

# Valdez Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Approved November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003  
Revised \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

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## ***VISION***

***"The human need to play is a powerful one.  
When we ignore it, we feel there is something missing in our lives."  
Leo Buscaglia***

Parks and Recreation is an essential service that enhances the quality of life for the community of Valdez, its citizens, and visitors, by promoting good personal health, providing opportunities to interact within families, work groups and neighborhoods, serving as a stimulus for tourism, and fostering community pride.

### **Parks and Recreation services in the City of Valdez will:**

Provide **diverse facilities** to meet the needs of all residents.

Provide **quality recreational programs** and activities that enhance the quality of life.

**Protect the community's investment** by providing quality facility maintenance.

Actively work to **coordinate** local recreation services with other public and private agencies in order to **avoid duplication or competition** of services.

Ensure **equitable distribution** of recreation resources throughout Valdez's neighborhoods.

Promote the **lifelong benefits** of involvement in all types of recreational pursuits.

Support **quality year-round recreational opportunities**.

Preserve **access to the water** for both active and passive leisure pursuits, and for visual enjoyment and conservation.

Strengthen our **sense of community** through shared recreational experiences and volunteer involvement.

Build and maintain **partnerships** to optimize funding and facility resources, and to improve recreational opportunities.

Provide for effective and economically **sound management of public resources**.

Enhance and protect the **natural beauty** of our community through our parks and trail systems.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	1
Introduction	2
Benefits of Parks & Recreation	3 - 4
Key Components of Service	5 - 6
Recommended Policy Guidelines	7 - 9
Future Land Use Issues	10-12
Proposed Recreational Programs & Activities	13-14
Proposed Recreational Areas, Parks & Facilities	15-16
Proposed Pathway & Trail Facilities	17
Recommended Standards for Neighborhood Park & Recreation Services	18
Evaluation of Existing Neighborhood Services	19-20
Capital Improvement Plan – Maintenance 2004-2008	21-22
Capital Improvement Plan – Improvements/New Construction 2004-2008	23-24
Appendix A: Existing Recreational Programs & Activities	25-26
Appendix B: Existing Recreational Areas & Parks	27-29
Appendix C: Existing Recreational Facilities	30-32
Appendix D: Existing Recreational Areas, Facilities & Parks Chart	33
Appendix E: Existing Pathway & Trail Facilities	34-38
Appendix F: Inventory of Non-City Owned Facilities	39
Appendix G: Alaska State Parks Survey Results	40-44
Appendix H: 1997 Survey Results	45-57
Appendix I: Neighborhood Meeting Comments 2003 & 1997	58-67
Appendix J: Capital Improvement Plan – Accomplishments 1999-2003	68-70
Appendix K: 1992-98 Master Plan Accomplishments	71-74
Appendix L: Land Use Issues & Concerns	75-81
Appendix M: Neighborhood List	82
Appendix N: Maps	83-86

**Comment [k1]:** Adjust Table of Contents when Master Plan is finalized.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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**Comment [k2]:** Update with Current Council Members/Mayor

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## INTRODUCTION

The Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes that as the City budget grows tighter, decisions for spending increase in frequency and importance. Long-range planning is crucial to ensure responsible, comprehensive decisions are made for the future.

Our community is rich in natural and human resources. Making full use of these readily available resources is vital to meeting our community's future needs. Partnerships, public participation, and individual responsibility will make it possible for outstanding recreational opportunities to not only continue, but to prosper in Valdez's future.

Guided by the 1994 Master Plan, the Valdez Parks and Recreation Department successfully renovated and upgraded facilities throughout the community. The cost for this much needed maintenance and construction, completed between 1992-1998, totaled \$1,235,494. Only 46 percent of these funds were from local tax dollars. By looking to the future, identifying the needs of our community, and creating a sound plan, more than \$650,000 of grants and donations were obtained to help complete the necessary work.

As was the case with the original Master Plan, the purpose of this updated Plan is to serve as a blueprint for future decision-making. It provides a common vision for the community and will be integrated into planning decisions, standards and strategies which include housing, transportation, drainage, schools, utilities, environmental management, industry and commerce.

This comprehensive parks and recreation plan includes a Capital Improvement Project component. Funds for implementing this plan will come not only from the City, but also from grants, in-kind contributions, donations and various other sources. The CIP Plan on pages 25-28 provides estimates for future funding needs. Annual approval by the Valdez City Council will be required for City funds to be allocated to these CIP projects.

Through the process of developing this Master Plan, an assessment was made of the park, recreation and open space needs of the community, and that information was then translated into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial and facilities requirements to satisfy those needs. The Plan

determines the fundamental services to be provided, and commits the agency to specific strategies for allocating resources.

### **Resources:**

A wide variety of resources were used to assist with the development of this plan. The primary sources of input for identifying community needs were:

1. Existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan
2. ~~Neighborhood Meetings held in October 2003~~ 2016 Valdez Community Survey
3. ~~Telephone Survey conducted in July/August 1997~~
4. ~~1995 Valdez Community Survey~~
5. ~~City Comprehensive Plan~~
6. ~~"Alaska's Outdoor Legacy" Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (1997-2002)~~

## **BENEFITS OF PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Individual Benefits**

Regular physical activity is one of the very best methods of health insurance for individuals. (*lap swim, aquacise, bike trails, ballfields, ski trails*)

Relaxation, rest and revitalization through the opportunity of recreation is essential to *stress management* in today's busy and demanding world. (*hiking trails, parks, swimming*)

Meaningful recreation is an essential source of self-esteem and positive self-image. (*Tae-Kwon-Do, running on trails, skiing, adopt-a-block*)

Recreation provides the opportunity to lead balanced lives, achieve our full potential and gain life satisfaction. (*adopt-a-trail, bicycling*)

Children's play is essential to the human development process. (*Summer Fun Camp, Mighty Mites, open gym*)

Recreational opportunities for youth provide *positive lifestyle choices* and alternatives to self-destructive behavior. (*Teen Center, skate park*)

Parks and open spaces bring *beauty* to an area while giving people satisfaction and improving their quality of life. (*Meyring and Black Gold Park Strips*)

Volunteer Service *develops skills* and reflects well on résumé's. (*Coaching*)

### **Community Benefits**

Recreation provides leadership opportunities that build strong communities. (*Teen Council, Beautification Task Force*)

Community recreation reduces alienation, loneliness and anti-social behaviors (*Teen Center, parks*)

Recreating together builds strong families, the foundation of a stronger society. (*Family swim, hiking trails, community special events*)

Recreation provides opportunities for community involvement, and shared management and ownership of resources. (*Adopt-a-Block/trail/park, special events*)

Integrated and accessible recreation services are critical to the quality of life of people with a disability and disadvantaged individuals. (*Playgrounds, pool*)

Recreational opportunities, facilities and the quality of the local environment are the foundations of community pride. (*Beautification program, Hershey Track and Field, Teen Center*)

Recreational services enrich and complement protective services for latchkey children through after-school and other recreational services. (*Open gym, Teen Center, instructional programs*)

## **Economic Benefits**

Pay now or pay later....investment in recreation as a preventative health service makes sense. (*Lap swim, aquacise, trails, ski trails*)

Parks and recreation services motivate business relocation and expansion in the community. (*Ski and snowmachine trails, hiking and bicycle trails, children's programs*)

Meaningful recreation services reduce the high cost of criminal activity. (*After-school programs, open gym, Teen Center*)

Recreation and park services are often the catalyst for tourism. (*Ski and snowmachine trails, hiking trails, Skate Park, Softball fields*)

## **Environmental Benefits**

Investing in the environment through parks and providing open space in residential areas lead to an increase in neighborhood *property values* through accessibility to environmentally friendly green spaces and associated recreation opportunities. (*Parks and playgrounds, trails*)

## KEY COMPONENTS OF SERVICE

*The primary emphasis of this Plan is to define the present and future role of the Parks and Recreation Department in providing recreation services to the residents of Valdez. However, this role must be understood in light of services provided by other agencies. This section examines key components of city government, schools, volunteers and other agencies as they relate to the overall provision of recreation services in Valdez.*

### **Component #1: CITY OF VALDEZ**

The City's role is to provide a broad umbrella of recreation services for all residents, to coordinate and cooperate with other agencies in the provision of recreation services, and to utilize the City's existing resources to the optimum extent in the provision of these services.

### **Component #2: VALDEZ CITY SCHOOLS**

The City of Valdez has maintained an excellent relationship with the school system in the joint use of school properties. School properties continue to provide the majority of active indoor recreation sites. The City shall continue to work with the School District to offer recreation opportunities on school sites.

In discussing the use of school properties, it is acknowledged that their primary purpose is education. Recreation programs must be subordinate to this purpose. Still, significant recreation programming can and should take place on school grounds in order to receive maximum benefit from tax dollars. Innovative approaches to cooperative use of all school and city facilities should be a fundamental part of the Parks and Recreation Department's and School District's management philosophies.

In the future, the Parks and Recreation Department will be involved in the planning process for new school sites and for any athletic or other recreational facilities on school properties, in order to ensure the highest utilization of facilities constructed with tax dollars.



### Component #3: VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a necessary component in the delivery of recreation services in Valdez. Volunteers are utilized in program areas such as instructors and special event assistants, and in park projects for maintenance and construction.

The Adopt-a-Park program, which ~~includes~~ included parks, beautification, and trails, ~~has been~~ was successful in expanding facilities and amenities, reducing maintenance costs and deterring vandalism. ~~Continued expansion~~ Expansion of this program will be a high priority for future years.

Support and recognition of volunteers is another critical aspect of a good volunteer program. The Parks and Recreation Department's volunteer program needs to be well organized and able to support the manpower it recruits.

### Component #4: OTHER RECREATION PROVIDERS

Although most structured recreation opportunities are provided by the City, some are also provided by other organizations such as the Eagles, Elks, Prince William Sound ~~Community~~ College, Little League, Youth Basketball Association, ~~Little Wiggles~~, etc. The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to cooperate with these organizations to facilitate recreation services.

Other State and Federal agencies (State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) are beginning to have a presence in Valdez. The Parks and Recreation Department shall continue to work with these agencies to encourage their involvement in providing recreation services on their lands within our region for the enjoyment of the residents of Valdez and its many visitors.

The Shoup Bay Trail is an excellent example of how a cooperative approach between agencies can create new recreational opportunities. In a joint effort with the City of Valdez, Alaska State Parks applied for, and received funding, through the Exxon Valdez Marine Recreation Grant program to construct a trail from Valdez to Shoup Bay. The two agencies have worked together from the initial grant application through the final construction of the trail. State Parks has provided the trail construction expertise and the City of Valdez ~~has~~ provided logistical support and ~~organized a local adopt-a-trail program to provide the~~ annual maintenance. This project ~~has been~~ was very successful and ~~shows~~ showed what can be accomplished if organizations work cooperatively.

## RECOMMENDED POLICY GUIDELINES

During the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a number of issues surfaced relative to service, management and the adequacy and location of facilities and programs. Many of these issues reflect the need for broad statements of policy and direction for park and recreation services. These statements form the basis for evaluating the existing system and for shaping future decisions.

**THE FOLLOWING POLICY GUIDELINES ARE  
RECOMMENDED AS A BLUEPRINT  
FOR FUTURE ACTIONS BY  
THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND BY THE CITY COUNCIL:**

1. *The Department shall provide diverse facilities to meet the needs of all residents.*

Facilities and programs shall be accessible to all individuals. Wherever it is readily achievable, facilities shall be renovated to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and programs shall be designed to ensure participation for all individuals. Economically disadvantaged individuals and families shall have an opportunity to participate in all recreation programs.

2. *The department shall provide quality recreational programs and activities that enhance the quality of life.*

Programs and activities should be accessible to all residents, and whenever possible, shall be designed to ensure participation for all individuals. Additionally, programs and activities shall be designed and staffed to maximize the satisfaction and enjoyment of all participants.

3. *The Community's investment shall be protected by providing quality facilities maintenance.*

Taking care of our existing facilities shall be the Department's number one priority. All areas and facilities shall be maintained to their original design standards. Areas and facilities shall

meet requirements of new laws and codes. New facilities shall not be constructed without a plan for maintaining them. Maintenance and replacement of key infrastructure (restrooms, playground equipment, buildings, etc.) shall be planned for in advance.

4. ***The Department shall actively work to coordinate all local recreation services offered within the City in order to avoid duplication or competition of services. Programs, services and facilities that complement and supplement those provided by other public and private agencies shall be offered.***

The Parks and Recreation Department will take the lead in ensuring a cooperative approach to providing local recreation services. The Department must work with the schools and other public agencies to avoid competing for program services. The Department shall also work cooperatively with private enterprise to develop recreational opportunities.

5. ***Recreation areas and facilities shall be equitably distributed and conveniently located throughout the City to provide opportunities for all.***

The Commission shall work with the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop recommendations for subdivision standards that will ensure future neighborhoods have adequate space for park needs.

6. ***The Department shall promote the lifelong benefits of involvement in all types of recreational pursuits.***

Utilizing a strategic marketing plan and benefits-based programming, the Department shall educate Valdez residents regarding the tangible and intangible benefits that active participation in recreational activities can have.

7. ***The Department shall support quality year-round recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of the citizens.***

The Department shall endorse safe activities and events that promote and expand recreation opportunities and programs that benefit the local economy through year-round tourism.

8. ***Preserve access to the water for both active and passive leisure pursuits and for visual enjoyment and conservation.***

The Commission recognizes that certain unique areas should be preserved and that access to the water for recreation should be a high priority for future decisions.

9. ***The first obligation of the Department shall be to the residents of the City of Valdez. However, when and where practical, visitors will be accommodated in the various programs and facilities.***

The Commission recognizes the importance of tourism to the local economy. While facilities shall be constructed and programs offered primarily for the residents of Valdez, modifications or accommodations which will enhance and support the visitor industry will be made whenever possible.

10. ***It is the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department to provide a wide variety of programs at rates that are affordable for participants to attend. As the tax revenue declines for the City of Valdez, the need for increased user fees will become necessary in order to continue the existing programs and to offer new programs.***

The Commission recognizes the importance of providing quality, year-round programs for the youth of Valdez. It is not the intent of the City to have these programs pay for themselves 100%. As tax revenues decline and general fund subsidies are reduced, the fees for programs will need to rise in order to replace the subsidy. The Department will take an active role in soliciting donated funds to be provided as scholarships to those children in need of financial assistance. Scholarships and family rates will be available for all youth programs. Adults shall be expected to pay a larger portion of their program costs.

- 11. *The quality of the recreation experience and its contribution to the growth and development of the individual is a primary concern, and shall be reflected both in the types of programs offered and in the physical setting in which they take place.***

The recreation experience is greatly enhanced by its physical setting. Over-used or poorly maintained recreation areas detract from the quality of the recreation experience.

- 12. *Efforts to beautify Valdez should be supported and assisted by the Parks and Recreation Department.***

The Parks and Recreation Commission supports the "Community Beautification Plan" adopted by the City Council on January 5, 1998. The Department shall support and assist in the implementation of the Plan to the fullest extent possible. The Department supports the enforcement of ordinances that assist in the reduction of litter in Valdez.

- 13. *Strong efforts shall be made to preserve our local history.***

Valdez has a unique and colorful history. The Commission supports working with other organizations to restore and preserve historical sites and provide interpretation of our local history wherever possible.

- 14. *A balance of developed and natural areas provides the broadest range of services to a diverse population. Therefore, preservation of Open Spaces and Natural Areas are a priority as future development of our community occurs.***

The potential increase in population and expansion of developed areas due to future projects such as a gas pipeline will make protection of open spaces and natural areas an important consideration for future decision-makers. Ensuring a balance between developed and undeveloped space will be critical to meeting the needs of future residents.

- 15. *Existing facilities should be fully utilized before additional facilities are proposed for construction.***

One of the key considerations for recommendation of a new facility, shall be whether or not available, existing facilities are being fully utilized. If a program has outgrown a facility, alternatives such as restructuring the program should be considered before additional facilities are constructed.

- 16. *Organizations who work to develop additional recreational opportunities in Valdez, shall be supported by the City.***

Local, organized groups may develop a plan for creating positive, new recreational opportunities in Valdez. These groups, who are willing to commit the time, effort and resources

to making it happen, shall be encouraged to present their ideas to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration and support.

**17. *Facilities and Trails shall be constructed and managed for multiple-use whenever possible.***

Limited resources such as budgets and amounts of land and the sheer number of recreational activities make it impossible to provide everyone their own facility. Reduced resources mean we need to find ways of sharing what we do have. Flexibility, compromise, and common courtesy on the parts of all users are necessary to maximize continued opportunities for high-quality experiences for everyone. In a time of increasing usage and decreasing budgets we must work towards expansion of recreational opportunities for all rather than elimination of opportunities for some.

## FUTURE LAND USE ISSUES

### FUTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

The Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the lands surrounding Valdez and identified a variety of issues regarding future development and/or future uses. While these lands may not necessarily be City owned lands, decisions made in respect to development may have an impact on recreational opportunities for Valdez residents and it's visitors.

The City of Valdez should monitor progress on the lands and work closely with other agencies such as the State of Alaska, BLM, US Forest Service, as well as private landowners that govern the usage of the lands. The recreational benefits of these lands currently enhance the quality of life for Valdez citizens and make Valdez a place we want to live, work and play. Ensuring that these recreational opportunities remain available to current and future residents will help to provide long-term economic benefits for the community as well.

Current Lands that the Parks and Recreation Commission ~~has~~have identified as priorities for the next 5 years include:

**A. MINERAL CREEK CANYON**

~~**B. WEST MINERAL CREEK STATE PARK (Blondeau property)**~~

~~**C. ROBE LAKE**~~

~~**D. THOMPSON PASS**~~

In addition, the Parks and Recreation Commission ~~recommends~~recommend that land be set aside and earmarked for future development of an Ice Rink ~~by 2004~~, in order to initiate long-term planning for this facility.

A complete listing of land issues can be found in Appendix L.

### SPECIFIC CONCERNS FOR PRIORITY LANDS:

**A. MINERAL CREEK CANYON:**

- 30 existing uses were identified as currently happening in the Mineral Creek Canyon area
- 27 qualities/assets were identified that draw people to use this area
- Changing the road in order to accommodate development may dramatically affect most existing uses of this area and reduce the tremendous value it has for the citizens of Valdez

**Recommended Action Items:**

1. The Parks and Recreation Commission becomes a part of the review process for any proposals for development in this area
  - a. *The Commission should have authority to recommend stipulations that will ensure development will be compatible with existing use*
2. The City will monitor agency landowners (State DNR, University, etc.) and provide input regarding issuance of permits, leases, etc.

