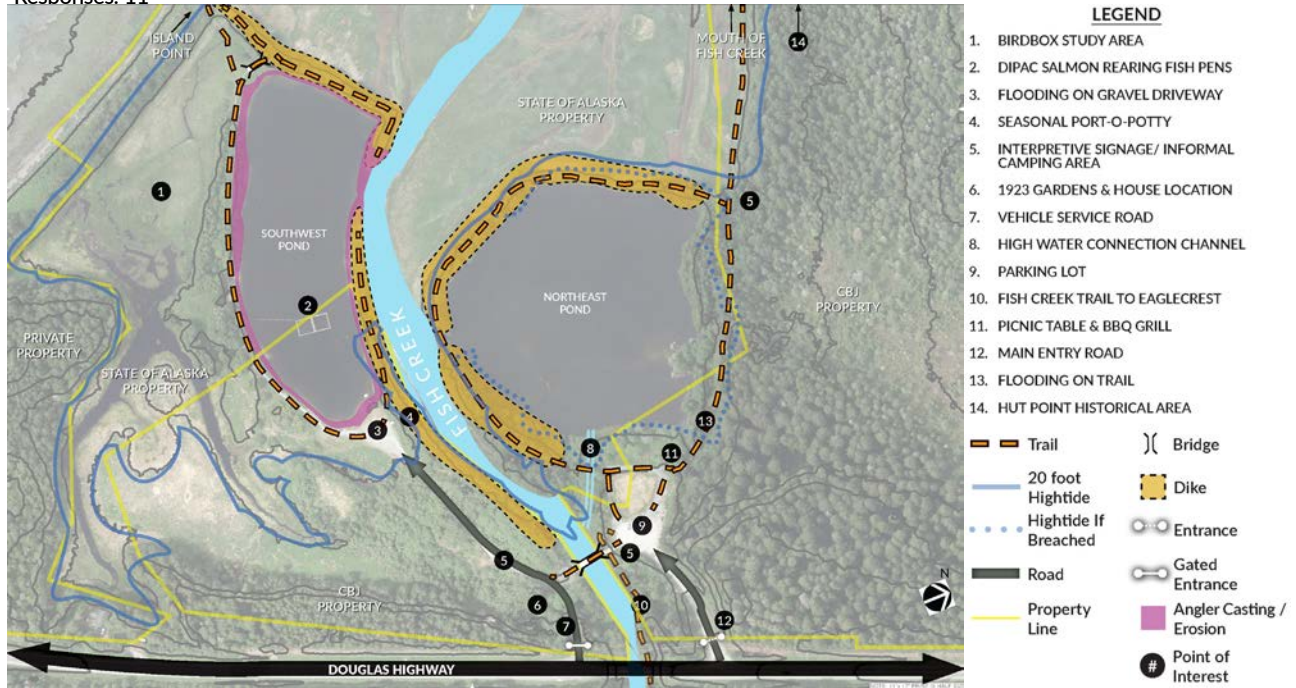
Fish Creek Recreation Area Land Ownership Map

SECTION 2:

EXISTING FEATURES

Question 1: Is there something missing from this existing features layout that the project team should know about?

Responses: 11



Existing Features Diagram Map

Below are all of the narrative comments received for this question.

No

Housing. Parks are nice, if you are rich and already have a place to live but I think there should be both places to recreate and also live.

All layouts should show the 50 foot anadromous waters setback which protects the riparian zone within 50 feet of the OHW mark on Fish Creek. Although trails and bridges are allowed in the setback, avoid placing trails in the setback to prevent user impacts on the health of vegetation, including tree roots. Considering the large degree of historic impact and alteration of this system, it is important to avoid additional impacts to allow the site to recover and to protect fish and wildlife habitat.

Second, you need to identify the important toad rearing area on the same side of the NE pond as the beaver lodge. The toad rearing area has become an important natural history attraction for school age kids. And since it has become such an important educational attraction, it is essential that the CBJ post an interpretive sign, and take other public communication measures as necessary, to discourage kids from dipping and net catching the hundreds of toadlings that were routinely taken this past summer (2021).

Third, you need to expand the map show where a proposed Hut Point viewing platform would be located.

Not that I am aware of.

