



City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686

Meeting Agenda

Parks and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

REGULAR AGENDA - 6:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for July 8, 2025](#)

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. [Commission Assessment of Trail Reports](#)

VI. REPORTS

1. [PRCS Director Report](#)

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VIII. ADJOURNMENT



City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686

Legislation Text

File #: 25-0344, **Version:** 1

ITEM TITLE:

Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for July 8, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Anderson

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

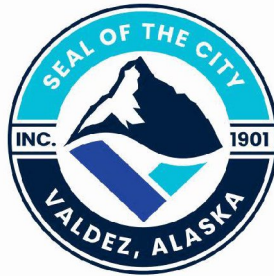
Approve Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for July 8, 2025

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

N/A

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



DRAFT - Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Parks and Recreation Commission

REGULAR AGENDA - 6:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Present 6 – Chair Sarah Jorgenson-Owen
Chair Pro Tempore Pete Carter
Commission Member Aidan Shafland
Commission Member Ben Rush
Commission Member Heidi Johnson
Commission Member Jeremy Robida

Also Present – PRCS Director Bridget Rich
City Clerk Sheri Pierce
PRCS Park Maintenance Supervisor Cole Beck
PRCS Office Manager Lisa Anderson

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for June 10, 2025
Minutes were adopted by consent.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

1. 2025 Gold Rush Update

Sarah Jorgenson-Owen gave the Commission an update on the progress of the 2025 Gold Rush Days event.

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Commission Assessment of Trail Reports

The Commission discussed the report.

VII. REPORTS**1. PRCS Park Maintenance Supervisor Report**

PRCS Park Maintenance Supervisor Cole Beck gave an update on the Mills Hill project.

2. PRCS Director Report

PRCS Director Bridget Rich gave an update on the 4th of July event and other department happenings. ARPA will be hosted in Valdez for the next two years, and Director Rich invited Commission Members to register for the events.

VIII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commission Member Johnson thanked the department for the 4th of July events.

Commission Member Shafland wanted clarification on whether Director Rich was officially the new director for the department. Director Rich shook her head in the affirmative. There was a discussion about the path from the park strip onto Pioneer.

Commission Member Robida commented on the difference from his trip to Germany compared to Valdez and American standard for parks. Requested to have new or touched-up murals. City Clerk Pierce recommended that they bring that up with the Beautification Committee.

Commission Member Rush commended the great job with the 4th of July event.

Chair Jorgenson-Owen requested that the department send out the next set of trails to the Commission for the next set of trails that need to be reviewed for our next meeting. She also enjoyed the 4th of July event. She also welcomed Bridget Rich as the official PRCS Director.

Chair Pro Tempore Carter commented that he was a 4th of July event fan.

IX. ADJOURNMENT



City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686

Legislation Text

File #: 25-0345, **Version:** 1

ITEM TITLE:

Commission Assessment of Trail Reports

SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Anderson

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

N/A

Commission Trail Evaluation Form



General Information	
Date:	8/12/25
Trail Name/ID:	Ruth Pond
Evaluator:	PRCS Commission

I. Trail Condition Assessment

Surface Condition	
Type of Surface: (e.g., dirt, gravel, packed earth, boardwalk, stairs)	Gravel, coarser rounded rocks
General Condition: (e.g., well-maintained, fair, poor, deteriorated)	Excellent shape overall. Seems like rock and gravel may have been spread recently. The brush was trimmed back, and the steps were all in good shape.
Specific Issues: (e.g., erosion, ruts, potholes, uneven surface, vegetation encroachment, debris)	One side of the trail has stairs, but the other side near the playground does not and seems steep. Consider adding steps to the end because the slope is steep, and the gravel will migrate downwards. Steps would match the other sections of the trail and may help with erosion.

Signage

<p>Condition of Signs: (e.g., legible, faded, missing, damaged)</p>	<p>Could use some interactive signage Bear safety info sign at west end</p>
<p>Sign Placement: (e.g., adequate, inadequate, confusing)</p>	<p>Adequate; it is not a long trail, so there's no need for other signs.</p>
<p>Specific Issues: (e.g., missing signs, damaged signs, faded paint)</p>	

Drainage	
<p>Presence of Drainage Issues: (e.g., standing water, mud, erosion)</p>	<p>Adding steps to the east side would help with erosion; although there is no erosion at this time, gravel might migrate downwards.</p>
<p>Specific Issues: (e.g., inadequate drainage, blocked culverts, eroded banks)</p>	

Safety	
<p>Safety Hazards: (e.g., fallen trees, loose rocks, steep slopes, uneven terrain, loose/broken railings)</p>	<p>Steep eastern end, some potential for slips along pond side of gravel surface. A wooden guardrail would help like the Overlook Trail.</p>
<p>Specific Issues: (e.g., potential for slips, trips, or falls, blocked trail)</p>	

User Impact	
Trail Use: (e.g., pedestrian, bicycle, horseback, other)	One commission member rode the trail by bike and had to push and carry the bike over a few sets of steps. Not an issue. Nice walking trail.
Trail Use Intensity: (e.g., low, moderate, high)	Guessing minimal. This trail could be incorporated into a walk, but it is not a destination trail; it is a little shortcut on/off the Civic Center.
Specific Issues: (e.g., excessive wear, damage from trail users, illegal activities)	

Water Crossings	
Crossing Safety: (e.g., Good, Mediocre, Poor)	
Current Features: (e.g., bridge, rocks, log, plank, none)	Steps are well built Nice incorporation of bigger rocks into the step design
Specific Issues: (e.g., bridge needed, erosion, social trails evading water, needs rerouting)	Potentially building steps on the east side.