## **B. WEST MINERAL CREEK STATE PARK (Blondeau Property)**

• In a recent State Parks Survey,

1. The kinds of activities currently enjoyed at this site are:

- a. Beach Walking
- b. Hiking
- c. Wildlife Viewing
- d. Picnicking
- e. Kayak and Canoe Access

2. The qualities/assets that people like best about this area are:

- a. Location
- b. Beach and river access
- c. Beauty, natural setting
- d. Scenery/view
- e. Undeveloped area/pristine
- f. Wildlife viewing

3. The most important amenities to develop in this new State Park are:

- a. Trash receptacles
- b. Open areas for walking/picnicking
- c. Parking
- d. Trails
- e. Bathrooms

4. When asked if they would support a fee for use of the area, 49% said "yes"; 38% said "No"; and 13% said "Not Sure"

5. 50% of the respondents said they would be willing to walk ½ mile to the beach access

### **Recommended Action Items:**

- 1. Work with Alaska State Parks Local Advisory Committee to:
  - a. Prepare a development plan based on the results of this survey
  - b. Take the proposed development plan to the community for further input
  - c. Implement the final plan to ensure access to this public use area

## **C.B. ROBE LAKE**

- 24 existing uses were identified as currently happening in the Robe Lake Area
- 11 qualities/assets were identified that draw people to use this area
- 12 potential uses have been identified as possible new uses of this area
- Safely maintaining the delicate balance between existing uses of this area will require management in the near future

### **Recommended Action Items:**

- 1. Work with the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop a Master

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Plan for the long term development and management of this area  
This planning process should include existing users of area, local private property owners and the general public

- a. Identify potential conflicts/problems and plan for solutions
  - b. Develop rules and regulations for use of this area
  - c. Construct improvements/infrastructure to support use of the area (restrooms, parking, BBQ, etc.)
  - d. Balance residential/private development and recreational use
  - e. Protect salmon spawning habitat
2. Monitor Governmental agencies regarding changes/impacts to area
  3. Request support from the State to assist with management of Lake
  4. Post signs and initiate active management of the area
  5. The Parks and Recreation Commission becomes a part of the review process for any proposals for development in this area
    - a. The Commission will have authority to recommend stipulations that will ensure development will be compatible with existing use

#### **D. THOMPSON PASS**

- 39 existing uses were identified as currently happening in the Thompson Pass area
- 16 qualities/assets were identified that draw people to use this area
- Thompson Pass is Valdez's winter recreational playground—regulations that change the use of this area may affect much of the population of our community

##### **Recommended Action Items:**

1. Partner with the State Parks Advisory Committee to provide a forum for comments and to coordinate local input for planning
2. Work with governing agencies to oversee/advise regulations
3. Attend meetings of Governing agencies (ie: BLM)
4. Educate the community regarding proposed regulations/changes
5. Develop promotional information regarding Parks and Recreational facilities that are available to visitors traveling to Thompson Pass in order to draw them into town

## **CURRENT RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES**

### **1. Preschool Programs**

- A. Mighty Mites
- B. Tiny Tikes & Kindee Camp

### **2. Children's Programs**

- A. Summer Fun Camps

### **3. Teen Programs**

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- A. Game Tournaments (Billiards, Ping-Pong, Pickleball, etc...)
- B. Cooking Class
- C. Arts & Crafts
- D. Teen Talk
- E. Movie Night

## **5. Aquatics**

- C. Lap Swim
- D. Tot Swim
- E. Open Swim
- F. Senior Swim
- G. Rehab/Therapy Swim
- H. Swim Lessons (Babies, Children, and Adult)
- I. Lifeguard Certification Class

## **6. Family Programs**

- A. Family Game Night (Teen & Community Center)

## **7. General Programs and Community Special Events**

- A. 20 + Community Game Night
- B. Fencing Lessons
- C. Swing Dance Lessons

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# **PROPOSED RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES**

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Keeping in mind that we want to promote the lifelong benefits of recreation, it is important to understand that recreational involvement does not stop at physical activities. The benefits that participants should be able to gain from participation in recreational pursuits should include mental, emotional, social, cultural, and psychological development, as well as the physical. Most of the programs that we currently offer seem to focus on the physical activity. While many of the aforementioned intangible benefits are achieved through these types of activities, there is a need to target some of these more specifically.

Following is a general list of possible future programs that the Parks and Recreation Department would like to offer. It is in no way meant to be all-inclusive. While some of them are physical, the bulk will focus on mental, social, and cultural development. Following the same format as the existing programs and activities section, this section is broken down into seven categories: Preschool, Child, Teen, Adult, Aquatics, Family and General Programs/Community Special Events.

### 1. Preschool Programs

- A. Puppet theater program
- B. Arts and crafts programs
- C. Parent/Child song and dance programs

### 2. Children's Programs

- A. Ongoing after school arts and crafts program
- B. Theater programs
- C. Basic cooking classes

~~D. Money management classes~~

### 3. Teen Programs

- A. Teen Council sponsored special events

~~B. Teamwork development training~~

~~C. Brown-bag skits~~

~~D. Leadership training~~

~~E. Teenage adventure race~~

### 4. Adult Programs

~~A. Adult Arts and crafts programs~~

~~• Stained glass~~

~~• Scrap booking~~

~~• Birdhouse building~~

~~• Glass and stone etching~~

~~• Adult Interest classes~~

### 5. Aquatics

~~A. Water polo~~

~~B. Dive-in movie~~

~~C. A. Community CPR/first aid training~~

### 6. Family Programs

~~A. Daddy-Daughter date night~~

~~B. Mother-Son dances~~

~~C. Family picnics~~

~~D. A. Family communication classes~~

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B. ~~E.~~ Family teamwork training

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## 7. General Programs and Community Special Events

A. ~~A.~~ Community Karaoke at the Teen Center

B. ~~B.~~ Cardboard toboggan race

C. ~~C.~~ Old-fashioned Community picnic

D. ~~D.~~ Community ice cream social

E. ~~E.~~ Summer adventure race

F. ~~F.~~ Winter adventure race

G. ~~G.~~ Cross-country skiing group

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## PROPOSED RECREATONAL AREAS, PARKS & FACILITIES

1. **ICE SKATING FACILITY.** In the telephone survey conducted for the Master Plan in 1997, forty-seven percent of the residents identified a skating rink as their top priority for a new recreational facility. A variety of community groups have supported construction of an ice rink over the years, but a facility has yet to be developed. Research and experience has shown that a facility used for High School and competitive sports would need to be covered and refrigerated in order to provide consistent availability for use.

The City awarded a contract in 2002 to develop preliminary designs and cost estimates for the construction of an ice rink. The report showed that construction costs will range from \$2,449,416 for a very basic building with a portable ice floor to \$4,711,543 for a basic building with a year-round floor and a zamboni.

Since the report was completed, Juneau has constructed a basic facility similar to the most expensive option that our study considered. (Ice Arena for 8 months of the year/ indoor skating, basketball, etc. for 4 months) The construction costs were approximately \$3.7 million dollars. More importantly, the annual operating costs for the first year are projected to be \$298,000 and for 2004 (a full year of operation), they are estimated to be \$478,900.

With the existing decline in tax revenue for the City of Valdez, the construction and annual operation of an indoor, refrigerated ice rink is not feasible at this time. All City Departments are having to "hold the line" on expenses and adding any facility that would require additional general fund support will require cuts in existing programs or facilities. Adding a facility with the potential of an annual \$400,000 general fund subsidy is just not realistic in our current economy.

The Department will focus on improving the portable rink that was purchased in 2003. The rink will be relocated to improve the accessibility, lighting and access to restrooms. With an improved location, it is hoped that the grass-roots support for skating will be expanded. If the support grows over the next few years, construction of a covered rink, a covered dual use area for the skate park and an ice rink, or other viable options should be considered.

The Commission recommends that land be set aside and earmarked for future development of an Ice Rink by 2004, in order to initiate long-term planning for this facility. The Commission recommends that the area near the existing Skate Park be considered for this purpose.

2. **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.** The Commission has identified standards for park and recreation services within any neighborhood (see page 18). When a neighborhood population reaches 200 people, the Commission will accept a request from the neighborhood to consider implementing a park plan to meet the needs of the neighborhood. It is anticipated that the following neighborhoods will be at this level by 2008:

- a. **Robe River Park #2**

- ~~3. **SOCCKER FIELD.** There is currently a growing interest in youth and adult soccer. The Parks and Recreation Department has offered youth instructional camps and leagues since 1997. Improvements to the existing open space area on the south end of the Meyring Park will offer better playing conditions for the participants. This highly visible location will also help to promote the sport in the community.~~
    - ~~4. **BMX TRACK.** During the neighborhood meetings held in November 1997, youth from the Robe River Subdivision expressed an interest in constructing a BMX Track. Since that time they have been researching designs, construct costs and operation and management information. The City entered into a land use agreement in 2000 with the Valdez Motor Sports Club and the BMX Group for use of approximately 10 acres at the Old Town Site (Pipeyards). The BMX Group has not developed a competitive track on~~

~~the site, but the Motor Sports Club has been utilizing the area for Motor Cross Competition in the winter.~~

~~The BMX riders are currently utilizing land next to the Skate Park for an informal riding track. The Commission anticipates continued grassroots support for BMX riding opportunities.~~

- ~~5. **VALDEZ GLACIER ROAD/VISITOR VIEWING AREA.** The City has submitted a project to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) to expand the road to the Valdez Glacier and to install an interpretive wayside for visitors to view the glacier and lake. This is an important economic development project as well as recreational project for our community. Access to this historical glacier will provide a destination for visitors as well as an outstanding educational opportunity for our residents.~~
- ~~6. **OLD TOWN INTERPRETATION:** The Parks and Recreation Department is working with the Centennial Task Force, the Eagles Auxiliary, and the Valdez Pioneers to install some interpretation signs at the Old Town Site. This project is vital to preserving our community's history. Additional interpretation should be considered in future years.~~

## PROPOSED PATHWAY & TRAIL FACILITIES

### 1. **SALCHA WAY PATH**

~~A path from the Richardson Highway to Valdez Pioneer Field along Airport Road was constructed in 2002. This was a great step in increasing the safety of the non-vehicular traffic in the area where there is an estimated population of 800 residents, including a~~

~~high density of children. A link is still needed to connect this path to the South Central trailer park where a majority of the population of the area resides.~~

## ~~2. SAWMILL ROAD PATH~~

~~The Community and Economic Development Department has applied for capital improvement funding to extend Sawmill Road through to meet Atigun Road for the last several years. A path should be pursued in unison with the road extension.~~

## ~~3. DAYVILLE ROAD PATH~~

~~Valdez's largest employer, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, and one of the most popular recreation areas, Allison Point Fishing Area, are both located at the west end of Dayville Road. The road is narrow and has guardrails along most of its length. Bicycling and walking to this area are very dangerous on this road. More and more people desire access. A separated pathway or widened shoulders are needed to improve safety and to provide for alternative transportation. Conceptual approval was granted under the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for inclusion of a path as part of the larger project of widening and repaving of Dayville Road. This project is currently scheduled for completion in 2005.~~

## 4.1 RICHARDSON HIGHWAY PATH EXTENTION TO KEYSTONE CANYON

Extension of the current path, which ends at Robe River Subdivision, to Keystone Canyon is arguably the most requested summer related project. The existing trail is heavily used and expansion would connect all of Valdez's subdivisions with a safe route to town. This expansion will provide an enhanced alternative to driving to and from town and the Keystone Canyon Recreational areas.

## 5.2 OTHER SUGGESTED TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Additional suggestions for future hiking trail opportunities include a trail on Blueberry Hill and near Robe Lake.

### ***RECOMMENDED STANDARDS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK & RECREATION SERVICES***

For the purpose of long range planning, the Parks and Recreation Commission has identified eight "neighborhoods" within the City of Valdez (see Appendix M). The Commission then created a minimum standard for park and recreation services within any neighborhood, based on the following research:

1. Review of the existing park and recreation services that are provided for Valdez residents;
2. National Standards for parks and greenways identified by the National Recreation and Park Association;
3. ~~Evaluation of the citizen feedback received from the 1997 survey.~~

The proposed minimum standard for park and recreation services is for a neighborhood of at least 200 people. The commission recognizes that some people choose to live in less densely populated areas and in making that choice, do not have an expectation or desire to have a highly developed park within 1 mile of their home. The proposed minimum standard for a balanced neighborhood of children, teens and adults is as follows:

Service Area:	Within 1 mile of any residence
Size:	Minimum of 1 acre
Components:	
	* 1 playground facility
	* 1/2 Basketball court
	* 1 picnic shelter
	* 1/4 acre grass/open area
	* 2 BBQ grills
	* 1 restroom
	* 1 multipurpose field
	* Connecting trail to existing trails
	* Fencing if appropriate

When a neighborhood population reaches 200 people, the neighborhood may request support from the Parks and Recreation Commission to consider initiating development of a neighborhood park. The Commission's desire to meet these standards are dependent on funding availability and volunteer assistance from the neighborhood.

## EVALUATION OF EXISTING NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

**1. ALPINE WOODS:** The Alpine Woods neighborhood includes those individuals residing from Mile 9 - 12 of the Richardson Highway. ~~The estimated population of this area is 250 residents.~~ There is currently one park, the Alpine Woods Volunteer Park, that serves this neighborhood. It is located at the western end of the subdivision and has parking lots on the northwest end of the park and on the east end of the park. The Alpine Woods Park meets all of the minimum standards for a

neighborhood park - except being within 1 mile of any residence. Approximately 5% of the residents of the neighborhood live outside of this 1-mile area.

**Recommendations:** The existing park meets the needs of the neighborhood. Emphasis should be placed on upgrading and maintaining the park components such as grubbing and tilling the multipurpose field and; annual brush cutting; ing; improving the trail; etc.

**2. ROBE LAKE SUBDIVISION:** This subdivision is located from Mile 5-6 of the Richardson Highway. ~~The estimated population of this area is 30 residents.~~ It is a low-density, rural area with no park and recreation services being provided by the City. Robe Lake borders the northwest portion of this area.

**Recommendations:** ~~No developed recreational areas are recommended for this area at this time.~~ The City should consider obtaining land in this area for future park needs (10-20 years). A continuation of the bike path, to keystone canyon would be beneficial. The City should also encourage the State of Alaska to develop recreational opportunities at Robe Lake.

**3. ROBE RIVER:** The Robe River Subdivision is located at Mile 2.5 of the Richardson Highway. ~~Approximately 100 residents live in this area.~~ One park currently serves the entire neighborhood, the Robe River Park. It is located on the southeast end of the subdivision and is approximately ½ acre in size. The park does not meet the minimum standards in regards to size, open area, multipurpose field or location. Less than 75% of the residents live within 1 mile of the park.

**Recommendations:** None. ~~Additional land needs to be obtained for a second park in this neighborhood.~~

**4. ZOOK/LOOP ROAD:** This neighborhood is defined as the area southwest of the Richardson Highway, from Airport Road to the west end of Mineral Creek Loop Road. ~~There are approximately 200 residents in this area and no park and recreation services are currently provided.~~

**Recommendations:** This is an industrial area with heavy traffic on Loop Road. ~~Until the road is widened, there will be~~ no safe access for children to travel to a park. If the City were able to obtain land for a park facility, a path or trail would need to be included in the plan.

**5. AIRPORT/ALEUTIAN/VALDEZ MOBILE HOME PARK:** ~~Approximately 800 people live in the two mobile home facilities located north of Airport Road.~~ The City has 8.8 acres of parkland available for development in this area. The area ~~is was~~ served by a park that meet almost all of the minimum recommended standards with the exception of a picnic shelter, BBQ grills and a trail connecting it to existing trails.

**Recommendations:** ~~The City should continue to pursue the construction of a path connecting the South Central Trailer Park to existing trails.~~ The pre-existing playground equipment had to be removed due to vandalism. Efforts should also be made to have local residents play an active role in curbing the vandalism at the park.

**6. CORE (EAST OF HAZELET):** This is the most populated neighborhood within Valdez, with ~~an estimated population of 1,100 residents.~~ It is served by the Meyring Parkstrip, which is located in the center of the neighborhood. This park meets all of the minimum standards for a neighborhood park and serves as a community park as well.

**Recommendations:** The existing park meets the needs of the neighborhood. ~~Emphasis should be placed on upgrading and maintaining the park components, such as upgrading the south playground to meet ADA standards and renovating the tennis courts. An additional restroom facility in the south end of the park would improve service.~~ Addition of a cover to the recently upgraded

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tennis/basketball courts would be beneficial to serve dual purpose and open the opportunity for a covered ice rink facility during winter months.

**7. CORE (WEST OF HAZELET) BLACK GOLD PARK STRIP:** Approximately 700 residents live in this neighborhood. ~~The Black Gold Parkstrip and the Black Gold Recreation Hall provide the primary park and recreation services. These facilities meet the minimum standards for a neighborhood park except there is no picnic shelter or BBQ grills.~~

**Recommendations:** ~~The existing park meets the needs of the neighborhood.~~ Installing a picnic shelter with BBQ grills near the playground will enable it to meet the minimum standards for a neighborhood park. Emphasis should be placed on upgrading and maintaining the park components, such as replacing the bike path and renovating the volleyball court.

**8. COTTONWOOD/BLEUBERRY:** This neighborhood is made up of 3 subdivisions at the west end of West Egan Drive – Cottonwood, Blueberry Hill and D-8 Homestead. Approximately 75 residents live in this rapidly growing residential area. ~~A plan to install several components of a neighborhood park in the area was met with opposition from local residents. Trailhead facilities were installed as an alternative at the request of the neighborhood. A newly created State Park at the mouth of Mineral Creek will provide recreational opportunities to this area.~~

**Recommendations:** Continue to work with the residents of the area and State Parks in the development of park facilities that are appropriate to the land designation and the desires of citizens.

**9. CORBIN CREEK:** This is one of the newest neighborhoods in Valdez and its growth is expected to dramatically increase. ~~Currently there are approximately 56 residents in the area but all developed lots have been sold and more lots are likely to be made available in the coming years. The closest park facilities to the subdivision are the Robe River Neighborhood Park and the Goldfields Softball Complex. A small playground has been installed and consists of a swing set, jungle gym, and parking area. Although a small percentage of Corbin Creek lots are within a mile of the Robe River facility, it is already undersized for the neighborhood for which it was intended. The Goldfields facility lacks most of the minimum recommended standards and is on the opposite side of the Richardson Highway from the subdivision making access for young citizens unsafe at best.~~

**Recommendations:** Although ~~a~~ the small parcel of land has been designated for the existing as available for park development, a larger and more suitable area should be pursued for a future park site as the neighborhood population continues to grow. A park on the eastern side of Corbin Creek, if large enough, could serve the additional purposes of linking it with the Robe River subdivision and easing demand on the already undersized facility on River Drive. Acquisition of an appropriate parcel should be actively sought rather than making due with what is left after development.