This photo/illustration is outdated for the area designated bird box study area (1). Beaver activity on the eastern tributary has deepened the channel. There are two wide pool areas nearly where the # 1 is shown. Both of these areas are extremely important to bats and all Alaska's migrating swallows. I have seen 100's of barn swallows, tree swallows & violet green swallows feeding here during migration. A small population of tree swallows spends their entire life at fish creek.

Maintain perches for kingfishers. There was one at the end of the northeast pond that has eroded away recently.

There is a trail from 5 toward 14 inside the forest (in addition to the muddy one on the meadow).

Beaver dam - at least one that seems active - just down the hill from 13. Also there has been a bat study area just past it. In this little section between the beaver dam and the bat stuff is really active frog/toad (?) rearing habitat. We've come across thousands of little tadpoles there. Also, I don't understand the 20 foot high tideline on the south side of the map, near the highway. Also - I don't think there should be camping available at the 5 on the northeast pond. There are no bathrooms even close to there.

Hi,

I have previously provided input, but am taking this opportunity to reiterate. I am an amateur mushroom enthusiast. I strongly disagree with your devaluing the biodiversity of the mid-aged successional Sitka spruce forests that surround the northeast pond. The same pond-side spruce forests you want to improve for plant diversity harbor the most spectacular fungal diversity I have seen in SE Alaska. This habitat provides characteristics underrepresented but valuable to fungi: 1) The pond tailings the dike consists of are sediments in the sand-cobble range. These particle sizes promote soil drainage and oxygenation strongly associated with fungi. 2) Sitka spruce are the tree species most associated with mycorrhizal fungi in SE AK. Removing spruce removes fungi. 3) The combination of nutrient-rich pond waters and upland spruce creates a unique combination of attributes that promotes fungal species not found broadly across the landscape:

- 1) King boletes are prevalent in this zone, along with their common associate Amanita muscaria.
- 2) Hydnellum peckii and Hydnellum caeruleum, two spectacular and charismatic fungi, are common on the dike.
- 3) Russula xerampelina (group) fruits in abundance I've never seen elsewhere in SE AK.
- 4) I found Thelephora palmata here, but not in any other place in SE AK.
- 5) I found Cortinarius croceus here, but not in any other place in SE AK.
- 6) Although cottonwoods are not prevalent in the area, I did find Hercium corraloides, rare in the region, on a riparian cottonwood on the westernmost part of the northeast side of the dike.

In addition to the potential impact of your restoration on fungi, I will also vouch for the value of the northeast pond to beavers, otters, mink, wolves, coyotes, loons, mergansers, flickers, downy woodpeckers, kingfishers, herons, little brown bats, sticklebacks, and western toads, amongst others. I really can't imagine a place in SE AK that houses more diversity.

Might I suggest, if it ain't broke, consider the possibility it might not need fixing.

SECTION 3:

NEW AREA CONCEPT OPTION 1

Question 2: What are your thoughts about Option 1?

Responses: 21



New Area Concept Option 1

Below are all of the narrative comments received for this question.

Looks like a lot of wasted space, especially #2 area.

Portions of the existing parking lot that are within the 50 foot setback should be restored by planting native trees, shrubs, and other plants and protecting new plantings with fencing. To accommodate more cars, design a new parking area that is rectangular and extends partly into the filled area west of the existing parking area. Place perpendicular spaces on the long edges of the rectangle.

I like idea of proactively addressing the retaining dike that is bound to break at some point. Allowing larger delta area sounds like preferred ecological plan.

Extremely against the trail cutting through the middle of northeast pond for various reasons - more dog activity around critical habitat, degradation of toad area and concern for bat habitat.

First, the 4 dock spaces for fish rearing pens in the SW pond would overly monopolize the pond for that use. The pond is used by both resident and commercially guided tourist kayakers and canoeists and should not be dedicated as exclusively to rearing fish as Option 1 proposes.

Second, although the freshwater nature of NE pond is artificial because it was converted from intertidal water by a man-made dike, the reality is that it now provides valuable freshwater habitat diversity for waterfowl, wading birds (herons), beavers, and toad reproduction. To reduce this freshwater pond by roughly 65% by replacing the existing dike with a new dike which has a trail on it (item 11), would make it far less valuable for habitat diversity than it is now.

Third, I strongly urge the CBJ to gravel the use path between NE pond and Hut Point. It would continue to be come unundated by high tides, but it would prevent the multiple muddy ruts caused by fishermen and hikers, especially this past couple of years.

