

To: City Manager John Douglas and Valdez City Council
Cc: PRCS Director Ken Wilson and Public Works Director John Witte
From: City of Valdez Beautification Commission
Re: Coordination and Clean-Up Efforts for Black Gold Park Strip
Date: January 3, 2025

City of Valdez code invites the Valdez Beautification Commission to advocate for, promote, and enhance the aesthetics of the local human-built environment to reflect the beauty of the surrounding natural environment and to consult with other city boards and commissions on their work as it relates to community aesthetic. Commissioners are dedicated to enhancing our community's visual appeal and environmental quality. With this commitment in mind, we would like to bring to your attention the current state of the Black Gold Park Strip and the need for a coordinated clean-up effort.

Valdez's park strips are central public spaces that play essential roles in the city's identity and recreational offerings. Unfortunately, those not visible from the town center have been declining, with signs of neglect, including insufficient topsoil in key areas and overall aesthetic. To address these concerns, we propose a comprehensive clean-up initiative that prioritizes collaboration among the Streets and Shop Division (Public Works), the Parks Maintenance Division (PRCS) and any contractors involved.

We respectfully request:

1. **Immediate attention to maintenance needs:** Removing debris, weeds, and pathway clean-up to improve the park's appearance and usability.
2. **Provision of additional topsoil:** A layer of quality topsoil is essential to revitalize the grounds and support future landscaping efforts.
3. **Enhanced coordination and communication:** To ensure the project's success, a clear communication strategy between the relevant departments and contractors would be helpful. Seasonal updates and joint meetings would help align goals and resolve potential issues promptly.

The Beautification Commission is prepared to assist in planning, monitoring, and advocating for these efforts. We believe working together can restore the Black Gold Park Strip to its rightful condition as a community asset. We would like to invite you to our regular February 2025 meeting to discuss this further.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your support and guidance in moving this project forward.