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<p align="center"><b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN</b></p> <p align="center"><b>MAINTENANCE 2004-2008</b></p>
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*Funds for implementing this CIP Program will come not only from the City,  
but also from grants, in-kind contributions, donations, and various other sources.*

*Proposed Year of Completion*

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Beyond
<b>Barney Meyring Park</b>						
Bike Path Renovation			\$35,000			
Resurface & Extend Tennis Cts.	\$75,000					
Resurface Basketball Courts	\$5,000					
Lawn Renovation				\$100,000		
<b>Black Gold Parkstrip</b>						
Resurface Basketball Court	\$15,000					
Bike Path Renovation				\$70,000		
<b>Robe River Park</b>						
Resurface Basketball Court	\$4,000					
Replace Fence					\$15,000	
<b>Alpine Woods Vol. Park</b>						
Resurface Tennis Court		\$5,000				
Refurbish Basketball Court		\$7,000				
<b>Goldfields Softball Complex</b>						
Gravel Aisleways	\$2,000					
Install Safety Fence Cap		\$2,500				
Field Renovations/Reside Exterior			\$23,000			
Field Renovations/Dugout						
Replacement		\$50,000				
<b>Valdez Glacier Campground</b>						
Replace 101 Benches		\$10,000				
Replace 35 Tables		\$10,000				
Replace 5 Restrooms		\$350,000				
(Sub Total Page 1)	\$101,000	\$434,500	\$58,000	\$170,000	\$15,000	\$0

*Proposed Year of Completion*

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Beyond
<b>Dock Point Park</b> Replace Parking Stops	\$3,000					
<b>Outdoor Rifle Range</b> Parking Lot Upgrade		\$2,000				
<b>Senior League Ballfield/ Airport Park</b> Field Renovations Parking Lot Upgrade	\$5,000	\$15,000				
<b>Ruth Pond Park</b> Dredge Pond	\$15,000					
<b>Valdez Memorial Cemetery</b> Existing Grave Site Leveling		\$7,500				
<b>Richardson Highway Bike Path</b> Repave Airport Rd.-Robe River				\$300,000		
<b>Civic Center Overlook</b> Replace shelter and stairs			\$50,000			
<b>All Facilities</b> Replace Facility Signs			\$15,000			
<b>TOTAL MAINTENANCE CIP</b>	<b>\$124,000</b>	<b>\$459,000</b>	<b>\$123,000</b>	<b>\$470,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<p align="center"><b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN</b>  <b>IMPROVEMENTS/NEW CONSTRUCTION 2004-2008</b></p>
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*Funds for implementing this CIP Program will come not only from the City, but also from grants, in-kind contributions, donations, and various other sources.*

*Projects proposed for funding from DOT through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) are identified in italics.*

	<i>Proposed Year of Completion</i>					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Beyond
<b>Barney Meyring Park</b>						
Restroom at South End					\$130,000	
South Playground ADA Upgrades			\$25,000			
Construct Horseshoe Pit	\$1,000					
<b>Ruth Pond Park</b>						
Dock/Shore Improvements		\$50,000				
<b>Old Town Site</b>						
Develop Interpretive Program		\$10,000	\$40,000			
<b>Corbin Creek Subdivision</b>						
Construct Park					\$75,000	
<b>Robe River Subdivision</b>						
Construct Park #2				\$75,000		
<b>Zook/Loop Road Subdivision</b>						
Construct New Park						\$75,000
<b>Mineral Creek Trails</b>						
Block Vehicle Access/Improve Trails for Hiking			\$20,000			
Trail Expansion				\$50,000		
Replace/Realign Mineral Creek Bridge		\$1,250,000				
<b>Dayville Road Bike Path</b>						
Construct	\$2,000,000					

***Proposed Year of Completion***

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Beyond</b>
<b>Ice Skating Facility</b> Construct						\$3,300,000
<b>Soccer Field</b> Construct		\$15,000				
<b>Valdez Community Pool</b> Install Slide		\$75,000				
Install Slip Resistant Tiles		\$20,000				
<b>Rifle Range</b> Construct Permanent Targets		\$5,000				
<b>Total New Construction CIP</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$205,000</b>	<b>\$3,375,000</b>
<b><i>Total STIP</i></b>	<b><i>\$2,000,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$1,250,000</i></b>				

## EXISTING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

### APPENDIX A

The Parks and Recreation Department currently offers programs for all ages. For ease in understanding and explaining all of the types of programs offered, they are broken down into seven categories: **Preschool, Child, Teen, Adult, Aquatics, Family, and General Recreation Programs and Community Special Events.**

1. **Preschool Programs:** Covers children from birth to five years old. The Department offers a drop-in playgroup, Mighty Mites, at the Teen and Community Center, ~~that~~ which focuses on social development and cooperative play. This is an ongoing program that meets year round, and is well supported by the community. In addition to the playgroup, the Department also offers a summer camp program that is designed to be the child's first exposure to a "camp" setting. This camp focuses on cooperative play, natural exploration, crafts, and social development. There are also swim lessons and other aquatic programs offered at the pool.
2. **Children's Programs:** Covers children from Kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. There are a number of programs that are offered for this age group. Swim lessons at the pool have been and continue to be a very popular component of our service. Summer Fun Camp is a highly successful program that offers children from 1-4<sup>th</sup> grade the opportunity to play sports, swim, learn arts and crafts, and go on local field trips. We also offer many one-day special events, open gym play time, rock gym time, ~~soccer programs~~, and other sports-oriented opportunities.
3. **Teen Programs:** Covers children from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Since there is a facility specifically designed for this category of participants, ~~it has, by far,~~ the most programs offered. The programs offered range from drop-in activities like movie night, ~~hacky-sack and~~, board and video game tournaments, ~~nights to highly-organized sports~~ cooking classes. Dances, fundraisers, lock-ins, educational training, ~~skateboard competitions~~, and community service projects are only a few of the programs that are offered on a year-round basis.
4. **Adult Programs:** For ages 19 and over. Currently, there are only a few programs that are offered for this category. ~~There is a graduate dance held during Gold Rush each year.~~ Swim lessons are offered for adults at the pool. ~~There is an adult race, the Bog Jog, that is an adventure race offered during the summer.~~ We also offer adult basketball and volleyball times at the gyms, run series events open to all ages, as well as 20+ Community Game Night which is held at the Teen and Community Center. ~~Yoga classes are offered at the Teen Center~~ Free swing dance, fencing and Jiu Jitsu classes are also offered for adults by Valdez residents, ~~as well as supporting a college offered martial arts class, and an aerobics class offered by a Valdez resident.~~
5. **Aquatics:** For all ages, unless otherwise noted. This is another large category of programs, as the Parks and Recreation Department manages the pool facility. In addition to the swim lessons offered that were mentioned above, the Department offers many opportunities for a wide range of aquatic education and enjoyment. Open swim, lap swim tot swim, rehab/therapy swim, and senior swim ~~and family swim~~ are some of the drop-in activities that are offered on an ongoing basis. In addition to these, we offer a variety of special events for all ages as well as ~~;~~ lifeguard certification ~~training,~~ ~~a feeder program~~

~~for the synchronized swimming club, open kayak and SCUBA times, and special needs swim times.~~

5.

6. **Family Programs:** There are very few programs that are specifically designed for the whole family. As previously mentioned, there are ~~family~~ swim times offered at the pool, and the pool offers some family special event nights as well. Another family event offered by the Department is Family Game Night at the Teen and Community Center. ~~the Family Overnight Campout~~. Many of the special events and general recreation programs listed in the next section are available for families as well, but are not specifically targeted just for families.

7. **General Recreation Programs and Community Special Events:** This category covers all of the programs that do not neatly fall into any specific category above. Some of the general recreation programs include climbing time at the Gilson Middle School Rock Wall, ~~the drop-in rock gym program, the run series, Shape up for the Iditarod program, Adopt a Block and Adopt a trail programs, and~~ and Community Clean-Up Day. Community special events include the ~~Summer Solstice Block Party~~, Tree Lighting Ceremony, Halloween Carnival, Haunted House, Qaniq Challenge, Healthier You, SnowTown Ice Classic, Beacon and Eggs, Endurocross, 120 Races, Giant Ski Races, and much more. and ~~Community Dances.~~

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## EXISTING RECREATIONAL AREAS & PARKS

### APPENDIX B

Following is a list of areas and parks currently available for recreation in Valdez. Costs for deferred maintenance and proposed improvements are shown in the Capital Improvement Plan section on pages 21-24.

1. **MEYRING PARK.** *(Named for Barney M. Meyring, the first Chairperson of the Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission, and long-time commission member.)* This park is the largest developed park in Valdez and is approximately 16.5 acres in size. It was initially developed with a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (LWCF), beginning in 1972. The facility serves as a neighborhood park for the surrounding residential area, as well as a community park because of the variety of assets.

~~1a. **UNFER FIELD.** *(Named for William Unfer, a long-time Valdez resident who has made outstanding contributions to Little League and other youth sports activities in Valdez.)* This field is located in the north end of the Meyring Park and is used primarily for the Valdez Little League's minor and major league baseball program.~~

**1b. T-BALL FIELD.** This field is located at the north end of the Meyring Park and is used primarily for the Little League's T-Ball program.

**Deferred Maintenance:** ~~Repave the pathways from eul-de-sacs to the main path; Resurface the tennis court, replace tennis standards and extend tennis court surface to fence; Lawn renovation; Resurface basketball court.~~

**Proposed Improvements:** Construction of a permanent restroom on the south end of the park if use of the College restrooms is prohibited in the future; Construction ADA access improvements to south playground. ~~Install horseshoe pit near picnic shelter.~~ Requests have been made for ~~a restroom on the South end of the Park and possibly~~ a cover and wind screens for the Tennis Court. The old basketball courts can be repurposed to provide additional recreation opportunities. The existing picnic shelter in North Meyring will need to be re-roofed. Due to the rising number of park rentals and the community's desire for additional covered outdoor areas, an additional picnic shelter should be installed at the south end of the park strip.

**Future Development Issues:** The park serves as a snow storage area in the winter. Any proposed development must take this important use into consideration. On the reverse side, the turf areas are a vital aspect of the park and each year they become progressively rougher and trodden because of snow removal. Drainage is proving to be an issue on the south end of the park strip, and will need to be assessed and resolved. At some point, major renovation of the lawns will need to occur, including extensive top dressing and reseeded if we expect to maintain an acceptable level of appearance and usability.

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** \$104,000

(LWCF - \$91,000; Gold Rush Committee - \$10,000; Forestry - \$3,000)

2. **BLACK GOLD PARKSTRIP.** This park is approximately 6.5 acres in size. It serves primarily as a neighborhood park for the surrounding Black Gold Subdivision residential area.

**Deferred Maintenance:** Drainage and turf conditions are the main issues with the Black Gold Park Strip. Additions and improvements to the area will be futile until those issues are resolved. ~~Repair of volleyball court; Resurface basketball court; Repave pathway.~~

**Proposed Improvements:** It is proposed that a master plan be created based entirely on the Black Gold Park Strip. Once a plan is developed, it will need to be submitted as a CIP project and be contracted out. Requests have been made for a restroom on the South end of the Park.

**Future Development Issues:** ~~When the pathway is replaced, it needs to be widened to 10 feet in~~

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~~order to accommodate maintenance equipment and multiple use of walking, biking and in-line skating; Review the parking needs.~~ The ~~park~~Park serves as a snow storage area in the ~~winter~~winter; any proposed development must take this important use into consideration.

*Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:* None

3. **ALPINE WOODS VOLUNTEER PARK.** This park is located in the Alpine Woods Subdivision. It is approximately 10 acres in size. Robert C. Penney and George Wilmoth donated the land in 1982. This park was developed through the efforts of volunteers and in conjunction with a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant beginning in 1984. The residents of Alpine Woods subdivision contributed more than 650 hours of volunteer labor to construct this neighborhood park. The volunteer group is no longer in effect, and Park Maintenance is now responsible for the maintenance of this area.

*Deferred Maintenance:* Playground needs replacement. The picnic shelter, due to wood rot, needs to be evaluated to ensure structural stability. ~~Brush and till multi-purpose field; resurface tennis courts; refurbish basketball court.~~

*Proposed Improvements:* None

*Future Development Issues:* None

*Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:* \$82,292 (LWCF)

4. **GOLDFIELDS SOFTBALL COMPLEX.** This 4-field complex is located at mile 4 of the Richardson Highway. There are two turf fields ~~and~~ two gravel fields, and a playground that make up this facility. The Valdez Softball Association and Little League ~~uses~~ this complex and hosts to ~~conduct a local Adult Softball program~~ approximately 120 games annually. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains the fields for their use and other public use, and maintains the buildings. The Softball Association and Little League ~~is~~are allowed full use of the scorekeepers room and the concessions stand.

*Deferred Maintenance:* ~~Residing building exterior~~ Interior remodel of tower.

*Proposed Improvements:* ~~Install safety cap on fence; Replace dugouts; Field renovations; install play ground equipment;~~ Resurface infields to keep up with the increasing turf thickening. install Installation of a picnic shelter would prove useful to provide the community with an additional covered outdoor area. Due to the rising bear problems in the area, bear resistant trash receptacles and dumpsters should be installed. Addition of a nine hole Frisbee golf course should be installed around the perimeter of the fields and extend around the 1 ½ mile pond. Ultimately, the Frisbee golf area would be mowable, and easier to maintain.

*Future Development Issues:* Conversion of one of the gravel fields to accommodate another user group such as Little League or girls softball would allow the facility to be more fully utilized and relieve scheduling problems at other fields. However, the changes necessary may preclude Softball Association use including the hosting of large tournaments.

*Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:* None

5. **DOCK POINT PARK.** This park is located at the east end of North Harbor Drive, just east of the small boat harbor. It contains the only easily accessible beach area in the City of Valdez. The park is a peninsula, bordered on the north and south edges by the Port of Valdez and on the east end by a small parcel of private property. The City initially began to develop the area for camping in 1984, but when the area began to be over-used and abused by seasonal workers who were “living” in the area instead of just camping, local citizens asked that the long term use of this park be reconsidered. In 1988, camping was banned in the park and local residents helped to clean up the huge amounts of garbage, furniture and other debris left by the “campers.” The City received an Exxon Valdez Marine Recreation Grant to construct a trail and parking/beach improvements in 1997. A restroom was completed in 1998. Interpretive signs were installed in 2000 and a picnic shelter was added in 2001. In recent years the trail that transits the park has been groomed in the winter and has become very popular among walkers.

**Deferred Maintenance:** Replace damaged parking stops.

**Proposed Improvements:** ~~Install circuit training facilities~~ Expansion of existing boardwalk and overlooks. Install adequate signage to mark private property areas.

**Future Development Issues:** The use of this area is growing annually. The improved trails have provided a quality recreation opportunity for families and people of all ages. There are some conflicts with late-night parties and problems with vandalism of signs. A management plan for the beach area regarding bonfires and hours of use is needed.

The Commission recommends that the City continue to maintain contact with the Cook family who owns the private property at the end of Dock Point. Acquisition of this property would provide outstanding long-term recreational value for the citizens of Valdez.

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** \$255,000  
(\$250,000 - Marine Recreation Grant; \$5,000 - Symms Grant)

6. **ROBE RIVER PARK.** This park is located in the Robe River Subdivision on the corner of the Richardson Highway and River Drive. It is approximately ½ acre in size. It serves as a neighborhood park.

**Deferred Maintenance:** Resurface basketball court. Repair/replace sections of fencing that have been destroyed due to snow load and snow removal equipment. The picnic shelter, within the next five years, will need replacement (preferably with a steel structure, for longevity).

**Proposed Improvements:** None

**Future Development Issues:** Retaining an Adopt-a-Park Sponsor is critical to the maintenance of this park.

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** \$30,000 (LWCF)

7. **AIRPORT PARK.** This 8.8 acre park is located on Atigun Road, across from the South Central Trailer Park. It consists of a senior league ballfield ~~and a more recently constructed park facility including a playground~~, ½ court basketball area and a pit toilet facility. The park was constructed in 2000. The ballfield was constructed in 1979, its primary use is for Senior League Baseball practice and games.

**Deferred Maintenance:** ~~Improve road surfacing.~~

**Proposed Improvements:** Ballfield renovations; Install pet waste pickup station and add netting to be used for a driving range. Dugouts will need replacement within the next five years.

**Future Development Issues:** ~~A bike path from Airport Road to the park needs to be constructed to improve safety along this high traffic road.~~ Many of the neighborhood residents use the ballfield to walk their dogs and do not clean up their waste. The large ~~quantities of waste poses~~ quantity of waste poses a health hazard for the children playing in this area. Vandalism at the park is substantial particularly on the restroom facility. Much of the brush around the park has been cleared in an attempt to increase visibility and discourage vandals. Local residents acting as facility “watchdogs” would likely be an effective way to curb vandalism. The Department should take an active role in promoting this demeanor.

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** None

8. **1 AND ½ MILE POND – NATURAL USE AREA.** Originally developed in 1978, this park land is located at mile 1.5 of the Richardson Highway. It is currently ~~not~~ maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department. There are no facilities at this location other than the pond. Installation of a new Frisbee golf course is intended.

**Deferred Maintenance:** None

**Proposed Improvements:** ~~None~~ Continued brush clearing to improve visibility from roadway to deter vandalism. Removal of organic materials in pond to preserve clarity and ongoing litter control. It is

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proposed that any areas developed around this pond be made mowable to ease maintenance in summer months.

***Future Development Issues:*** The remote location of this area resulted in extensive vandalism and quick destruction of the facilities. The Parks and Recreation Commission re-evaluated the use of this facility in 1998 and re-designated it as a “non-maintained, natural use area”. Any future development will require active, positive community involvement to enable the City to maintain and operate it as a recreation site.

***Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:*** None

9. ***RUTH POND PARK.*** (Named for Ruth Millard, wife of one of Valdez’s first Railroad Developers) *The Port Valdez Company donated the land for Ruth Pond Park in 1977 in memory of Owen Meals. Improvements were completed in 1979 with a \$34,000 HUD grant and \$18,000 from City tax dollars. Families, youth and visitors of all ages frequently use this 5.5 acre park.*

***Deferred Maintenance:*** Pond dredging and aquacide/aeration solutions for overgrowth of weeds and algae.

***Proposed Improvements:*** Fishing Dock; Beach improvements; addition of railing on trail-Trail improvements, beach extension and additional playground equipment (ie: tandom swingset). Turf elevation to meet playground edging and segregation of user areas for fishermen and swimmers. Creation of a pond refilling solution using a street water drainage and filtration system.

***Future Development Issues:*** None

***Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:*** \$34,000 (HUD grant)

**10. KAYAK LAUNCH.** The Kayak Launch is located on the Southwest corner of the John Kelsey Dock Uplands parking area. This area was developed in 2010 after multiple small water crafts and commercial fishermen expressed safety concerns in regards to kayakers using the harbor to enter and exit the Sound. The location originally sought after to develop a kayak launch was in the Mineral Creek State Park area, but after assessment, it was too far of a distance to carry a kayak for launching. After more thought, due to the ease of parking/accessibility and the pre-existing small beach area breakwater zone, the current location was selected. All materials for development of this project were reclaimed from the Gold Fields and Harbor ramp rebuilds.

***Deferred Maintenance:*** None

***Proposed Improvements:*** Ordering and installation of a larger sign. Installation of bear resistant trash receptacles.

**11. Valdez Glacier View Park** The Valdez Glacier View Park was created by using leftover turf from the Ruth Pond project. Additions of a fire pit, picnic table, trash can and glacier information signs were installed.

***Deferred Maintenance:*** None

***Proposed Improvements:*** Replacement of glacier information signs due to firearm damage.

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## EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### APPENDIX C

Following is a list of recreational facilities currently available for recreation in Valdez. Costs for deferred maintenance and proposed improvements are shown in the Capital Improvement Plan section on pages 21-24.

- 1. CIVIC CENTER OVERLOOK.** This popular vantage point provides a bird's eye view of Valdez. In ~~The stairs were repaired in 1991~~ 1991, the stair were repaired and a new hand rail was installed in 1996. During the summer of 2014, the entire trail was redone including steps, railings, as well as new bear safety signage, and repainting of the picnic shelter. Historical signs will be installed in the near future.

*Deferred Maintenance:* ~~Replace displaced gravel in stairs.~~ None

*Proposed Improvements:* ~~R~~Repair/replace picnic shelter and install spotting scope.

*Future Development Issues:* None

*Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:* None

- 2. ALLISON POINT FISHING AREA & CAMPGROUND.** This popular fishing area is located at mile 6 of Dayville Road. The State Department of Natural Resources owns the property and part of it lies within the State Department of Transportation right of way. In 1991, the City of Valdez initiated an overnight parking fee for a portion of the area to assist with the cost of providing services to that area. A Dingle-Johnson grant from the Department of Fish and Game was received to construct a restroom, an informational kiosk and sport fishing access improvements. In 1995, the City received an Exxon Valdez Marine Recreation Grant to construct additional trails and an additional restroom.