The northeast pond is a known "hotspot" for breeding boreal toads, and for foraging bats. I am concerned about maintaining high quality habitat for these species, even if it means keeping the system in a less natural state. I think more research should be done on how this might be achieved. Toads appear to have relatively few places where breeding is consistently observed locally. According to many local accounts, toads have declined from areas where they used to breed --and they have been identified as a species of conservation concern throughout their range due to populations declines and threats from disease, particularly the chytrid fungus. Likewise, bats are not evenly distributed along local ponds. According to ADF&G researcher Karen Blejwas, Fish Creek is a significant area for bat foraging. Bats are also of concern throughout North America due to the fungal disease white-nose syndrome (although it has not been detected locally). Would the pond at half the size still provide adequate habitat? What are the odds that the stream will soon erode out the dike anyway, making an uncontrolled delta? How realistic is it to reinforce the barriers? I don't believe we can make the best choice until these questions are answered. More delta habitat is certainly desirable for shorebirds and waterfowl, but it seems like a better option would be to explore areas downstream, or other places within the Mendenhall Wetlands complex for improvement potential without jeopardizing this particular pond.

The NE pond is critical habitat for toads and bats. Every possible way to keep the most productive site for these species is critical. Juneau has lost a great many toad spawning sites in the last 20 years. Fish Creek and Amalga are two of the best remaining sites on the road system. There is no need to add more loss of critical habitat by removing the dike as described on the NE pond. I personally worked on Fish Creek as a research fish biologist and it does not have good spawning habitat for most species and certainly no rearing habitat for coho or sockeye. The king salmon fisheries enhancement occurs by releasing young king salmon from pens every year. There is no natural spawning area available to many salmon above the road bridge. (wrong geology). The removal of gravel from the estuary was partly because all gravel went downstream during high flows due to hard rock formations in the stream bed. I do not like the viewing platform to the west of the SW pond. During many seasons of the year this meadow is a refuge from hunting and dog disturbance in the area. The ducks will not congregate there for rest & food if dogs & people have easy access.

I don't approve of the modifications of this area. It will only bring more trash and more unleashed pets into the area. I have been using this area for wildlife viewing for over 15 years and it has been severely affected due to increased usage. Wildlife has been affected and is now less abundant.

Like combination of pond types at northeast pond. Loop trails make sense and avoid dead end trails to no where. Observation platforms serve little purpose (and expense) unless used for fishing. Is there enough locations for fishing without impacting pond shore and spreading people out to avoid combat fishing? Good to keep parking at entry but enough parking? Where does fish cleaning happen?

Too much alteration of the area especially the northeast pond and the dike of the southwest pond. Keep dikes as they are!

I prefer option 2 because I do not want to see bat and toad habitat diminished.

It is concerning to me that the ponds size is changed or eliminated. Using this area for the last 40 years I have concerns the following will be adversely impacted: boreal toad breeding, kingfisher foraging, bats using area for regular feeding. The pond has also provided great ice skating for families in a winter like this one! Why reduce these areas. I have not seen a good reason. Yes they were caused by gravel mining but after so many years the wildlife have established themselves. Habitat is diminishing throughout the area so why diminish more?

The Northeast pond is way too small! What about the frogs, fish (I've caught a trout in there), dragonfly larvae, beavers, and other creatures in there? It'd be way too small for skating at that size too. I think the fishing platforms I the southwest pond would be overkill. We don't need artificial platforms to fish from. Standing on the shortline is a perfect, natural way to fish. I'm not exactly sure what a vault toilet is, but you do know that area number 7 floods at super high tides, right? Maybe you are figuring that the "new expanded estuary" area will accommodate the water and anticipate no more flooding along the south and west sides of the southwest pond and footbridge between areas 3 and 4. Overall, this option is makes me want to chain myself to the dike so you won't bulldoze it.

Ses the trail beyond 1-5 get improved so not a quagmire? and what would that slope transition look like? People will use it no matter what. Love the aved road --so needed. Only about a week where the extra parking is needed along that road but better approach than a bigger parking lot. Is something planned for the flat space in front of the parking lot?

I really like the existing pond. It is great habitat for ducks, kingfisher, beaver, tadpoles, otter maybe (tracks and slides), etc. It is a fabulous place to ice skate in the summer. I worry that this plan shrinks the pond too much.