II. Maintenance Needs

Recommended Maintenance Actions: (e.g., repair erosion, clear debris, install signage, improve drainage, re-surface trail)	Installing stairs on the eastern side is needed. This is advertised on cruise ships, but there are issues for those with mobility issues due to the steepness. Also, a banister rather than a rope barrier that is currently in place.
Priority Level: (e.g., urgent, high, medium, low)	Medium

III. Comment

Comments: (please provide any other details you wish to add about this trail)	
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Commission Trail Evaluation Form



General Information	
Date:	8/12/25
Trail Name/ID:	West Dike
Evaluator:	PRCS Commission

I. Trail Condition Assessment

Surface Condition	
Type of Surface: (e.g., dirt, gravel, packed earth, boardwalk, stairs)	Gravel, packed earth, overgrown grass
General Condition: (e.g., well-maintained, fair, poor, deteriorated)	<p>Good, but there are some large potholes.</p> <p>Very good shape overall for a non-maintained road that is meant to accommodate hikers and some slower-speed motor traffic.</p> <p>Poor, this trail has become overgrown due to the lack of use because of the locked gates.</p> <p>Fair</p>
Specific Issues: (e.g., erosion, ruts, potholes, uneven surface, vegetation encroachment, debris)	<p>Needs to be graded or potholes filled.</p> <p>Severe vegetation encroachment.</p> <p>Uneven surface</p>

Signage

<p>Condition of Signs: (e.g., legible, faded, missing, damaged)</p>	<p>No signage on the Egan Ave entrance. The sign should indicate that it is a motorized trail and possibly include a no camping sign.</p> <p>The dog bag station, located approximately 25 ft past the gate, had bags, and the signage was good.</p> <p>No signs on the gate of the snowmachine loop. The gate serves its purpose of keeping motorized vehicles out during the summer, so a sign is not required in that sense, and not sure what a sign would even say.</p> <p>No sign showing trail or usage</p> <p>No sign on either end</p>
<p>Sign Placement: (e.g., adequate, inadequate, confusing)</p>	<p>Inadequate</p>

<p>Specific Issues: (e.g., missing signs, damaged signs, faded paint)</p>	<p>Is keeping vehicles out of this area a priority?</p> <p>The gate on Egan Ave gives the impression vehicles are not wanted. One can navigate a SxS or 4-wheeler past this gate... which is fair game since this is a motorized trail. Full sized vehicles are getting through as well. They turn onto the river bottom ahead of the gate or come in from Cottonwood subdivision. Several vehicles and tow behind campers were also on the fingers that stuck into the river.</p> <p>Missing signs from both sides.</p>
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Drainage	
<p>Presence of Drainage Issues: (e.g., standing water, mud, erosion)</p>	<p>Potholes</p> <p>No maintenance needed</p> <p>Little mud, but nothing that can't be gone around.</p>

<p>Specific Issues: (e.g., inadequate drainage, blocked culverts, eroded banks)</p>	<p>Vehicles in the area.</p> <p>If the goal is to keep vehicles out of this area, there should be signage and/or another gate or big rocks.</p> <p>Some puddles from potholes.</p>
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Safety	
<p>Safety Hazards: (e.g., fallen trees, loose rocks, steep slopes, uneven terrain, loose/broken railings)</p>	<p>There were several trail intersections and no signs to clarify which way to go. In the end, they all end up in the same direction, but it can be confusing.</p>

<p>Specific Issues: (e.g., potential for slips, trips, or falls, blocked trail)</p>	<p>The gate blocks both ends of the trail.</p> <p>Potholes and signage.</p>
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User Impact	
<p>Trail Use: (e.g., pedestrian, bicycle, horseback, other)</p>	<p>Walking, pedal bike, motorcycle in summer Cross country skiing, fat bike and accessing Mineral Creek by snowmachine.</p> <p>Used by all users, including motorized before the gates went up.</p> <p>There is no sign to say otherwise.</p>

Trail Use Intensity: (e.g., low, moderate, high)	High It used to be moderate, but now it is very low.
Specific Issues: (e.g., excessive wear, damage from trail users, illegal activities)	Large vehicle access The trail is underused, so there is no damage. Signage

Water Crossings	
Crossing Safety: (e.g., Good, Mediocre, Poor)	None

Current Features: (e.g., bridge, rocks, log, plank, none)	Culverts are working great
Specific Issues: (e.g., bridge needed, erosion, social trails evading water, needs rerouting)	None

II. Maintenance Needs

<p>Recommended Maintenance Actions: (e.g., repair erosion, clear debris, install signage, improve drainage, re-surface trail)</p>	<p>To improve this trail, the gates either need to be opened or removed.</p> <p>Signs and rules for the trail would help users understand our “Share the Trails” idea.</p> <p>Signage</p> <p>None needed</p>
<p>Priority Level: (e.g., urgent, high, medium, low)</p>	

III. Comment

<p>Comments: (please provide any other details you wish to add about this trail)</p>	<p>The “Share the Trails” movement could make this trail great for all users, including motorized users. The motorized community is confused as to why they are not allowed to use this trail anymore. We have had unfulfilled promises and hope that this can be resolved.</p> <p>This trail is great for kids to learn trail riding, as it features hills and bumps instead of just a straight road. It can prepare them for more challenging trails and serve as a confidence booster. Kids also learn trail awareness, safety, and etiquette.</p> <p>Since West Dike is a popular trail, there should be signage to let people know where they are going and what to expect.</p>
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	<p>There was an RV parked near the bridge on the north end of the trail where it intersects with Mineral Creek. It looked like their summer home, given that it was on blocks. VPD was informed, and they stated it was state land, so they could not do anything.</p>
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City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686

Legislation Text

File #: 25-0346, **Version:** 1

ITEM TITLE:

PRCS Director Report

SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Anderson

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

PRCS will update commission on department