~~2.~~ During summer months, some of the amenities and features include: 51 overnight RV parking spaces, 10 tent only campsites, three permanent restroom facilities, 2 portable outhouses, 3 access trails to the ocean's edge, one information kiosk, approximately 75 day-use parking spaces, and 3 large water containers for public use. Summer operators are selected through a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Final selections are approved through City Council.

*Deferred Maintenance:* None

~~Proposed Improvements:~~ Replace fencing and hand rails which travel alongside water access trails.~~None~~ Reconstruction of the operations contract (mandate a minimum number of camping spots) to allow contractors more latitude with development of a parking/camping marking and numbering system.

*Future Development Issues:* The City of Valdez contracted out the management of this area starting in 1996. This arrangement has worked fairly well for the operation of the overnight parking and the maintenance of the other facilities. ~~Also, the proposed re-construction of Dayville Road may provide opportunities for improving safety in this area.~~ The Commission also strongly recommends that funds received from the contractual operation should be dedicated toward future maintenance and structure replacement.

*Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:* \$590,000 (\$140,000 - Fish and Game; \$450,000 - Exxon Valdez Marine Recreation Grant)

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**3.5 VALDEZ GLACIER CAMPGROUND.** This 101-space campground is located approximately 2 miles east of the airport on Airport Road. ~~It is owned by the State of Alaska and operated under a 20 year agreement by the City of Valdez. The City has selected this property as part of their Municipal Land Selections and will likely obtain outright ownership of the property in 2003.~~

*Deferred Maintenance:* ~~Replacement of 5 vault toilet facilities; Replacement of 101 benches; Replacement of 35 picnic tables.~~ None

*Proposed Improvements:* ~~Renovate 10 campsites to meet ADA.~~ Address the un-official “climbing area” which was developed by citizens without City approval. Look into management of the area by developing a designated parking area with proper signage.

*Future Development Issues:* The City of Valdez contracted out the management of the campground in 1996. This arrangement has worked fairly well for the operation of the campground, although there have been some complaints from local citizens regarding charges for the use of the picnic shelter. ~~If the City obtains ownership of the facility, the Commission should explore all options for management of this facility.~~

The Commission also strongly recommends that funds received from the contractual operation should be dedicated toward future maintenance and structure replacement.

*Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:* \$100,000 (LWCF)

**4.6 OUTDOOR SHOOTING RANGE.** This facility is located approximately 1/2 mile west of the Valdez Glacier Campground. It was constructed in 1982 with a State Fish and Game Grant. It includes a roof structure and 6 shooting benches.

*Deferred Maintenance:* Parking lot grading and improvements; Paint shooting structure.

~~Proposed Improvements:~~ Install 4-6 permanent targets. Look into options of paving/resurfacing range. It is recommended that it become an area that can be swept with large equipment in order to ease maintenance and litter control.

*Future Development Issues:* Clean up of this facility continues to be a problem. Range participants use everything from TVs to beer bottles for targets and do not clean up after themselves. Recruiting an Adopt-a-Park sponsor for this area would be of great benefit.

*Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:* \$57,500 (State Fish and Game)

**5. WOODY WOODMAN TEEN & COMMUNITY CENTER.** *(Named for Ike “Woody” Woodman, a long-time supporter of youth programs in Valdez.)* The Teen Center was constructed in 1983 using tax dollars from the City of Valdez. This 5,000 sq. foot facility provides structured and unstructured activities for teens from 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 19 years of age. In 2003 the Teen Center was remodeled to allow it to be used to accommodate the groups and activities that were formerly located at the Black Gold Recreation Hall and to increase the total amount of facility rentals.

*Deferred Maintenance:* None

*Proposed Improvements:* ~~None~~ Look into facility repurposing possibilities.

*Future Development Issues:* Continued cooperation among all groups who participate in activities at the Teen Center is key to its success as a multi purpose facility.

*Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:* None

**6. LUKE HORNING MEMORIAL ~~S8KATE~~ PARK.** A grassroots group of youth approached the Parks and Recreation Commission in 1998 to request support of the construction of a skate park for

inline skating and skateboarding. The Commission supported the construction of this facility in order to provide safe skating opportunities for the youth of Valdez and to minimize the conflicts of skaters on sidewalks, parking lots and public areas. The facility was completed in 2000 and consists of a 9,400 square foot concrete pad and numerous metal ramps.

**Deferred Maintenance:** Fill and grade area around concrete pad; Repaint ramps, and reestablish stand pipe.

**Proposed Improvements:** ~~None~~ Installation of a restroom.

**Future Development Issues:** ~~The land around the Skate Park has been identified as the probable location for an ice skating facility if one is ever to be built. Future decisions involving the Skate Park should take this into consideration.~~

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** None

## 7. TEMPORARY ICE SKATING RINK.

Located behind the Luke Horning Memorial Sk8 Park.

**Deferred Maintenance:** Creation of a cover for the facility to help improve the skating surface by eliminate snow buildup.

**Future Development Issues:**

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** None

7. **OLD TOWN SITE.** The site of the original town of Valdez is not designated as a park, but portions of it have fallen under the Parks and Recreation Department's responsibility; ie: cleanup and brushing for clean up. ~~The Eagles Club and Eagles Auxiliary have adopted this area, planting flowers and helping with clean up since 1994.~~ Facilities here ~~are limited and include;~~ the foundation of the old post office, ~~a~~ memorial sign, historical information signs, a bear proof trash receptacle and D.O.T. facility sign located off of the Richardson Highway, and the addition of an audio walking tour developed by the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive.

**Deferred Maintenance:** None

**Proposed Improvements:** ~~None~~ Develop interpretation opportunities.

**Future Development Issues:** Development of this area should be spearheaded by the Valdez Museum and Historical Archive. ~~There has been interest expressed by a variety of citizens to turn a portion of this area into a park. Facilities that would allow for interpretation of the earthquake and the relocation of the townsite could provide economic benefit to the community and preserve an important part of our history. Grants should be explored for this possibility.~~

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** None

8. **VALDEZ MEMORIAL CEMETERY.** The Valdez Memorial Cemetery is located at Mile 2.5 of the Richardson Highway. The City maintains ~~approximately 680 gravesites~~ over 800 gravesites and 192 niches in the Columbarium. 120 of these sites were added in 2001 along a new access road, which was constructed in 1997. Addition of a historical walking tour was added in Summer 2016.

**Deferred Maintenance:** ~~Leveling~~ Ongoing leveling of old sites and straightening of rows.

**Proposed Improvements:** ~~Signage.~~ Expansion of parking areas. Due lack of property for burials, it is recommended that the cemetery policies be reevaluated in

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order to encourage cremations. An emergency flood plan should be developed for the area.

**Future Development Issues:** ~~The City may want to consider initiating a fee for burial services. Due to the annual number of burials vs. remaining lots available, expansion of the area should be sought after within the next 10 years.~~

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** None

9. **VALDEZ PIONEER CEMETERY.** The Valdez Pioneer Cemetery is located near the mouth of the Robe River, approximately 1 mile west of the Gold Fields. The Valdez Historical Preservation and Restoration Committee, a non-profit volunteer organization ~~recently~~ restored this facility ~~with work being completed~~ in 2001. The Committee was largely assisted by a \$10,000 CIP grant awarded to them by the City Council in 1998.

**Deferred Maintenance:** ~~None~~ Continual replacement of headstones and sign improvements. Brush cutting to maintain visual edges. Further lot research should be made to provide additional historical information signs. These signs should be developed in conjunction with the Valdez Memorial Cemetery Historical Walking Tour.

**Proposed Improvements:** ~~Construct fence around perimeter of cemetery; Improve. Expansion of parking areas and access road improvements. Addition of bear safety information signs.~~

**Future Development Issues:** This critical part of Valdez's history was almost lost because of no community commitment. A strong adopt-a-park sponsor such as the Valdez Historical Preservation and Restoration Committee will be the key to maintaining the improvements made.

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** None

10. **VALDEZ COMMUNITY POOL.** The Pool as it now exists was built in 2001 replacing an old and deteriorated facility in the same location. The new facility was constructed with City tax revenues and is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department and co-maintained by the Valdez City Schools. New amenities include a shallow water wading pool, community locker rooms and expanded deck space. The boiler and filtration systems were replaced in Summer 2016.

**Deferred Maintenance:** None

**Proposed Improvements:** ~~Install slide;~~ Install slip resistant tiles in the locker room/waiting area and install new swim platforms.

**Future Development Issues:** None

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** None

11. **VALDEZ GLACIER MOTOCROSS TRACK.** This track is located near the end of Airport Road. This track was built by NAME YEAR?. This is a non-maintained and designated motorized use area available to the public.

**Deferred Maintenance:** None

**Proposed Improvements:** None

**Future Development Issues:** None

**Total grant funds/donations received for this facility:** None

12. **GILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ROCK WALL.** This facility was part of the Gilson Middle School re-build which was completed in 2014. At the time of completion, the new Rock Wall (located in the mat room in the gym) was the tallest in the State of

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Alaska. This state-of-the-art facility is equipped with an auto-belay system, and is currently operated by the Parks & Recreation department for public use.

Deferred Maintenance: None

Proposed Improvements: None

Future Development Issues: None

Total grant funds/donations received for this facility: None

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## Existing Recreational Areas, Facilities and Parks

	Turf (acres)	Playgrounds	Volleyball	Basketball	Tennis	Ballfields	Shelter	Restrooms	BBQ grills	Pathway	Other
Meyring Parkstrip	10.33	2	1	<del>24</del>	<del>42</del>	<del>24</del>	1	<del>21</del>	2	10' x 4,840' paved	Horseshoe Pit Frisbee golf, sooeer
Black Gold Parkstrip	5.28	1		<del>1/2</del>						6' x 3,445' paved	
Robe River	.26	1		1/2			1	1	2		
Alpine Woods Park		1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2		
Goldfields Complex	2.43	<u>1</u>				4		2			
Outdoor Rifle Range											Firing shelter
Allison Point								2		1000 lf gravel	Fishing access
Glacier Campground							1	5	102		
Dock Point Park							1	1	2	1 mile gravel	
Airport Park	1.66	<del>+</del>		1/2		1		1			
1 1/2 Mile Park											Pond
Ruth Pond Park	.59						<u>1</u>	1	<u>1</u>		Pond
Old Town Site											Memorial site
Valdez Memorial Cemetery	2.33										
Civic Center Overlook							1			1000 lf gravel/stairs	



Teen Center	.33						2	<u>12</u>		
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## EXISTING PATHWAY & TRAIL FACILITIES APPENDIX E

### 1. RICHARDSON HIGHWAY BIKE PATH

**Summer Description:** This trail follows the Richardson Highway from Meals Ave. to River Drive in the Robe River Subdivision. There is a spur trail that begins at Meals Ave. and Hanagita and connects up with the Richardson Highway Path at the Crooked Creek Pull Out. Another spur trail was added in the summer of 2002 that begins at the intersection of the Richardson Highway and Airport Road. The new route parallels Airport Road to Valdez Pioneer Field. Primary use of this trail system includes: walking, jogging, bicycling and in-line skating. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trail from April 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Winter Description:** The trail is groomed for multiple uses (motorized and non-motorized) from Airport Road to River Drive during the winter months. Motorized vehicles are permitted on the trail from October 15<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Commission strongly supports grooming efforts to make multi-use recreational travel available to all.

**Future Development Issues:** Parks and Recreation Commission supports expansion of this trail to Keystone Canyon. See "Proposed Trails": Robe River-Keystone Canyon Expansion. The existing trail is approximately 20 years old and some sections are deteriorating. Until full replacement of the surface is possible, annual repairs should be completed on the most hazardous areas.

### 2. SHOUP BAY TRAIL

The Shoup Bay trail was completed by Alaska State Parks in 1999. In 1997, the City received an allocation of \$15,000 from State Parks to aid in this maintenance. The trail connects Valdez with Shoup Bay State Park where 3 Recreational Use Cabins were constructed ~~in~~ also in 1997. Funding for this trail was provided by a Marine Recreation grant through Exxon Valdez Settlement monies. The trailhead is located at the end of West Egan Dr., at the entrance to the Cottonwood Subdivision. Camping amenities (pit toilet, fire ring and food cache) exist at Gold Creek, 3½ miles from the trailhead. The City of Valdez has entered into a cooperative agreement with State Parks to maintain the trail in its entirety and to maintain the campsite amenities at Gold Creek. The City received an allocation of \$15,000 from State Parks to aid in this maintenance. It is City's intention to provide this maintenance through an Adopt-a-Trail program as well as with Department employees. In 2002 and 2003 the trailhead received several improvements including an expanded and paved parking area, a toilet facility and a decorative wooden fence around existing utility infrastructure.

**Future Development Issues:** The yearly upkeep of the route has proved to be a no small task. Although good volunteer support has been seen on the section between town and Gold Creek, the farther reaches have required a great deal of time and effort by Department employees. The monies received from State Parks for maintenance of the trail will soon run out and two attempts to secure grants for such work have been unsuccessful. The Department will need to receive help in the form of funding or labor in the future if the trail is to be maintained appropriately.

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### 3. JOHN HUNTER MEMORIAL TRAIL (SOLOMON GULCH TRAIL)

The Copper Valley Electric Association, in conjunction with the Alaska Power Authority, maintains a trail from Dayville Road to Solomon Lake. The trailhead is located at the Pipeline Access Road at mile 5.5 of Dayville Road. The 2-mile trail follows the Access Road and the Solomon Gulch Dam access road to the Solomon Gulch Dam. Sections of the first mile of the trail are very steep.

**Future Development Issues:** There is excellent potential for construction of additional trails around Solomon Lake. Security concerns could someday impact the use of this trail.

### 4. TRANS-ALASKA MILITARY TRAIL

In 1897, the Valdez-Copper River Gold Rush began, and the only land-based route to Valdez, on entirely American soil, happened to lead over the Valdez Glacier. This posed great risk for travelers. Captain Abercrombie, leader of the Copper River Exploring Expedition, instructed Lt. Babcock to lead the effort to create a safer land route into Valdez. The new trail was constructed in 1899.

The Valdez Trails Association ~~has~~ has successfully cleared several sections of the original Trans-Alaska Military Trail. When completed, people will be able to walk from Valdez to Tsaina Lodge at Mile 35 of the Richardson Highway. The Abercrombie Pack Trail and the Goat Trail make up sections of this trail.

The Valdez Trails Association has also received funding from the Valdez Centennial Task Force to design, construct and install interpretive signage along this trail in 1999 installed

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interpretive signage along the trail as a product of receiving a grant from the Valdez Centennial Task Force in 1999. Grants for additional signage are anticipated.

#### 4a. ABERCROMBIE PACK TRAIL

Local resident and dedicated volunteer, Jim Shephard, cleared a 2-mile section of this historic trail, from the old Richardson Highway loop on the west end of Keystone Canyon, to the Goat Trail, in 1997. The trail is the original trail constructed in 1899 by Lt. Abercrombie and used by packhorses and mules to transport supplies and equipment for the Army. The tread is very narrow and not well defined in places. Interpretive signs were placed on this trail in 1999.

**Future Development Issues:** To improve safety for users, the trail needs to be widened and the tread flattened in several sections. Signs should be installed warning of difficult hiking conditions. A trailhead sign on the west end is needed.

#### 4b. GOAT TRAIL

The "Goat Trail" is a local nickname for the portion of the original Trans-Alaska Military Trail from just east of Horse Tail Falls to the Bear Creek Bridge. The trailhead is located at the pullout for Bridal Veil Falls. The first 2 miles of the trail were re-opened in the summer of 1996 as an Eagle Scout project by local Boy Scout Michael Schwicht, in cooperation with trail volunteers Katrina Smathers and Dave Swartz from California. Boy Scout Troop 310 of Valdez cleared another 1/2 mile of the trail to Snowslide Gulch in the summer of 1997. The Valdez Trails Association cleared the trail from Snowslide Gulch to Bear Creek in 1998. The Association later received an Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grant to build a bridge across Snowslide Gulch and a pedestrian bridge across Bear Creek utilizing the old trestle still in place. This work was completed in the fall of 2001. The Snowslide Gulch Bridge sustained heavy damage the following winter ~~but has remained useable without repairs thus far,~~ and remains unusable to this day.

The trail is built on the old roadbed and varies in width from 4 feet to 10 feet, depending on the vegetation.

**Future Development Issues:** No source of funding is available for the repair of the Snowslide Gulch Bridge. The Commission is in full support of ongoing efforts in general maintenance of this trail. ~~Although it was still useable after initial damage, it remains to be seen if subsequent winters will impose continued damage to the structure. At some point the crossing may again become difficult or dangerous at worst.~~

#### 4c. WAGON ROAD

A small sign marks the entrance to the Wagon Road at the mile 18 turnout on the Richardson Highway. This trail was created during the Gold Rush to accommodate sleds, wagons, and automobiles. This trail was at one point part of the Goat Trail, but after the bridge at Snowslide Gulch was wiped out in 2006, the trail became two.

#### **Future Development Issues:**

No source of funding is available for the repair of the Snowslide Gulch Bridge. The Commission is in full support of ongoing efforts for general maintenance of the existing trail.

#### 4d. BEAR CREEK BRIDGE TO THOMPSON PASS

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The Valdez Trails Association cleared the section between Bear Creek Bridge and the Mile 18.5 turnout in the fall of 1996 and summer of 1997. VTA has also located significant portions of the 1899 trail from Mile 19 to the pass in 1997 and 1998. It has been cleared from Mile 19 to Mile 20. About 2 miles through of dense brush remains to be cleared to the pass.

**Future Development Issues:** The revetment work done on the original 1899 rockwork has given way and the combined effects of fall flooding and frost/thaw action have seriously eroded the roadbed. Funding should be sought to repair this section before the area erodes back to the cliff face.

## 5. ROBE LAKE SNOWMACHINE TRAIL

~~The Valdez Motor Sports Club approached the City in 1995 to request permission to construct a winter trail from the Alpeteo Road, around Robe Lake, to mile 8.5 of the Richardson Highway. The City applied to the State and received a right of way permit for this trail. The Club completed some initial clearing of the route, but no work has been completed in the last several years. The City requested Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) funds through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the construction of a trailhead parking area at mile 8.5.~~

~~A parking area was paved in 2001 as part of the highway resurfacing project in the area.~~

~~**Future Development Issues:** An as built survey will need to be sent to the State Department of Natural Resources if the trail is completed. The bridges on this trail are deteriorating and in need of repair or replacement.~~

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## 6.5. MINERAL CREEK TRAILS

The Mineral Creek Trails are a system of trails consisting of the East and West Dikes, Mineral Creek Road, the ski trails in the Mineral Creek Meadows, and the newly created alternate access at the canyon, which is only accessible during heavy snow seasons. Each component has unique properties and allowed use designations. The system is widely used in all seasons.

**6a. EAST DIKE:** This trail runs along the east side of Mineral Creek from W. Egan to the water tower hill thus passing behind the Black Gold and Mineral Creek subdivisions. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on this trail.

**Summer Use:** This unimproved route provides a pleasant hiking/walking and mountain biking trail in the summer.

**Winter Use:** The East Dike is groomed as a multiple use area for non-motorized activities. Skiers, ski joorers, dog sledgers, showshoers and walkers have all traditionally made use of this trail.