Opposed to it

Looks amazing

I believe option 1 has the best future for the NE pond and trails. I would say that I like the concepts from Option 2 for the SW pond, due to the expansive trail enhancements and the layout of the ADA docks. But I do really like #4, 5, & 6 on the SW pond.

Leave it as is

Seems least invasive.

Looks great! Love the new trail enhancements

SECTION 4:

NEW AREA CONCEPT OPTION 2

Question 3: What are your thoughts about Option 2?

Responses: 18



New Area Concept Option 2

Below are all of the narrative comments received for this question.

I prefer the two wetland overlooks near the SW pond in this option over the single overlook in Option 1.

Less desirable.

Prefer this option with one trail enhancement by southwest pond (#1)

Please refer to those of my Option 1 comments which apply under this option as well.

This is an interesting idea to improve habitat at this pond. I would move cautiously, however. Right now, the bats and toads use it. It would need to follow significant consultation with experts in bat and toad habitat to make sure that improvements really do make it even more desirable for these animals. Personally, I would go with the 'if it aint broke don't fix it' rule and use restoration resources on issues such as dirty run-off from the road and parking lot or moving the trail so there is less likelihood of toads being trampled or being exposed to contaminated soils (with chytrid fungus or other hazards) being introduced via foot traffic.

The viewing platforms west of the SW pond infringe on duck & bear resting habitat and give access to dogs. The forest enhancement west of the SW pond infringes on the meadow habitat essential for swallow and bat feeding. It is still highly flooded by large high tides. To increase forest you would have to fill the meadow above 19' tide levels. If the biologists believe the enhancement of native plants in a much smaller pond will increase habitat for toads & bats, then ok. However, the high tide lines should be carefully surveyed so all fresh water habitat critical for toads & bats is conserved.

I don't approve of the modifications of this area. It will only bring more trash and more unleashed pets into the area. I have been using this area for wildlife viewing for over 15 years and it has been severely affected due to increased usage. Wildlife has been affected and is now less abundant.

See comments from Option 1. Not much difference between this concept and first other than northeast pond and pond access for southwest pond. Make one option 'inspirational' and although may not be able to implemented, may have good ideas. Good access and fish cleaning at southwest pond, but enough? Assume two trails that go off page loop together? They need to if not.

This is my preferred option. However, I am worried that too many big spruce will be cut in the "enhanced forest areas." Don't want those areas to unravel in large wind events. Be judicious! The mix of big forest with surrounding habitats is one of the nice things about the area. Elsewhere in the CBJ the removal of most of the trees along the Gold Creek flume has ruined that area and walk for me. Don't repeat that mistake.

I prefer this option because it is best for bat and toad habitat.

Better option.

If you must do anything to the Fish Creek area, this option is by far better than option 1, but I still don't particularly care for changing and developing the area. I know that the Northeast pond hosts wildlife even though it's margins are steep and unnatural. I've literally scooped up muck from the edges, brought it home with pond water, and have had fish hatch from unseen eggs. I've pulled up dragonfly larvae exoskeletons, and waterboatman. Swallows go crazy swooping for bugs there. I've watched beavers climb out, even on the steep dike side of the pond. Don't you think your construction will disrupt the wildlife that have already reestablished in this area?? Do you really think you won't affect the toads? Fish creek is a Juneau toad treasure, and if anything needs to be done, it's that the parking long be closed completely off during their migration.

some of same questions as in option 1. This one is clearly closer to the current layout. Will th banks be subject to erosion?

I'm not a water biologist but I like the idea of helping reestablish a healthy ecosystem in the pond. I also like the vaulted toilets and the observation benches in this option. Human waste (both in the form of trash and feces) is an issue at Fish Creek. There is no option for camping here, and I am OK with that. The place gets enough use as it is. The fish cleaning station seems like a great idea, and I think the dock would be well utilized and helpful.

Opposed to it

The only thing I like about option 2 is the SW pond ADA dock layout.

I like the docks better in option 2 than option 2 but I prefer the overall plan of option 1, especially the plans for the northeast pond.

Question 4: Are there any other comments you would like to make on the Fish Creek area plan concept options?

Responses: 17

Below are all of the narrative comments received for this question.

I think a park area versus living space which is not to say that parks are not important but people have to have places to live also.

The photo is amazing.