**Future Development Issues:** Brush along this corridor continues to push onto the trail making it annoying at times. It is recommended that a hydro axe continues to be employed to push the brush line well back. Proper signs should be ordered and blockades should be strategically placed to eliminate the current issue with motorized vehicles accessing non-motorized areas.

**6b. WEST DIKE:** This trail runs along the west side of Mineral Creek from W. Egan to the Mineral Creek bridge thus passing behind the Cottonwood subdivision. Depending on river flow the northern end of the trail may not be passable at times. ATVs and snowmachines are permitted on this trail.

**Summer Use:** This unimproved route provides a pleasant hiking/walking and mountain biking trail in the summer as well as a point of access for ATVs traveling along the river bed or into Mineral Creek canyon.

**Winter Use:** The West Dike and Snowmachine Loop is groomed, as allowed by Park Maintenance, and is used as a multiple use trail for both motorized and non-motorized activities.

**6c. MINERAL CREEK ROAD:** This trail consists of the 5.5 miles of road from the intersection of Mineral Creek Dr. to the end of the road.

**Summer Use:** It is currently minimally maintained by D.O.T. The use of this road has increased substantially ~~in the last 5~~ over the years, by both motorized and non-motorized users.

**Winter Use:** The Parks and Recreation Department grooms approximately 1 mile of the road for multiple use (motorized and non-motorized).

**Future Development Issues:**

Improved signage and public education are important for continued success.

**Summer:** There is a history of conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users. There have been proposals on both ends of the spectrum from paving the road to closing the road to vehicular traffic. Access is maintained privately by mining interest. ~~The high level of use of this road has created heavy traffic in the Mineral Creek Heights Subdivision and has brought requests from residents to create an alternative access road from the southern end of the East Dike.~~

**Winter:** Cooperative winter use of the road has improved in recent years. The opening of the alternate access (described below) is expected to enhance the situation even further. Installation of trail lighting has been discussed, with thoughts of seeing an increase in use. ~~Improved signage and public education are also important for continued success.~~

**6d. SKI TRAILS IN MINERAL CREEK MEADOW:** This component of the trail system consists of approximately 2 miles of trails on the north and south side of Mineral Creek Road, approximately 1/2 mile west of the Mineral Creek Bridge.

**Summer Use:** Until 1993, the trail was used by trucks and 4-wheelers, as well as limited use by bicyclers and hikers. The damage to the vegetation caused by the motorized vehicles, resulted in the City prohibiting that use beginning in 1993. The City applied for, and received, a Recreational Trail Grant to improve the trails on the south side for hiking, walking and bicycling, and to construct a motorized trail approximately 1/2 mile south of the site, in an area not as susceptible to damage. The City completed the work on the trails in 1995, but motorized vehicles have continued to access the area and damage the trail bed.

**Winter Use:** These trails are groomed daily and are used for cross-country skiing only. A biathlon range, which was located at the western end of these trails, was removed in 2002 to allow for safe crossing of the newly created alternate access.

**Future Development Issues:**

**Summer:** Motorized access needs to remain prohibited. Improvements to the current trails are recommended to accommodate to hikers and bicyclists. ~~Until the motorized access can be eliminated, further investments on improvements to this trail will be wasted.~~

**Winter:** ~~Recent years have seen the most flagrant misuse of the trails by snowmachines. In 2003 this trend was radically reversed. Extreme~~ There is continued misues by

Comment [k11]: ADD UAA AGREEMENT !!

snowmachines, ATV's, and fat tire bikes. Continuing efforts ~~were~~ are being made ~~prior to and during that season~~ to educate ~~snowmachiners-recreationalists~~ of the ~~rules of the trails~~ trail rules. These efforts were backed up by the threat of closure of the Mineral Creek Valley to motorized vehicles ~~snowmachines~~ if conditions did not improve. Continued education, sign improvements, and enforcement of the trail rules will be key to continued cooperative use.

DNR property must be surveyed within the next three years to obtain the ability, with agreement with adjacent land owners, to create extensions to the current trail system.

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**6e. ALTERNATE ACCESS:** In 2000 the Parks and Recreation Department applied for and received a Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans (TRAAK) grant to construct a new access trail into the Mineral Creek Valley. Work on the route was completed in 2001.

**Summer Use:** The trail was not intended to be used in the summer, but it shows signs of receiving foot traffic and a unofficial path has been established through the most undeveloped section.

**Winter Use:** This trail requires a good deal of snow to allow it to be groomed. The trail was groomed for the first time in February of 2002. The new trail proved to be popular and it was assumed that increased traffic on the new trail meant decreased traffic on the traditional route where many conflicts and safety concern have been in the past. In 2003 the alternate access could not be opened due to unfavorable weather and snow conditions. A plan has been established to close the traditional route to motorized traffic when the alternate access is opened. This trail is open to motorized traffic only.

**Future Development Issues:** Improving the route further for summer use would provide another quality hiking option in the area. ATV use of the trail should be discouraged due to the existence of an anadromous stream on the route. The winter use of the trail is influence heavily by weather and snow conditions. Confusion among users could be encountered if the trail is opened and later closed due to poor trail conditions.

## 7. MEYRING PARK PATHWAY

The Meyring Park has a pathway from the north end of the Park on Hanagita to the south end of the Park on Pioneer (approximately 3/4 mile). It also has east-west pathways that connect to each of the culdesacs. These pathways are used heavily during the summer months and recently the main path has been groomed approximately once a week during the winter months.

**Future Development Issues:** ~~The paths that connect the main path to the cul-de-sacs will eventually need to be resurfaced and widened. It is recommended that continued maintenance occur for a winter pathway.~~

## 8. BLACK GOLD PARK

The Black Gold Parkstrip has a pathway from west end of the park on Copper to the east end of the park on Cottonwood. It also has north-south pathways that connect to each of the culdesacs. These pathways are moderately used in the summer months. The path has large patches in several locations as a result of the installation of a drainage system and utilities in the park in 2001. ~~The Department has applied for capital improvement funds to resurface, widen and possibly realign the existing path in 2004.~~

**Future Development Issues:** When replacing the existing path some thought should be given to "hardening" unpaved, traditional routes, which are indicated by worn dirt paths through turf areas. Drainage continues to pose problems in this area. It is recommended that a park-specific master plan be established.

9. **HOGBACK AREA TRAILS:** This trail system is referred to by many locals as the “out ~~the road of town~~” trails. They consist of a number of trails on the east side of the Valdez Glacier Stream including the Alpetco road and a trail ascending the lower portion of Hogback Mountain. The trails ~~are largely~~ were once maintained by the Valdez Motor Sports Club for use by their members and others, but are now maintained by Park Maintenance. Summer Use: Normally wet trails conditions lend themselves mostly to ATV traffic although the farthest sections of trail are pleasant for hiking/walking and mountain biking if they can be reached. Winter Use: The trail system is groomed ~~every Friday~~ weekly in the winter for multiple uses. Increased non-motorized traffic has been noted since increasing the frequency of grooming in 2002.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:** It would not be desirable to see non-motorized traffic use increase to a level where increased conflicts with motorized users or safety hazards occur.

## INVENTORY OF NON-CITY FACILITIES APPENDIX F

The City of Valdez owns and operates a majority of the recreational facilities in Valdez. However, a variety of other public and private facilities are available for use by the residents of Valdez. The following is an inventory of non-City facilities in Valdez:

1. **Valdez City Schools:** The School District owns 3 main facilities that are used by the Parks and Recreation Department to offer evening and weekend programs for children and adults. Private organizations are also allowed to use the facility for a fee.
  - A. **Hermon Hutchens Elementary School.** The Elementary school has a large gymnasium, cafeteria/multipurpose room and 2 racquetball courts. A playground and multipurpose field are also located outside this facility.
  - B. **George Gilson ~~Jr.~~ High Middle School.** The Junior High School has a small gymnasium and a climbing wall.
  - C. **Valdez High School.** The High School has a large gymnasium, a cafeteria/ multipurpose room, and shooting range. The Recreation Department has also used classrooms such as the art room during the summer months for classes and day camps, and the shop for vocational classes. There is an outdoor track and outdoor basketball courts also available at the High School/Jr. High.
2. **Valdez Trap Club:** This club is now obsolete. The venue gets occasional use for hosting City events. ~~The Valdez Trap Club manages and operates the Valdez Trap Range located near Mile 4 of the Richardson Highway.~~ The land is owned by the City of Valdez but was dedicated to the Trap Range in 1982. The City provided the initial funds for the purchase of equipment and for materials for the construction of the clubhouse. The Parks and Recreation Department provides funding for the placement and servicing of a port-a-potty at the range. The Trap Club members constructed the clubhouse building in 1984.
3. **Prince William Sound Community College:** The Community College has a Wellness Center that is available to the public. The Center includes weights, aerobic machines ~~and~~ exercise classes, and a Ski-for-Free program.



4. ~~National Guard Armory:~~ The Armory has a large garage that can be used for events and activities, as well as a small kitchen and several small classrooms.
5. ~~U.S. Coast Guard:~~ The "Long House" at the Coast Guard residential area is available for limited public use. It is a small multipurpose facility with a kitchen.
- 6.4. U.S. Forest Service: The Forest Service has a visitor information center located at Crooked Creek that is open from May-September. They offer public programming and information.
- 7.5. Alaska State Parks: Alaska State Parks has a variety of public lands surrounding Valdez. These include the Sawmill Bay, Jack Bay and Shoup Bay State Marine Parks. A trail connects Valdez to Shoup Bay where there are three public use cabins. State Parks also manages the Blueberry Lake Campground and Worthington Glacier wayside on Thompson Pass. New lands, formerly owned by Wayne Blondeau and the City of Valdez, have recently been acquired by the agency and planning for the area is in the beginning stages. The property is located adjacent to the Mineral Creek delta.

## ALASKA STATE PARKS SURVEY RESULTS

### WEST MINERAL CREEK SITE (Blondeau Property) - APPENDIX G

Number of State Parks Surveys received and tallied = 261

#### Question 1- How Often have you visited the Mineral Creek Site?

Frequently 43      Occasionally 102      Seldom 85      Never 23

#### Question 2 - What kinds of activities do/would you enjoy at this Site?

Beach walking	<u>223</u>	Fishing	<u>70</u>	Kayaking & Canoe access	<u>104</u>
Picnicking	<u>135</u>	Hiking	<u>189</u>	School field trips	<u>87</u>
Wildlife viewing	<u>174</u>				

#### Other

4-wheeling access	<u>2</u>	Hunting, Fowl	<u>3</u>	Sightseeing	<u>1</u>
Birding	<u>1</u>	Jet Ski launch	<u>1</u>	Snow shoeing	<u>1</u>
Boat/Raft launch	<u>2</u>	Leave it alone	<u>5</u>	Snowmachining	<u>1</u>
Camping	<u>6</u>	Mountain Biking	<u>3</u>	Survey	<u>1</u>
Dog Pickups, need	<u>2</u>	Natural Area	<u>1</u>	Wave riding	<u>1</u>
Dog Walking	<u>7</u>	Night Sky Viewing	<u>1</u>	Windsurfing	<u>1</u>
Flowers	<u>1</u>	Peace & Quiet	<u>1</u>	Winter Activities	<u>1</u>
Gold Panning	<u>2</u>	Photography	<u>3</u>	X-Country Skiing	<u>3</u>
Historical info sign	<u>1</u>	Riding stables	<u>1</u>		

#### Question 3 - What do you consider important?

##### Bathrooms

Very 119      Somewhat 65      Not 68      No Opinion 2

##### Parking

Very 125      Somewhat 79      Not 49      No Opinion 2

##### Trash receptacles

Very 184      Somewhat 47      Not 23      No Opinion 0

##### Open Areas for walking and picnicking

Very 154      Somewhat 66      Not 33      No Opinion 1

##### Trails

Very 141      Somewhat 79      Not 24      No Opinion 2

##### Boardwalks

Very 76      Somewhat 74      Not 86      No Opinion 5

##### Interpretive/educational exhibits

Very 32      Somewhat 83      Not 114      No Opinion 9

##### Picnic Benches and/or Tables

Very 77      Somewhat 90      Not 76      No Opinion 4

##### Parking and Trail Access to the Beach

Very 141      Somewhat 66      Not 34      No Opinion 3

##### Trail Access to the Gold Creek/Shoup Bay



#### State Parks Survey (cont'd)

##### Drinking Fountain

Very 24 Somewhat 39 Not 169 No Opinion 6

##### Fire Rings

Very 58 Somewhat 78 Not 96 No Opinion 7

##### Comments/desires:

Kayak Launch Site 1 Small Boat Launch 1 Secure Area at Night 1  
Mountain Bike Trails 1 Snowmachine Trails 1

#### Question 4 - Alaska State Parks has limited ability to manage new units without additional funding. Would you support the state having a user fee to park at the site?

Currently the State Park's charges \$5.00 per day (or \$30 annual pass good throughout the StatePark System) per vehicle in many State Parks.

Yes 121 No 94 Not sure 34

#### Question 5 - How far would you be willing to walk to access the beach?

1/2 mile 124 100 feet 35 No opinion 23  
1/4 mile 64 No distance 8

#### Question 6 - Should the recreation site area be open all night or have nightly closures?

Open all night 98 Nightly closures 121 Not sure 24

#### Question 7 - What do you like best about the Mineral Creek Site?

Beach & river access	<b>50</b>
Beauty, natural	<b>34</b>
Boardwalks	2
Cross-country skiing area	1
Dog walking area	1
Field trip use/educational	5
Fishing access	4
Free activity	1
Flora & fauna	4
Hiking open/trails	12
Interpretive center potential	1
Kayak/boat access	7
Location	<b>54</b>
Motorized limited access/none	11
Open areas	1
Photo opportunities	1
Recreational opportunities/uses	2
Salmon spawning	5
Scenery/view	<b>34</b>
Shoup Bay access	9
Tidal flats	2

##### Comments/desires:

Beach, additional trails/access	10
Charge fees during salmon season only	1
Habitat/environment, undisturbed improvements only	18
Maintenance program developed	1
Options, leave open for the future	1
Pet waste pickup enforced	1
Promote tourism	1
Tidal pool accessibility	1
Trail development, more of	1
No improvements/development	19
Nor more surveys, wasted money	1
No motorized access/use	13
No overnight camping	5

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Kenai Area Office

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,  
GOVERNOR

PO Box 1247  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
PHONE: (907) 262-5581  
Fax: (907) 262-3717

January 15, 2002

Dear Citizen of Valdez,

As you may have heard, in 1999 the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council purchased 92 acres on the lower portion of Mineral Creek, in Valdez. The intent of this action is to have the Alaska State Parks manage this unique beachfront and forest habitat for the enjoyment of all Alaskans and visitors. This includes sensitive beach rye grass dunes, extensive wetlands and a mixed cottonwood and alder forest. The site includes a gravel roadway, a small, unnamed creek and a portion of Mineral Creek. In addition, the City of Valdez has donated 50 acres adjacent to the site to preserve sensitive wetlands.

In cooperation with the Alaska State Parks, the City of Valdez and the Valdez State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board this questionnaire is being sent throughout the Valdez community. We are asking for your ideas on the future management and development of this site to accommodate visitors and to protect this unique and scenic wildlife habitat. If possible, please take the time to visit the site to see why this area is extraordinary and unlike any other park experience available in Valdez.

At the current time the Alaska State Parks' ability to develop this site has been limited to immediate environmental protection measures to prevent damage to this sensitive area. One of the desired outcomes of this process is to determine the best way to manage and develop this site in the long term.

Please take a moment to complete this questionnaire and please encourage your friends to complete one as well. Thank you for your participation in this very important process!

Completed surveys can be returned by using one of the following methods. 1. Mail it to the address below.  
2. Drop it off at City Hall, the Civic Center or the designated box at the Post Office.

Thank you,

Jack E. Sinclair, District Ranger  
Kenai/Prince William Sound Area Office

## Mineral Creek State Recreation Site Development Questionnaire

Please take a moment to let us know what you think about the Mineral Creek State Recreation Site:

1. How often have you visited the Mineral Creek Site?

☐ Frequently (1/week or more)    ☐ Occasionally (1/month)    ☐ Seldom (1/year)    ☐ Never

2. What kinds of activities do/would you enjoy at this site?

☐ Beach walking    ☐ Hiking  
☐ Picnicking    ☐ Kayaking and Canoe Access  
☐ Wildlife viewing    ☐ School field trips  
☐ Fishing    ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. The following are some important activities and features. How would you rank them in importance? Are there others we should consider?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Opinion
Bathrooms .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trash receptacle .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open areas for walking and picnicking .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boardwalks .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interpretive/educational exhibits .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic benches and/or tables .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking and trail access to the beach .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail access to the Gold Creek/Shoup Bay .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbecue stands .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visitor Contact Station .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnic Shelter .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking Fountain .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire rings .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Alaska State Parks has limited ability to manage new units without additional funding. Would you support the state having a user fee to park at the site? Currently the State parks' charges \$5.00 per day (or \$30 annual pass good throughout the state park system) per vehicle in many state parks.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Not sure \_\_\_\_\_

5. How far would you be willing to walk to access the beach?

☐ ½ mile    ☐ ¼ mile    ☐ 100 feet    ☐ No distance    ☐ No opinion

6. Should the recreation site area be open all night or have nightly closures?

Open all night \_\_\_\_\_ Nightly closures \_\_\_\_\_ not sure \_\_\_\_\_

7. What do you like best about the Mineral Creek Site?

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Please return by **February 14, 2003**

Please include your comments on any of the proposed plans and anything else you would like to see or not see done with the Mineral Creek State Recreation Site:

Name and address (optional):

For more information on this project please contact:

Jack Sinclair, District Ranger

Alaska State Parks Kenai/Prince William Sound Area Office

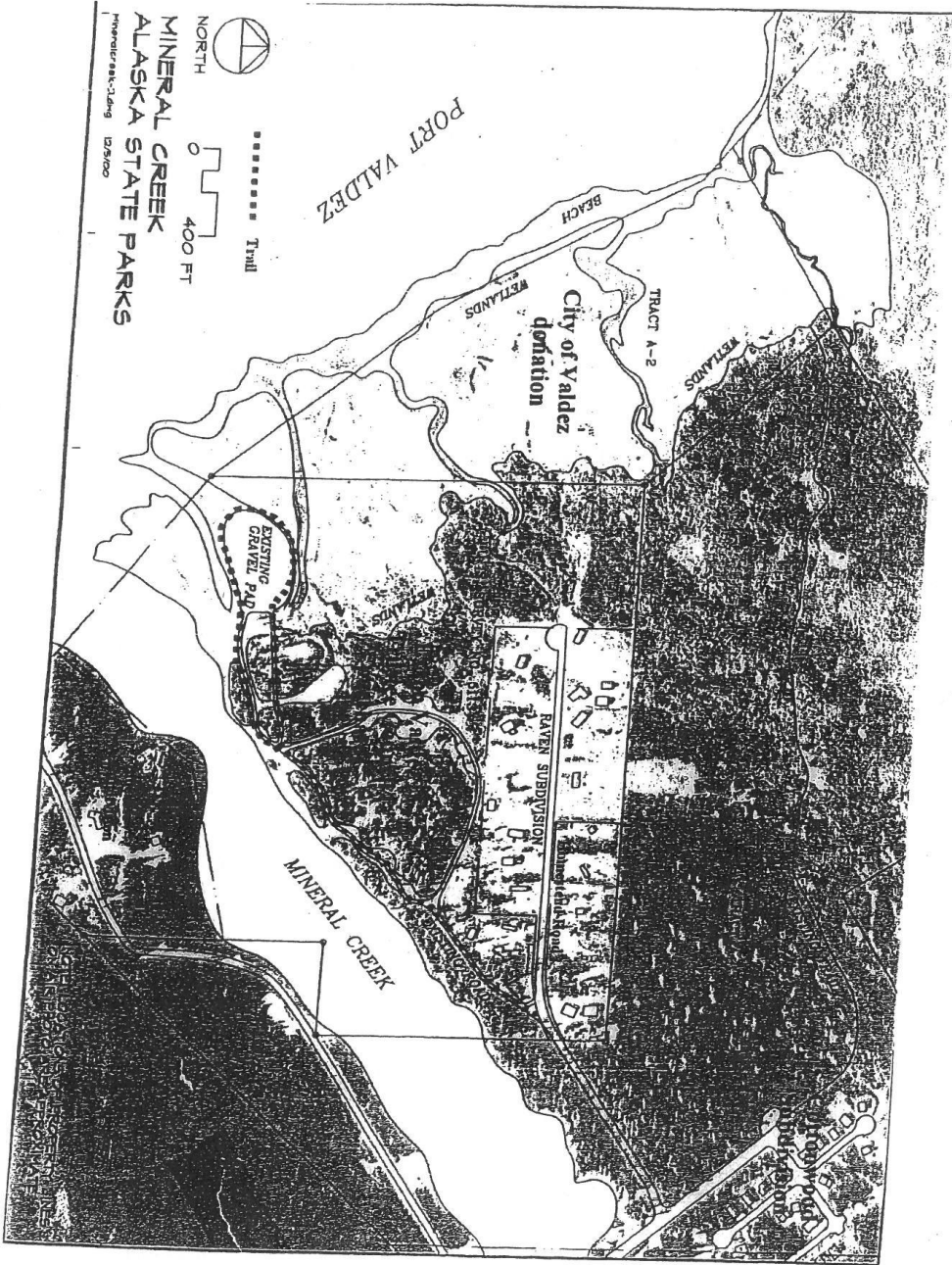
Box 1247

907-262-5581

Soldotna, AK 99669

FAX 907-262-3717 e-mail: JackS@dnr.state.ak.us





MINERAL CREEK  
ALASKA STATE PARKS

12/5/00

12/5/00

~~SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY 1997~~  
~~APPENDIX H~~

~~Survey results indicate that recreational activities are important to Valdez residents' lifestyles. There is extensive use of recreation and park facilities and residents feel it is important that the City provide parks and recreation services.~~

~~\* 94% of the households surveyed have used a park, trail or picnic area in Valdez within the last year.~~

~~\* Leisure activities were reported to be very important or important to the lifestyle of 185 out of 198 respondents. (94%)~~

~~\* Seventy-seven percent of all respondents believe it is important to their household that the City of Valdez provide parks and recreation services.~~

~~\* 97% of all respondents feel their tax dollars are being well spent on parks and recreation programs and facilities.~~

~~A profile of the Valdez Parks and Recreation "customer" emerged from the survey. It was interesting to note that:~~

~~\* Over half of the Valdez households who responded are composed of families with dependent children. (56%)~~

~~\* More than half of those surveyed indicated they have 10 or more hours per week to participate in recreation activities. (52%)~~

~~\* Residents' five favorite recreation activities are: fishing, bicycling, snowmachining, boating and walking. Hiking, art, skiing, gardening and swimming round out the top ten.~~

~~\* Sixty six percent of the households surveyed have 2 or more bicycles that have been used in the last year.~~

~~\* In order to participate in leisure activities on a work day, 68% of the respondents said they would travel 5 or more miles. 95% said they would travel over 15 miles on a non-work day.~~

~~The survey questioned residents about their use of park facilities and their rating of programs and facilities offered by Parks and Recreation.~~

~~\* The 2 most frequently used park facilities are Allison Point Fishing Area and Dock Point Park. More than 50% of the respondents have used these facilities in the last year.~~

~~\* More than 40% of the respondents have used the Dock Point Trails (46%) and the Goat Trail (42%).~~

~~\* 80% of the users rated Parks and Recreation programs and facilities good or excellent, with the exception of the Black Gold Recreation Hall (62%)~~

~~\* "Around town" (73%), "South Central/Aleutian/Loop Rd." (45%) and "Richardson Highway Bike Path to Robe River" (41%), were the most frequently mentioned areas where residents ride their bicycles.~~

~~*The survey queried residents about their priorities for facility maintenance and development, future services, and the amount of fiscal support they would be willing to provide.*~~

~~\* When asked what the Department should spend most of its efforts on, 67% of the households recommended maintenance of existing facilities.~~

~~\* When asked (unprompted) if new recreation facilities or programs were to be developed, what their top priorities would be, 47% of the residents suggested a skating rink, 23% a bowling alley, 14% a bike trail to Keystone Canyon and 13% a covered play area/roller rink.~~

~~\* Over half (58%) of the households indicated that they would be willing to pay \$40 or more annually in support of their top new project.~~

~~\* Fifty nine percent of the respondents feel that users should pay 50% of the costs for Parks and Recreation Youth activities.~~

~~\* Eighty five percent of the respondents feel that users should pay 50% or more for Parks and Recreation Adult activities.~~

VALDEZ PARKS AND RECREATION  
MASTER PLAN TELEPHONE SURVEY  
July, 1997

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling on behalf of the Valdez Parks and Recreation Commission. For future planning decisions, we are gathering opinions about recreational interests and facilities and programs provided by Parks and Recreation. If this is a good time, I'd like to ask you a few questions. This should take approximately 10 minutes.

First,

1. Which category best describes your age group....

- 1. Under 18 --- (Thank respondent and DISCONTINUE survey or ask for parent)
- 8 2. 18-24 Years (Head of Household?)
- 42 3. 25-34 Years (Head of Household?)
- 66 4. 35-44 Years
- 45 5. 45-54 Years
- 24 6. 55-64 Years
- 13 7. 65 Years or older

2. How important are leisure activities to your lifestyle? (Read 4 choices)

- 66 1. Very Important
- 119 2. Important
- 12 3. Unimportant
- 1 4. Not at all important

3. When you have leisure time available, what FIVE recreation activities do you enjoy most? (Do not read choices)

- |                        |                          |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 42 1. Art              | 46 12. Hiking            | 1 23. Soccer                   |
| 10 2. Aerobics         | 22 13. Hunting           | 8 24. Snow Boarding            |
| 9 3. Baseball/Softball | 3 14. Karate/Tae Kwon Do | 60 25. Snowmachining           |
| 14 4. Basketball       | 14 15. Kayaking          | 10 26. Swimming (open)         |
| 61 5. Bicycling        | 12 16. Movies            | 23 27. Swimming (fitness)      |
| 59 6. Boating          | 17 17. Racquetball       | 12 28. Tennis                  |
| 28 7. Camping          | 23 18. Reading           | 4 29. Volleyball               |
| 6 8. Cards             | 1 19. Resting/Sleeping   | 57 30. Walking                 |
| 4 9. Dancing           | 8 20. Running/Jogging    | 9 31. Wildlife Viewing         |
| 90 10. Fishing         | 9 21. Shopping/Browsing  | 5 32. Working Out (Gym Exerc.) |
| 36 11. Gardening       | 38 22. Skiing (XC / DH)  | 1 33. Watch TV                 |
|                        | 30 34. Other             |                                |

4. In an average week, how many hours do you have to participate in leisure activities? *(Do not read choices)*

- |    |                   |   |                     |   |                                |
|----|-------------------|---|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 2  | 1. Zero hours (0) | 1 | 5. 30-39 hours      | 6 | 9. Retired - as many as I want |
| 94 | 2. 1-9 hours      |   | 6. 40-49 hours      |   | 10. Not sure                   |
| 81 | 3. 10-19 hours    |   | 7. 50-59 hours      |   | 11. Refused                    |
| 13 | 4. 20-29 hours    | 1 | 8. 60 or more hours |   | 12. Other                      |

5. On a work day, how far would you travel to participate in leisure activities? *(Do not read choices)*

- |    |                  |    |                            |
|----|------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 53 | 1. 1-5 miles     | 6  | 5. Within the neighborhood |
| 35 | 2. 5-10 miles    |    | 6. Within walking distance |
| 11 | 3. 10-15 miles   | 32 | 7. (Don't work)            |
| 59 | 4. Over 15 miles | 1  | 8. Other                   |

6. On a non-work day, how far would you travel to participate in leisure activities?

- |     |                  |   |                            |
|-----|------------------|---|----------------------------|
|     | 1. 1-5 miles     | 3 | 5. Within the neighborhood |
| 4   | 2. 5-10 miles    |   | 6. Within walking distance |
| 1   | 3. 10-15 miles   | 1 | 7. Other                   |
| 189 | 4. Over 15 miles |   |                            |

7. How many bicycles in your household have been USED within the past year?

- |    |          |    |                 |
|----|----------|----|-----------------|
| 31 | 1. One   | 29 | 4. Four         |
| 40 | 2. Two   | 27 | 5. Five or more |
| 35 | 3. Three | 36 | 6. None         |

8. WHERE have they been used? *(Do Not Read Choices)*

- |    |                                       |     |                                    |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 54 | 1. Mineral Cr. Rd.                    | 88  | 7. South Central/Aleutian/Loop Rd. |
| 81 | 2. Richardson Bike Path to Robe River | 4   | 8. Thompson Pass                   |
| 3  | 3. Richardson Hwy to Alpine Wds.      | 8   | 9. Allison Point/Alyeska           |
| 41 | 4. Robe River                         | 145 | 10. Around town                    |
| 7  | 5. Alpine Woods                       | 13  | 11. Other                          |





9. Which of the following Parks and Recreation activities have you or members of your household participated in during the past year? *(READ headings A-I then ask about participation)*

A. Adult Basketball

- 16 1. Mens  
1 2. Womens  
3. Other

B. Youth Sports

- 15 1. Soccer  
54 2. Basketball  
24 3. Baseball/Softball  
7 4. Wrestling  
5. Other

C. Teen Center

- 3 1. Rental  
36 2. Drop in  
49 3. Dances/events  
4. Other

D. Adult Volleyball

- 3 1. Tournaments  
5 2. Open Co-ed  
3. Other

E. Swimming Pools

- 55 1. Lap Swim  
19 2. Lessons  
83 3. Open/Family Swim  
10 4. Clubs (swim team/synchro)  
5. Hydro Pool  
6. Other

F. Black Gold Rec. Hall

- 7 1. Rentals  
48 2. Drop in  
23 3. Classes  
1 4. Other

G. Special Events

- 79 1. Clean up day  
21 2. Baby Fair  
13 3. Holiday events  
176 4. Gold Rush events  
15 5. Hershey Track & Field  
11 6. Jr. Builders Exhib.  
83 7. Halloween Carnival  
58 8. Christmas events  
9. Other

H. Public Gym Programs

- 27 1. Open  
12 2. Family  
35 3. Youth  
26 4. Climbing Wall  
5. Other

I. Classes / Camps

- 13 1. Gymnastics  
6 2. Outdoor rec. classes  
3 3. Gun Safety classes  
17 4. Summer Fun Day Camp  
9 5. Mity Munchkins camp  
15 6. Basketball Camp  
7. Other



*Currently, Parks and Recreation provides a variety of youth and adult activities throughout the City and in our schools. Some activities are funded fully by Parks and Recreation, others rely upon participant fees.*

10. Keeping in mind the activities and events just mentioned, should Valdez Parks and Recreation YOUTH activities which include management, staff, equipment and facility time be...*(READ choices 1-5)*

- 15 1. Paid for entirely by user fees  
7 2. Paid 75% by user fees  
117 3. Paid 50% by user fees  
39 4. Paid 25% by user fees  
19 5. Paid for entirely by the Parks and Recreation Department



11. In your opinion, should Valdez Parks and Recreation ADULT activities which include management, staff, equipment and facility time be...*(READ choices 1-5)*

- 39 1. Paid for entirely by user fees  
48 2. Paid 75% by user fees  
81 3. Paid 50% by user fees  
12 4. Paid 25% by user fees  
17 5. Paid for entirely by the Parks and Recreation Department

12. Have you hiked trails, visited parks or beaches, or used picnic areas in Valdez within the last year?

- 186 1. Yes  
12 2. No --Skip to Question 15

13. Which PARKS, BEACHES, OR PICNIC areas have you used in the last year? *(Prompt if needed)*

- 62 1. Barney Meyring Park 26 6. Robe River Park 20 11. Alpine Woods Park  
16 2. Barney Meyring Picnic Shelter 5 7. Robe River Picnic Shelter 5 12. Alpine Woods Picnic Shelter  
52 3. Ruth Pond Park 84 8. Glacier Campgrd. Picnic Shelter 13. Black Gold Park  
105 4. Dock Point Park 115 9. Allison Point Fishing Area 9 14. Glacier Rifle Range  
73 5. Robe Lake 12 10. One and 1/2 mile park 43 15. Gold Fields  
2 16. Other

14. Which TRAILS have you USED in the last year? *(prompt if needed)*

- 92 1. Dock Point Trails 82 3. Goat Trail 21 5. Solomon Gulch Trail  
61 2. Mineral Cr. Trails 36 4. Robe River Snowmachine Trails 6. Other 1

15. Is there any specific reason why you might not have hiked, visited parks or used other Parks and Recreation facilities during the past year? *(Do not read)*

1. Not accessible 3. Too crowded 5. No Transportation 7. Not aware of facilities  
4 2. No time/too busy 1 4. Not interested 6. Too far to travel 8. Just moved here  
2 9. Other

16. How would you rate the following programs and facilities offered by Valdez Parks and Recreation?  
*(Choices are Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor or Have Not Used)*

	1	2	3	4	5	
						<u>What is excellent, or poor about the program/facility?</u>
A. High School Pool	65 EXCELLENT	93 GOOD	12 FAIR	1 POOR	27 N/U	
B. Teen Center	12 EXCELLENT	58 GOOD	9 FAIR	1 POOR	118 N/U	
C. Youth Sports Prog.	33 EXCELLENT	74 GOOD	5 FAIR	0 POOR	86 N/U	
D. Adult Sports Prog.	14 EXCELLENT	45 GOOD	4 FAIR	0 POOR	135 N/U	
E. Black Gold Rec. Hall	12 EXCELLENT	59 GOOD	40 FAIR	4 POOR	83 N/U	



	1	2	3	4	5	What is excellent, or poor about the program/facility?
F. Neighborhood Parks	39 EXCELLENT	138 GOOD	19 FAIR	2 POOR	N/U	
G. Sportsfields	23 EXCELLENT	132 GOOD	2 FAIR	0 POOR	41 N/U	
H. Landscaping/Beautif.	43 EXCELLENT	116 GOOD	33 FAIR	6 POOR	0 N/U	
I. Instructional Classes/ Camps	22 EXCELLENT	36 GOOD	1 FAIR	0 POOR	139 N/U	
J. Special Events	29 EXCELLENT	142 GOOD	17 FAIR	0 POOR	10 N/U	

17. Approximately 2.5% of your tax dollars go toward paying for park and recreation programs and facilities. Do you feel your tax dollars are being well spent for this purpose?

192 1. Yes  
6 2. No

18. How important to your household is it that the City provide parks and recreation services **(READ choices 1-4)**

72 1. Very Important  
81 2. Important  
45 3. Unimportant  
4. Not at all important

19. In your opinion, is Valdez Parks and Recreation offering services to the community that it **SHOULD NOT?**

196 A. No  
2 B. Yes -- Which Service

1 1. Adult Sports  
2. Cemetery  
3. Shooting Range  
1 4. Other

20. If there was an opportunity to develop new recreation facilities or programs, what would your top three priorities be?

92 1. Skating Rink	27 6. Bike Trail to Alpine Wds/Keystone	11 11. Hiking Trails
19 2. Covered Play area	3 7. Lighted Ski Trails	12 12. Pool / Expanded Hours
13 3. Bike Trail to Alyeska	10 8. Football	45 13. Bowling Alley
0 4. Adult Soccer League	8 9. Art Classes	21 14. Other
2 5. Youth Soccer League	7 10. Roller Rink	



21. How much in user fees would your HOUSEHOLD be willing to pay ANNUALLY for support of your top priority project/program? *(READ all choices)*

- 5 1. Less than \$20 annually
- 26 2. \$20-30 annually
- 41 3. \$30-40 annually
- 61 4. \$40-50 annually
- 26 5. \$50-60 annually
- 21 6. \$60-100 annually
- 4 7. \$100-250 annually
- 2 8. \$250-500 annually

22. What should Parks and Recreation spend most of its effort on? *(READ all choices)*

- 1 1. Upgrading accessibility
- 72 2. Upgrading existing facilities
- 133 3. Maintenance of facilities
- 87 4. Developing new trails
- 4 5. Acquiring additional land
- 34 6. Developing new parks
- 48 7. Developing new facilities
- 44 8. Providing recreational programs
- 4 9. Other

23. Which of the following best describes your household? *(READ all choices)*

- 45 1. One or more single adults
- 37 2. Couple with no children
- 111 3. Couple with dependent children
- 4. Single parent with dependent children
- 3 5. Extended family (several generations/Aunts/Uncles/Cousins)

24. Which area of the City do you live in?

- 10 1. Alpine Woods
- 24 2. Robe River
- 3. Robe Lake
- 46 4. Airport / Aleutian
- 6 5. Zook/Loop Road
- 58 6. Meyring (east of Hazelet)
- 44 7. Black Gold (west of Hazelet)
- 10 8. Cottonwood/Blueberry/D8
- 9. Other

25. Gender? *(DO NOT ASK)*

- 76 1. Male
- 122 2. Female

1997 Valdez Parks & Recreation Phone Survey  
"Other" Answers

Question #3:

golf, gold panning, 4-wheeling, quilting, puzzles, ice skating, sewing, crafts, painting, roller blade, jet skiing, riding horses.

- "Likes to build small train sets."
- "My family and I like to go to the Recreation Hall and play pool, we are there every day."
- "Likes going to plays."
- "Goes outside a lot in the winter."
- "Likes to drive family out of town to hike new areas and have cook outs."
- "We go to Anchorage or Fairbanks to see a play."
- "Likes to travel as much as money and time will let him."
- "Roller blade, not much this year due to knee problem."
- "Likes to play pool."

Question #6:

- "Out of town if I have to"

Question #8:

- "All bike trails."
- "I take it with me to Anchorage or where I can with it out of town"
- "Everywhere he can ride in town and out you name it, wish we had longer trails."
- "Rides bike everywhere he and girlfriend can go with them."
- "Have rode everywhere this summer with her family."
- "Rode a lot this year when the car was broke down."
- "Take it with me to Anchorage and outside when I go see family."
- "We take bikes out of town we have two small kids and feel better starting on trails a little ways out. Would like to see a bike path out of town with a rest stop and picnic tables."

Question #9:

- Comes in to ask about events around town for grandkids.

Question #10:

- Happy the way it is now.
- Would like Valdez to have a clubhouse (gym) like Soldotna. Have user fees and membership and add some taxes if that's what it would take to get one.
- Would like a sign up at the basketball courts giving a time limit, said sometimes her kids can't play because of the teenagers playing for hours on end. (Mineral Creek)

1997 Valdez Parks & Recreation Phone Survey  
"Other" Answers continued

Question #11:

- Happy with it the way it is.