Yes! My wife and I regularly walk out to the point and have always noted that a bench would be a really nice addition on the high point berm that links the forested point to the ponds. I'm sure some would argue it would take away from the natural setting of the tall grasses and wildflowers, however, I think if done in a creative, thoughtful manner it could be attractive and functional. I'm sure many people would appreciate it as a destination stopping point to enjoy the view of Fritz Cove, sunsets, and/or wildflowers. I would like to propose this added as an improvement to both of the concept presented.

Please see my above mentioned comments for suggestions.

I support the salmon stream and forest improvement ideas (log addition for fish, thinning in the forest), and the recreation development ideas that will make the area tidier and user-friendly. I am not sure if it has been proposed, but maybe a rain-garden type system could be built to make the water running off any paved or hardened areas cleaner. I support making the fish casting areas more accessible and finding a way to better separate the flying snag-hooks from other recreationalists in the area. I think the potential issue of poor water quality in the southwest pond needs to be explored and potentially addressed: has years of casting leaded hooks there caused contamination?

I worked on stream enhancements for many years during my career as a fresh water fisheries biologist. Simply adding large wood is not practical for creating better pool habitat. Even large trees with attached root wads are easily moved away from the proposed areas by high flows. Fish creek is a barriered stream. The waterfall is impassable by any salmon species. Both Dolly Varden and cutthroat trout use Fish creek for rearing and spawning, but there is very little actual spawning gravel locations below the barrier. We need to first address the very great importance as bird winter habitat and yearly bat and toad habitat. The increased arrival of pink salmon in Fish Creek is totally in line with the creation of the DIPAC hatchery. Before the hatchery, Juneau did not have nearly as many pink spawning streams and no known chum spawning streams. You just have to go back 40 years to see that information. Lets keep Fish creek the best winter habitat for birds and one of the only remaining best habitats for toads & bats in Juneau. Thank you

I don't approve of the modifications of this area. It will only bring more trash and more unleashed pets into the area. I have been using this area for wildlife viewing for over 15 years and it has been severely affected due to increased usage. Wildlife has been affected and is now less abundant. Please us the money that you seem to have in abundance to improve other areas and leave fish creek alone.

Make one plan 'inspirational'.

Bats and toads are unique species that should be maintained to support the overall biodiversity and viewing opportunities of these unique species. I support the forest enhancement and placement of large woody debris in Fish Creek. Thank you for all the great work you have been doing on this project and for the opportunity to comment.

I think less development is better. We go there because we love it, not because it has certain "amenities" like signs or platforms. Please leave Douglas's version of Twin Lakes alone. We don't need to develop parks so they get more crowded local use or commercial use by tourists.

I really like the idea of highlighting the natural beauty of the area with the observation areas and working to restore habitat. Managing human waste is an issue, and the vaulted toilets and fish cleaning station should help. It's such an important estuary for wildlife and a great place for birding and for watching the tidal changes.

I am very opposed to these plans. It is a waste of money, resources, and a detriment to the area to try and make a better habitat for bats and toads. I understand that if either of these move forward that Parks and Rec will participate in the costs. I will do my best to convince the Assembly and fellow taxpayers that this is not a prudent use of our tax dollars. There is little proof that these proposed changes will even achieve the stated purpose of the estuary, and better habitat for the bats and toads. Leave the area alone, leave the beaver alone...the this area is beautiful and accessible as it has been for the past 50 or 60 years.

great work either way

Option 1 overall has the best appeal. I think with some minor adjustments on the SW pond with the ADA docks, the path forward looks positive.

Drop a few trees into the creek to help the salmon and leave the rest alone

I appreciate your process to involve folks, and all your hard work. Maybe your improvements will help folks to trash it less. It used to be a pristine area. Releasing salmon in there has caused a beautiful spot to be overrun and trashed. The fill that was left in the parking lot should be removed (used to fill in the ponds as you want to do?) Would make more room for parking. Such a shame to see how the area is being loved to death - make your improvements, maybe take out the fish pens.

Option 1 with docks from option 2

SECTION 6:

STAY INFORMED (EMAILS)

OPTIONAL Please provide an email address to be invited to future public planning meetings addressing Fish Creek Recreation Area.