Question #15:

- She fell this year and had a knee problem and had to take it easy.
- Outside this year.

Question #16:

- Teen Center not used but thinks it's good to have one.
- She feels all programs offered by Parks and Recreation is needed in a town this small and we need more for the kids.
- Would like to have longer time for open swim. Would like pool open more in the winter. Summertime have lots to do but winter is harder to fill time.
- Needs lots more flowers would like to see more grass in town, but all in all great job.
- Feels if the Recreation Hall was in a better place people and groups would use it more. Would make a better Visitors Center than the one we have now.
- Recreation Hall is very under used in a spot that does not help the problem. "Out of Sight out of Mind".
- Would like more events for families. Gold Rush is great but maybe a few more would be better. "Town block party."
- Would like the Recreation Hall to be open at 12:00 have wanted to have a lunch-in one time but opens at 3:00.
- Recreation Hall and Teen Center as one. Would like to see Recreation Hall sold and out of City hands.
- Summer fun made nametags and planters but never came home with them. Would like to know why?
- Will not let son 16 ½ Years of age go to the Teen Center, feels it has been out of control this last year.
- Bad lawns.
- Very poor up keep has no nice lawns or playground equipment for kids.
- If you look at other small towns like Kenai or Soldotna they seem to take a lot of pride in how they look. It's very clean and neat everywhere you look it has flowers and is grassed. As small as we are we should be able to out do them hands down.

Question #17:

- More programs for the kids under 5.
- Could do more with it, use it better for programs (youth acts) going off feed back she has had from her kids, but feels Parks and Recreation is doing a good job.



1997 Valdez Parks & Recreation Phone Survey  
"Other" Answers continued

Question #19:

- Black Gold should not be run by Parks and Recreation, should be sold. Should be done on a private bases.
- Would like to see the docks cleaned up and larger. They have a boat but pull it each time they use it too many people get their boats hit is the summer by people that come down from out of town that don't care because they don't live here. The docks look bad, size of slips is to small and the walks are falling apart. We also need bigger and longer cleaning tables.

Question #20:

- 45 People said bowling alley.
- New bike trails and ice skating rink.
- More open swim times maybe a new pool that's not in or with the school but by itself.
- More swim time or maybe a new pool with small pool for tots.
- Better park by the small boat harbor and fishing pier away from the City Dock.
- I think the city should take some of the money it has tucked away and build a community center in the middle of town. A gym with a day care while you work out. Have it so you jog indoors. Fairbanks has a nice one why can't we.
- Passed; feels we have a lot to offer without adding more.
- ~~• Would like to have more classes for adults; not been in town that long. Don't know a~~  
lot of people here that's her age and that don't work.
- Would like to have an indoor roller rink. It rains so much here in the summer. Year around would be better than an outdoors one.
- Indoors play area when it rains something like discovery zone. Would like to see the docks with more shops and more tables by docks.
- Ski lift at Thompson Pass.
- More trails, hike or bike long trails in the hills.
- Would like to see the City put on a bike race each year or maybe start a run that may draw runners from all over the state of Alaska. Pipeline run, black gold run, Prince William Sound run.
- Hockey rink.
- Roller rink or ice rink.
- New Fishing dock, pier.
- Health club.
- Snow machine races on ice like car races.
- Would like the City to develop more trails out of town.
- Hockey team.
- I feel it would be nice if the pool had just a ladies night. She said she was a bit out of shape and would feel better if there were just ladies around.
- Indoor roller or ice rink.
- Indoor roller rink that can be used year around.
- Picnic shelter in park across from the Fire Department, Barney Meyring Park strip.

1997 Valdez Parks & Recreation Phone Survey  
"Other" Answers continued

Question #20 continued:

- New Pool
- Barney Meyring Park area across from the Fire Department would be a nice place for a picnic shelter with tables and bar-b-que pit.
- Hockey rink.
- More trails and longer.
- He would like to see a place you could go to dance and not be in a bar. (2-stepping)
- Like to see the pier cleaned up, bowling, and an indoor rink. That would be nice for kids.
- Would like the City to clean up the boat docks and more boat slips.
- We could bring more people into town if we had better ski trails and a ski lift.
- Would like to have a community garden.
- I feel the pool is not open to the public that much. He likes to swim mid-day and A.M. A.M. lap swim is great but a lot of his days off fall on mid week. Would like a new pool.
- New fishing pier.
- More bike trails.
- Hockey team.
- New trail for walking and bike.
- Golf course.
- Art center with classes.
- New pool.
- More bike and hiking trails.
- Hiking trails.
- New parks.
- Hockey league.
- 4-wheeling trails.
- Would like the City to have adult classes in art.
- More walking and hiking trails.
- Longer bike trails.
- New pool outside of school.
- Movie house not in the Civic Center. Ice or roller rink and aquasize classes back.
- Outdoors swimming pool, more parks.
- More trails.
- Football team.
- Skate rink and Goat Trail needs better sign.
- New bike trails.
- A very nice club house member only. No kids only with an adult.
- New trails.
- New bike trails.
- Roll-A-Roma which is a hockey, bowling, ice, and roller rink all in one.
- Bigger playground with more playground equipment.



1997 Valdez Parks & Recreation Phone Survey  
"Other" Answers continued

Question #20 continued:

- Would like to see a park across from Ruth Pond, feels it's the ugliest spot we have in Valdez. It's the first place seen coming off the State Ferry by tourists.
- Thinks a nice park building on Barney Meyring strip would be a nice indoor bathroom, bar-b-que grills all under a shelter. Also a shelter covering the playground equipment so kids can play out even if it is raining. (In front of Prince William Sound Community College.)
- A new fishing pier to fish from away from the State Ferry and the mess we have now.
- Club house for us adults.
- Would like to see a swim club for adults only and bring back aquasize classes.
- Would like to see a lot set up and cleared for a town garden where everyone can work on what they would like to plant, one row for each household.
- A new pool away from the school so we could have longer and more hours.
- Would like pool to be open more hours and maybe a new pool for more lap time.
- My husband and I like to fish, we like to fish off the docks but it's very hard to pull the fish up. We would like to see a new dock lower and away from where it is now.
- The Civic Center is a place that I feel should have the Visitor Center. You could have a gift store, coffee shop; a slide show would also go along with this. Show off the center. Have workshops and classes on art, painting, quilting, it has a lot of room.
- ~~The pool we have is great but a new one would be nice, more hours and open all day.~~
- New trails and a program about the old trails we have here that was used when Valdez was just a new booming town. Get volunteers to work on the old trails. Have information about the pack trails. A lot of people don't know about them.

Question #22:

- Put some money into our dock fix it up.
- Do every one of them the City needs it all.
- Once a month have a coffee break for women who don't work. Maybe a welcome to town for new ladies.
- Passed; gave no answer.
- Would pay nothing more than what she is paying now.
- He pays 2.5% in taxes for support of Parks and Recreation now and feels City has money they can use and not ask us for more.
- Would like to see city work on making businesses take more pride in how the grounds and buildings look. We need to clean up the lots and plant grass and flowers and add more benches around town. Have City pass hard fines on businesses that don't clean up.

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS APPENDIX I

### Valdez Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Comments 2003

**Alpine Woods (9/29):** ~~No public attended~~

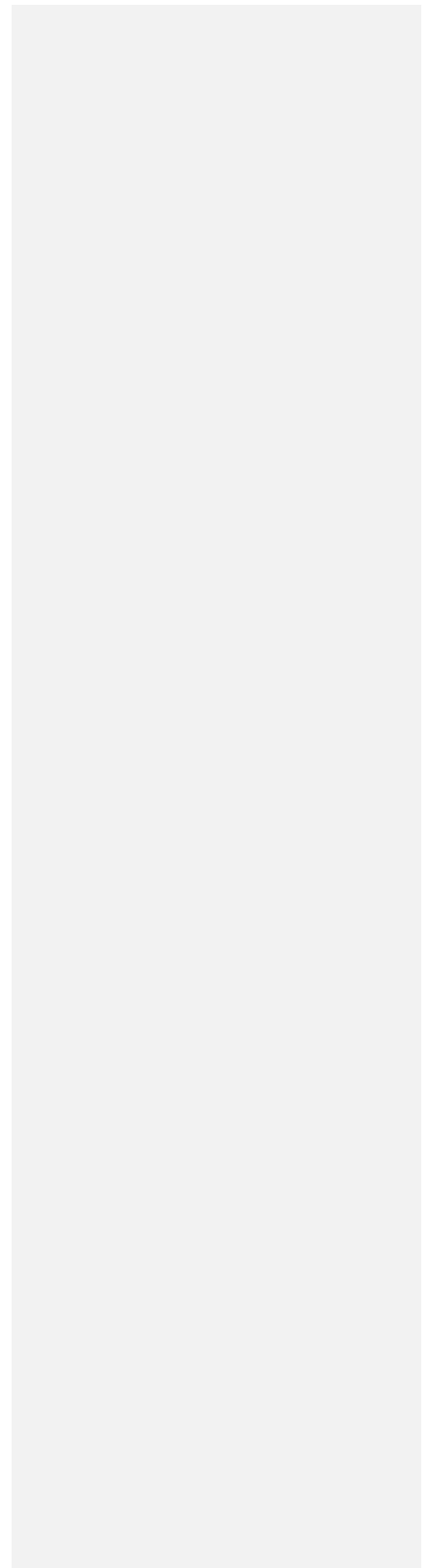
**Robe River (10/1):** ~~Two people in attendance~~

- ~~Littering:~~
  - ~~Enforce the ordinances against littering~~
    - ~~No open garbage cans~~
    - ~~Cover the load when going to the baler~~
    - ~~Have DOT put up sign on the Highway at the start of the Duck Flats regarding the State fine for littering~~
  - ~~Do periodic public service announcements to remind the public of the rules~~
  - ~~Need more public use dumpsters at Robe River or service the existing ones more often.~~
    - ~~Include signs "Do not overfill"; "Please pick up garbage that has fallen out of the dumpsters"~~
- ~~Fees:~~
  - ~~Fees should cover the same percentage of the program for both children and adults~~
- ~~Neighborhood improvements~~
  - ~~Add path/sidewalk to Dylan and River Streets and possibly Wood Way~~

**Civic Center (10/7):** ~~Nine people in attendance:~~

- ~~Existing Programs that is most valued:~~
  - ~~Public access to the water~~
  - ~~Green spaces~~
  - ~~Paths/trails~~
  - ~~Shoup Bay trail~~
  - ~~Pool~~
  - ~~Ski Trails~~
  - ~~Playgrounds~~
  - ~~Adult volleyball~~
- ~~Improvements that you would like to see:~~
  - ~~Richardson Highway Bike Path section between Glacier Stream and Robe River is getting to be in really poor condition and creating safety hazards.~~
- ~~Improvements that you would like to see (cont'd):~~
  - ~~Trash receptacles and benches (2-4) placed along the Richardson Highway path~~
  - ~~The curve just beyond the Glacier stream bridge on the Richardson Highway path, always has dirt and rocks pushed onto it from motorized vehicles using a~~

- nearby path. Suggestion to put “strategic” rocks along the curve to separate the use \_\_\_\_\_
  - Add Pet pick up bag stations to trails
  - More spruce trees
  - More litter control at Robe Lake
  - More signage in Mineral Creek regarding penalties for damage to trails
  - Volunteer monitoring of use of parks and more surveillance by Police
  - A restroom on the Black Gold Parkstrip
  - A restroom on the south end of the Meyring Park
  - Windscreen and cover for Tennis Courts
  - More gym time for adults
- ◆ Support the following new facilities through tax dollars or fees:
  - New trails
  - Extend bike path to Allison Point and Robe Lake
  - Community Rec. Center
  - Ski Lift
- ◆ Volunteers should play the following role in providing parks and recreation programs, services and facilities:
  - Planning
  - Providing tools/accessories
  - Coaches
  - Monitors
  - Instructors
  - Volunteers build commitment in the community
  - If a program can't demand volunteers, it may not be worthy enough
  - Need to formalize the volunteer program
  - P&R should be specific about the needs/uses of volunteers
- ◆ Concerns regarding Land Use Issues:
  - Robe Lake litter, on water safety, oil/gas spills
  - Mineral Creek and other areas: off road vehicles destroying trails, meadows, chasing wildlife, safety issues for non-motorized users
  - West Mineral Creek State Park/Blondeau Property: Day use only; include kayaking launching area
- ◆ The Greatest needs for Parks and Recreation Services in the community for the next 5 years:
  - Establishing and enforcing rules and regulations for users. Acknowledge volunteers as citizen enforcers. Serve violators with stiff penalties.
  - Maintain what we have.
  - More money for P&R budget
  - Community Rec Center
- ◆ Other Comments:
  - Possibly develop a trail along Blueberry Hill, maybe from the new ferry dock going west toward Perkins Point, along the ridgetop then down by the watertower back to the main road.
  - New trail along the hillside at 5.5 mile where the ski hill was and then over to Robe Lake.
  - Promote Scholarship program more broadly.
  - Need more gym time for Adults



**~~Airport (10/9): — Three people attended~~**

- ~~• Add additional mile markers along the bike paths using the flexible plastic markers.~~
- ~~• Designate a “motorized sports” area out near the Valdez Glacier in the old gravel pits.~~
- ~~• Improve the Mineral Creek trails for hiking and mountain biking.~~
- ~~• The first bridge on the Hogback trail needs to be replaced. Need to maintain both bridges.~~
- ~~• Would like to include “private enterprise” as another group to work with developing the Robe Lake Master Plan.~~

## Neighborhood Meeting: Airport Area

November 19, 1997

### Area improvement like/wants, around area:

- #1 Bike path for families from South Central to main bike path.
- Bike path or other glacier access.
- Benches around/on bike paths (Adopt a bench).
- Park—playground.
- T-Ball field.
- Restrooms.
- Signs to identify our native plants.
- Method for people to sponsor (Basic equipment such as: benches and garbage containers for specific sites).

### Citywide improvements like/wants:

- Trail map/brochure.
- Bike path from Senior Center to Crooked Creek designate as a “Nature Trail” with signage.
- Sidewalk on China Street.
- Sidewalk on North Harbor Drive.
- Program where people/ business can “Adopt”, maintain an area of...ie Bike Path. With recognition.
- Our city property needs to be better maintained. (painted, weed cutting, etc.)
- BMX track.
- Mountain bike trails.
- Improvements on the Barney Meyring Park, make it a more beautiful city park. Have a professional landscape plan.
- Black gold area; utilize the outside area for more family activities such snow caves and igloos, etc.
- More pool and swimming programs and another entrance for more hours.
- New Olympic size pool, scuba—Deeper H2O, High Dive (Military standards need these requirements).
- Ice skating at armory area, as it’s colder at the Armory area.
- Use of Goldfields in the wintertime. Utilize the area for snowshoe softball and archery.
- Develop a trail at the Glacier; remember the historical value of Valdez Glacier, Winter and Summer trail use.
- Stop littering at the Duck Flat area.
- Install litterbins at the Duck Flat turnouts.
- Build some boardwalks at the Duck Flat area.

### Programs likes/wants:

- Tennis lessons.
- Winter survival, utilize the National Guard, they have a lot of expertise in this area.
- Snow caves.

#### **Programs likes/wants (cont'd):**

- Expansion of Mighty Mites program, make it more of a family-oriented program. Perhaps a learning class could follow the playtime incorporating toddler temper, crafts, family issues and parent resources.
- Some sort of brochure listing activities available by age groups, maybe have it be one page in the yellow brochure (newsletter).

#### **Existing "Likes":**

- Ball fields.
- Glacier Campground & area.
- Snowmobile trails.
- Rifle Range (but cleaner).
- Old Town & memorial.

#### **Area improvement like/wants, around area:**

- Nature Lectures/walks.
- Bathrooms.
- Bridge.
- Cleared trees to open area.
- Shelter.
- Playground boarder.
- Happy with what they have.
- Items for small children:
  1. Shorter goals for basketball.
  2. Play equipment.
  3. Tetherball.
- Volleyball court.
- Play field:
  1. Till the outfield and infield.
  2. Block entrance to the field.
- Parking, increase Northeast area.
- Repaint tennis courts/surface sealer.
- Lights in the park, tennis court and play field:
  1. To expand use into Fall/Winter.
  2. Timer to turn off at 8-9:00pm.
  3. Street light.
- Groomed trails for separate uses.
- Path around neighborhood.

#### **Citywide improvements like/wants:**

- Outdoor skating rink
- School time pool use for adults and young children.
- Roller skating.
- Bike path from Robe River to Keystone Canyon.
- Repair existing bike path from Crooked Creek to Robe River.
- Designate an easement to ensure access to river at Cottonwood Lane.
- Weiland's Lake trail, private/public land for access.