Responses: 12

oycevick@yahoo.com

kovachda@hotmail.com

brucehbaker.alaska@gmail.com

gwenbaluss@yahoo.com

bwrino19@gmail.com

linda.shaw@noaa.gov

margowaring@gmail.com

lcrupi@yahoo.com

sspickler@gmail.com

sgabelein@gmail.com

rider.xip@gmail.com

blmecum@gmail.com

These comments were sent in directly via email or as comments to the 12.16.2021 community Zoom meeting YouTube recording

Responses: 5

Matt Brown -
Email From Thu, Dec 16, 2021, 8:09 PM

I'm quite sure the only support for this project comes from people who don't live near fish creek. This are is quiet and serene... you will turn it into another trash collector park and the wildlife will be non existent after you make your "improvements ". With so many other areas around Juneau that need funding for improvements why do you come Out here?

I live in the Bayview subdivision and nobody here supports this debacle you are planning. Please take your project elsewhere.

I have already seen the impact on wildlife in this are due to unleashed dog walkers and people now crowding in for the terminal Fishery.

Bayview residents don't want or need this project and it most definitely affects our subdivision the most.

Gary H Gillette -
Email From Mon, Jan 3, 2022, 11:24 AM

I was not able to attend the onsite assessment or Zoom meeting however I did watch it later and have studied the concepts proposed for Fish Creek Park improvements. The options prepared seem to offer a good compromise for an area that has a lot of diverse uses and environmental conditions. I prefer a combination of Options 1 & 2. Please consider my comments below:

1. One of my favorite ways to visit this area is by kayak at high tide thus I do not support the installation of the three fishing docks jutting out into the Southwest Pond. I prefer a natural widening of the bank for fishing access as shown in Option 2, but with no dock structures.
2. I support the ADA fishing dock provided it is accessed by ADA trail from parking lot not by the roadway to Douglas Highway. I understand the roadway is needed for Fish and Game and maintenance access but it should not be open to the public for ADA fishing dock access.
3. I support the vault toilet as I know it is needed. It should be located discreetly and buffered with landscaping so not be visually obtrusive.
4. I prefer the observation platforms and forest enhancement at Southwest Pond depicted in Option 2 over that of Option 1.
5. I support the dike removal and lookout point as shown for Southwest Pond Option 1.
6. From the discussions I understand the creek and delta dynamics and thus support moving the dike (Northeast Pond) as conceptualized in Option 1. The final location of the dike should be made to create the largest feasible fresh water pond as possible.
7. I support the inclusion of interpretive information. This information should include the flora and fauna of the area as well as the human history including that of Tlingit use, Hut Point, Fish Creek School, the Quarry use, and the efforts to reclaim natural habitat. All this history is important for the full picture of this area's use and abuse.
 - I haven't heard mention of the school history so am attaching some information for reference.

I look forward to the continued planning and development of this area. Thanks for your work and willingness to consider my comments.

Sincerely;

Gary Gillette

Anne Fuller -
Email From Fri, Jan 7, 2022 4:26 PM

Thanks for asking for comments

I'd rather not use a google form.

I'm concerned about the bats and am not sure we should be building new dike.
I think trails of moderate hardness would be good, to reduce the muddiness, but would not like to see fully hardened and smooth paths out at the saltwater. (to be fair, I think the plans so far show hard trails only along the creek.

Yes, need to add big wood to the stream

Yes, improve the toileting facilities

My recreational use is for walking and birdwatching, especially in spring. Before the meeting, I hadn't realized how much fishing is done there.
And I'd like to see a bike locker so one could lock away a couple of bikes and stroll along the trails.

Anne Fuller Juneau

Dave Gregovich -
Comment on 12.16.2021 Community Meeting video From Sat, Jan 8, 2022 6:54 AM

The no action alternative is the cheapest and most environmentally friendly. The no action alternative is never chosen in such situations, as there's no money in it for interested agencies and NGO's

Margo Waring -
Email From Sat, Jan 8, 2022 12:15 PM

Hi Kevin,
I wanted to mention something that has not yet come up in talking about Fish Creek restoration. Docks and Harbors wants to "enlarge" the North Douglas Boat Launch, something most ND neighbors strenuously objected to the first time it was proposed. But now they are back at it. The idea is to fill in the tidelands out a considerable distance into the deeper water, with an Auke Bay type boat moorage, big parking lot, etc.

I certainly hope this never happens, but perhaps it would be wise to see the impact it might have on any estuary restoration effort since tidal and Mendenhall River flows might be affected

Margo Waring

SECTION 13:

20 FOOT HIGH TIDE PHOTOS