#### **Citywide improvements like/wants (cont'd):**

- ~~Parking expansion of Robe Lake.~~
  1. ~~Launch ramps.~~
  2. ~~Bar-B-Que.~~
- ~~Volunteers to groom trails with snow machines.~~
- ~~Maps for trails, facilities, etc.~~
- ~~Downhill for ski area/safe sled area for kids.~~
- ~~Soccer field, improve play field.~~
- ~~Road improvements.~~
- ~~Groom/clear path in Meyring Park all winter.~~
- ~~Outdoor range, flatten, take out V/grad.~~
- ~~Brush bike path to Robe River.~~
- ~~Assurance that there will be a beach in town.~~
- ~~Parking areas, to trail access points (ie: Trap range).~~
- ~~Interpretive signage at Dock Point.~~
- ~~CVEA Don't take out stairs at Solomon Gulch.~~
- ~~Maintain what we have.~~
- ~~Exercise/Par Course.~~

#### **Programs likes/wants:**

- ~~Family Gym.~~
- ~~Adult dance, ballet and jazz.~~
- ~~Card and pool tournaments.~~
- ~~Craft classes.~~
- ~~Gardening classes.~~
- ~~Cooking classes.~~
- ~~Avalanche awareness classes.~~
- ~~Improved supervision of kids for family gym.~~
- ~~Improved supervision of children during open swim, 8-12 years are wild.~~
- ~~More family swim.~~
- ~~Biathlon Range Clinic "How To" & keep range.~~

#### **Existing "Likes":**

- ~~Family day events:~~
  1. ~~Alyeska anniversary.~~
  2. ~~Snowman Festival.~~
  3. ~~Utilize Meyring Park.~~
- ~~Brush clearing~~
- ~~Trails Goat Trail/Dock Point/Gold Creek.~~
- ~~Mineral Creek Trail.~~
- ~~PSA Radio.~~
- ~~Pool. 8 of 8 attendees.~~
- ~~Shooting range 2 of 8 attendees.~~
- ~~Basketball 1 of 8 attendees.~~
- ~~Story time library 4 of 8 attendees.~~

#### **Existing "Likes" (cont'd):**

- ~~Recreation Hall 6 of 8 attendees:~~
  1. ~~Tae Kwon Do.~~
  2. ~~Boat building.~~
  3. ~~Mighty Mites.~~
  4. ~~Ballet classes.~~
  5. ~~Rentals/party facility.~~
- ~~Teen Center 3 of 8 attendees.~~
- ~~Special Events 8 of 8 attendees.~~
- ~~Civic Center, dance, movies, various events 8 of 8 attendees.~~
- ~~Art Council performances 8 of 8 attendees.~~
- ~~Family gym 4 of 4 attendees.~~
- ~~Racquetball.~~
- ~~Climbing wall.~~

#### **Neighborhood Meeting: Black Gold Recreation Hall Area**

**December 3, 1997**

#### **Area improvement like/wants, around area:**

- ~~Activities of the Recreation Hall expanded.~~
  1. ~~Tournaments, pool, ping-pong and cribbage etc.~~
  2. ~~Exercise classes.~~
  3. ~~Social club, welcoming committee.~~
  4. ~~Gatherings with other parents.~~
  5. ~~Crafts.~~
  6. ~~New parent classes.~~
  7. ~~Gardening classes.~~

#### **City improvement like/wants:**

- ~~Pool:~~
  1. ~~Community entrance and locker rooms.~~
  2. ~~Movie time.~~
- ~~Ski trails in town.~~
- ~~BMX track.~~
- ~~More snow machine trails. Establish corridor from town to trails.~~
- ~~Sledding hill, somewhere besides Mineral Creek entrance, cut trees to the ground.~~
- ~~Better signs on the trails.~~
- ~~More communication between various winter sport groups: Skiers, snow machine riders, etc.~~
- ~~Shuttle service to winter sports areas.~~
- ~~Nature trails on or near the Duck Flats.~~
- ~~Small Boat Harbor:~~
  1. ~~Sidewalk, more boat launch ramps.~~
  2. ~~Bike path, not everything in one corner.~~



#### **City improvement like/wants (cont'd):**

- ~~South Harbor Drive~~
  1. ~~More signs explaining harbor rules, especially parking~~
  2. ~~More trails, paved and wider.~~
  3. ~~Trial/fishing area adjacent to ocean side. Dayville road.~~
- ~~Bike path from Highway to Alyeska terminal with benches and turnouts.~~
- ~~Loop Road:~~
  1. ~~Bike path with benches and turnouts.~~
- ~~Boardwalk from City Dock (New) to Dock Point.~~
- ~~Citywide architectural theme.~~
- ~~City beautification plan.~~
- ~~Meyring park: (On Pioneer):~~
  1. ~~Add parking area across from fire station.~~
  2. ~~Bar-B-Que Pits.~~
  3. ~~Covered picnic area.~~
- ~~Adopt A Block.~~
- ~~Black Gold Parkstrip:~~
  1. ~~Covered picnic area.~~
  2. ~~Horseshoes.~~
  3. ~~Volleyball.~~

#### **Program like/wants:**

- ~~Teen center open Sunday PM and Holidays.~~
- ~~Safety education for new mobile riders.~~
- ~~Indoor youth basketball, Little Wiggles.~~

#### **Existing like/wants:**

- ~~Civic Center:~~
  1. ~~Movies~~
  2. ~~Company parties/Social functions.~~
- ~~Gold Rush.~~
- ~~Rifle Range.~~

#### **Neighborhood Meeting: Black Gold Recreation Hall Area**

**November 12, 1997**

#### **Area improvement like/wants, around area:**

- ~~Bike trail to Keystone Canyon.~~
- ~~BMX track~~
- ~~Downhill skiing.~~
- ~~Bike trail around subdivision (dirt).~~
- ~~Replace cabins on Salmonberry.~~
- ~~Robe Lake beach improvements.~~
- ~~Brush bike trail more often.~~
- ~~Little League field.~~

#### **Area improvement like/wants, around area (cont'd):**

- ~~Sweep bike trail more often.~~
- ~~1 ½ mile park pond, clean out glass.~~
- ~~Little League field.~~
- ~~Expand existing park.~~
  1. ~~Tennis court.~~
  2. ~~Wall ball.~~
  3. ~~Full court basketball, volleyball.~~
  4. ~~Horseshoes.~~
  5. ~~More youth playground equipment.~~
- ~~Replace bridges on trail to Hogback.~~
- ~~Easements... (Eagle/Falcon and 3 others).~~
  1. ~~Clarify easement locations.~~
  2. ~~Designate easements on map and on site.~~
  3. ~~Clear brush and garbage.~~
  4. ~~Clarify use (ie: motorized, non-motorized, Winter, Summer, etc.)~~
- ~~Repair water fountain at park.~~
- ~~Clean up Robe River.~~
- ~~Do something about the high snow banks that prevent people from seeing oncoming traffic when backing out of driveways.~~
- ~~Work with Snowmachine club to sponsor snow machine safety and rules class for neighborhood.~~
- ~~Create access points off of the existing bike trail to enable kids to enjoy off road cycling 'too.~~
- ~~More signs to encourage bikers to use the bike path, not the highway.~~
- ~~Larger parking lot at Robe Lake.~~
- ~~Clear trails up on Valdez Glacier.~~
- ~~Improve road access to the Valdez Glacier and a trail around the lake.~~

#### **Citywide improvement like/wants:**

- ~~Bowling alley.~~
- ~~Ice skating rink.~~
- ~~Skateboard Park.~~
- ~~Batting cage and pitching cage etc.~~
- ~~Miniature golf.~~
- ~~Keep fishing opportunities available at the Old City Dock.~~
- ~~Interpretive signs at pullouts along the Duck flats.~~
- ~~Sledding area.~~
- ~~Grade Mineral Creek road more in the summer.~~
- ~~Talent show.~~
- ~~Lights on the winter trails on Mineral Creek.~~
- ~~Improve ski trails for bicycle use in the summer.~~
- ~~½ pipes for winter snow piles.~~
- ~~Fix bike paths in Meyring Park.~~
- ~~Leave Mineral creek trails Multi-use (as currently designated).~~
- ~~Support EVOS purchase of Blondeau property for Marine Park.~~

**Programs like/wants:**

- Snowmachine races.
- Go cart races.
- Family game nights at the Recreation Hall.
- Expanded climbing wall.
- Longer open swim.
- Nature study classes.
- Baseball practice.
- Ping pong tournaments.
- Avalanche safety classes.
- Snowmachine safety classes.
- Snowmachine and motorcycle repair class.
- Sports instruction.
- Parenting classes/life skills.
- Umpire/referee classes.
- Lego builders contest.
- Youth football program.
- Track and field program.
- Competitive ski snowboard program.
- More extreme outdoors programs.
- Organize bike trip for youth.

**Existing “Likes”:**

- Multiple Use Grooming.
- Racquetball.
- Swimming pool.
- Climbing wall.
- Swim Lessons.
- Basketball (Adult and Youth).
- Open gym.
- Aerobics.
- Tae Kwon Do.

<p align="center"><b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b>  <b>1999-2003 – APPENDIX J</b></p>
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<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>Barney Meyring Park</b>			
<i>Bike Path Renovation</i>	\$37,500	Completed	2000
<i>North Playground Improvements/ADA Upgrades</i>	\$22,969	Completed	2001
<i>Parking Lot at Picnic Shelter</i>	\$20,000	Completed	2000
TOTAL	\$80,469		
<b>Black Gold Park</b>			
<i>Install Drainage System</i>	\$337,504	Completed	2001
<i>Replace Playground Equipment/ADA Upgrades</i>	\$42,517	Completed	2002
TOTAL	\$380,021		
<b>Alpine Woods Park</b>			
<i>Replace Playground Equipment/ADA Upgrades</i>	\$30,000 (est.)	75% Complete	2003
<i>Replace East Restroom</i>	\$26,627	Under Contract	2003
<i>Renovate Volleyball Court</i>	\$200	Completed	1999
TOTAL	\$56,827		
<b>Dock Point Park</b>			
<i>Construct Picnic Shelter</i>	\$35,527	Completed	2001
<i>Replace Handrail</i>	\$18,855	Completed	2001
<i>Interpretive Signage</i>	\$6,995	Completed	1999
TOTAL	\$61,377		
<b>Robe River Park</b>			
<i>Replace Playground Equipment/ADA Upgrades</i>	\$24,269	Completed	2002
<i>Replace Restroom</i>	\$26,782	Under Contract	2003
TOTAL	\$51,051		
<b>Goldfields</b>			
<i>Replace Awnings</i>	\$19,961	Completed	2001
TOTAL	\$19,961		

**Community Pool**

<i>Reconstruct/Expand</i>	\$3,585,189	Completed	2001
TOTAL	\$3,585,189		

**Senior League Field/Airport Park**

<i>Replace Fence</i>	\$32,825	Completed	2000
<i>Install Fence Safety Cap</i>	\$1,056	Completed	2000
<i>Construct Park</i>	\$73,682	Completed	2000
<i>Purchase Bleachers</i>	\$1,379	Completed	1999
TOTAL	\$108,942		

**Valdez Memorial Cemetery**

<i>Expansion/Improvements</i>	\$57,352	Completed	2000
<i>Cremation Memorial Installation</i>	\$2,005	Completed	2002
TOTAL	\$59,357		

**Valdez Pioneer Cemetery**

<i>Restoration</i>	\$3,598	Completed	2001
TOTAL	\$3,598		

**Unfer Field**

<i>Drainage Improvements</i>	\$7,500 (est.)	Funded	2003
<i>Install Fence Safety Cap</i>	\$569	Completed	2000
TOTAL	\$8,069		

**Skate Park**

<i>Construct</i>	\$106,907	Completed	2000
TOTAL	\$106,907		

**Mineral Creek Trails**

<i>Construct Alternate Access</i>	\$6,712	Completed	2001
<i>Install Gate on West Dike</i>	\$1,184	Completed	2002
TOTAL	\$7,896		

**Cottonwood Neighborhood Park**

<i>Parking Improvements/Restroom Installation</i>	\$70,531	Under Contract	2003
TOTAL	\$70,531		

**Old Town Site***Replace Sign*

\$5,750

Completed

1999

TOTAL

\$5,750

**Shoup Bay Trail***Maintenance*

\$10,061

Ongoing

2000

**TOTAL**

\$10,061

**Ice Skating Facility***Cost Analysis/Design*

\$25,414

Continuing

2002

TOTAL

\$25,414

**Teen Center***Remodel for Multiple Use*

\$23,764

Completed

2003

TOTAL

\$23,764

**Lowe River at Alpine Woods***Construct Access Trail*

\$3,192

Completed

2001

TOTAL

\$3,192

**Grand Total for all facilities 1999-2003****\$4,668,376**

<p align="center"><b><i>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS</i></b></p> <p align="center"><b>1992-1998 APPENDIX K</b></p>
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Projects	Amount	Status	Year
<b><u>ALLISON POINT CAMPGROUNDS</u></b>			
Fence Extension	\$ 1,480.00	Completed	1994
Move Phone	\$ 95.00	Completed	1994
Pay Drop	\$ 1,564.04	Completed	1994
Signs	\$ 7,489.14	Completed	1995
Rebar	\$ 108.00	Completed	1992
Trails/Restroom	\$464,988.00	Completed	1996
<b>Total</b>	\$475,724.18		
<b><u>ALPINE WOODS</u></b>			
Gate	\$ 763.91	Completed	1993
Gravel	\$ 4,395.30	Completed	1995
Playground Equipment	\$ 6,615.60	Completed	1995
Restroom Installation	\$ 3,971.75	Completed	1993
Tree Removal	\$ 7,700.00	Completed	1994
<b>Total</b>	\$ 23,446.56		
<b><u>BALLFIELDS (Senior/T-Ball/Minor)</u></b>			
Fill for Fields	\$ 5,400.00	Completed	1996
<b>Total</b>	\$ 5,400.00		
<b><u>BARNEY MEYRING PARK</u></b>			
Basketball Goals	\$ 4,279.00	Completed	1993
Basketball Goals Installation	\$ 5,532.50	Completed	1993
Frisbee Golf Course	\$ 399.00	Completed	1994
Hydroseeding Playground #2	\$ 2,483.00	Completed	1998
Playground #1	\$ 20,460.00	Completed	1993
Playground #1 fill	\$ 1,050.00	Completed	1993
Playground #2	\$ 12,757.93	Purchased	1996
Playground #2 Fill and Boarder	\$ 3,409.00	Completed	1997
Tennis Winches	\$ 274.00	Completed	1994
Trees – 30	\$ 2,775.00	Completed	1995
<b>Total</b>	\$ 53,419.43		
<b><u>BLACK GOLD PARK</u></b>			
Pea Gravel	\$ 204.00	Completed	1994
Playground Equipment	\$ 4,656.00	Completed	1994
<b>Total</b>	\$ 4,860.00		
<b><u>CEMETERY</u></b>			
Cemetery Expansion	\$ 54,380.00	90% complete	1998
Tree Removal	\$ 600.00	Completed	1994
<b>Total</b>	\$54,980.00		

**CITY BEAUTIFICATION**

Flower Pots	\$ 22,398.35	Completed	1992
<b>Total</b>	\$ 22,398.35		

**CIVIC CENTER OVERLOOK**

Hand Rail	\$ 19,000.000	Completed	1996
<b>Total</b>	\$ 19,000.000		

**DOCK POINT**

Restroom Construction	\$ 130,568.00	Completed	1998
Trail/Beach Improvements	\$ 185,000.00	Completed	1996
<b>Total</b>	\$ 315,568.00		

**FACILITY SIGNS**

Adopt-A-Park	\$ 225.00	Completed	1996
Signs	\$ 10,384.00	Completed	1996
Signs	\$ 1,422.00	Completed	1995
<b>Total</b>	\$ 12,031.00		

**GLACIER CAMPGROUND**

BBQ Grills	\$ 701.00	Completed	1994
Grills	\$ 2,500.00	Completed	1995
Grills, Installed New	\$ 11,536.00	Completed	1998
Main Gate, Installed	\$ 2,079.00	Completed	1998
Pay Boxes	\$ 921.00	Completed	1994
Restroom Tank Cleaning	\$ 2,000.00	Completed	1993
Road Repairs	\$ 13,593.61	Completed	1994
Signs	\$ 475.00	Completed	1995
Toilet Risers	\$ 2,263.00	Completed	1996
<b>Total</b>	\$ 36,068.61		

**GOLDFIELDS**

Field Renovations	\$ 16,137.00	Completed	1995/96/ 97
Home Plate Pads	\$ 3,900.00	Completed	1997
Roof Repair	\$ 54,380.00	Completed	1997
Well	\$ 20,018.03	Completed	1995
<b>Total</b>	\$ 94,435.03		



**LAWN RENOVATIONS (On Going)**

<b>Areator</b>	\$ 6,008.00	Purchased	1995
Draw Bar	\$ 114.36	Purchased	1995
Herbicide	\$ 768.51	Purchased	1995/96
Herbicide Sprayer	\$ 6,885.00	Purchased	1995
Lawn Repairs	\$ 750.00	Completed	1996
Leveling of Parkstrip	\$ 4,000.00	Completed	1996
Liming	\$ 2,325.00	Completed	1996
Tiller Purchase	\$ 2,050.00	Completed	1998
Top Soil	\$ 15,744.00	Purchased	1995/96
Slit Seeder	\$ 5,993.00	Purchased	1995
<b>Total</b>	\$ 44,637.87		

**MINERAL CREEK SKI TRAILS**

Culvert	\$ 400.00	Completed	1995
Dozer Rental	\$ 1,714.70	Completed	1994/95
GPS Rental	\$ 480.00	Completed	1994
Gates	\$ 5,157.37	Completed	1995
Gravel	\$ 4,000.00	Completed	1995
Signs	\$ 8,176.00	Completed	1992/96
<b>Total</b>	\$ 19,928.07		

**MINOR LEAGUE FIELD**

Fence	\$ 15,000.00	Completed	1996
Pitcher's Pad Installation	\$ 445.00	Completed	1997
Roofing Shed	\$ 1,135.42	Completed	1993
<b>Total</b>	\$ 16,580.42		

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Ballfield Gates	\$ 447.52	Completed	1995
D-1 Road by T-Ball field	\$ 800.00	Completed	1996
Deck in Warehouse	\$ 303.52	Completed	1994
Misc. Vandalism & Materials	\$ 6,339.35	Completed	1992/96
No Camping Signs	\$ 382.60	Completed	1996
Picnic Tables Civic Center	\$ 750.00	Completed	1994
Trash Cans	\$ 1,743.25	Completed	1995
<b>Total</b>	\$ 10,766.24		

**OUTDOOR SHOOTING RANGE**

Brushing	\$ 590.00	Completed	1993
Signs	\$ 50.00	Completed	1995
<b>Total</b>	\$ 640.00		

**ROBE RIVER PARK**

Boarder Material	\$ 231.75	Completed	1994
Fence material	\$ 2,185.18	Completed	1993
Gravel	\$ 2,839.50	Completed	1994
Playground Equipment	\$ 9,308.00	Completed	1994
Top Soil	\$ 1,452.00	Completed	1994
<b>Total</b>	\$ 16,016.43		

**SENIOR LEAGUE FIELD**

Dugouts	\$ 8,848.92	Completed	1996
Grass Renovation/Seeding	\$ 300.00	Completed	1997
Pitcher's Pad Installation	\$ 445.00	Completed	1997
<b>Total</b>	\$ 9,593.92		

**1992-1996**

TOTAL PARK & RECREATION CIP EXPENDITURES	\$969,519.11
TOTAL GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED	\$649,488.00
Gold Rush Days Committee	\$ 5,000
Division of Forestry	\$ 2,000
Dept. of Natural Resources (Exxon Settlement)	\$635,000
Dept. of Commerce & Economic Development	\$ 7,488
TOTAL USER FEE CONTRIBUTIONS USED IN PROJECTS	\$ 16,896.00
TOTAL TAX DOLLARS SPENT	\$303,135.11

**1997 – 1998**

TOTAL PARK & RECREATION CIP EXPENDITURES	\$265,975.00
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## LAND USE ISSUES & CONCERNS

### APPENDIX L

*This Appendix provides the detailed information from the Parks and Recreation Commission's Master Plan Work Sessions regarding Land Use Issues and Concerns. The list below shows the priority ranking that resulted from the work session process. The (#s) reflect total points given to an issue and are provided to help show the degree of impact that was identified.*

**What are the land issues that you think will impact Parks and Recreation in Valdez in the next 5 years?**

1. Mineral Creek - (36)
2. Ice Rink – location - (27)
3. Blondeau Property - passive recreation, minimal development - (20)
4. Robe Lake - (13)
5. Maintain and enhance what we have now. Especially with decreasing dollars - (8)
6. Corbin Creek development, park location - (5)
7. Old Town, signs on highway, interpretative panels to let people know where it is - (5)
8. Funding Options, for land development, grants etc. - (2)
9. Thompson Pass, regulations could impact Valdez residents and visitors use - (2)
10. Educational Outdoor Center, possible development - (1)
11. Population Declining, how does that impact P & R land purchase and program development etc. - (1)

**Other Considerations:**

- Bike Path permit issue for Alpine Woods
- Black Gold Recreation Center lot - if the building is removed
- Boat Harbor expansion - include other recreational opportunities with the development
- City Dock, fishing access, current use, maintain for the future
- Cottonwood Subdivision - UAA land behind the subdivision
- Dual Use, motorizes use vs. non motorized use
- Eagles Rest property, in the back - potential site for Recreation Center
- Future purchases impacted by cost of property and funds to purchase it
- Grain Terminals
- Junior High School, new project
- Land Trusts/Endowments - funds/property to Valdez P&R
- Pipe yard development
- Population Increase, develop parks and playgrounds for the area - make sure property is available and in good condition
- Porcupine Street, use of the area
- Robe River & Pioneer Cemetery conflicts
- Sea Otter RV Park
- Trails – stay in the future regardless of property ownership
- Trails, Grand fathered - making sure access of existing
- Trails, Hiking - develop additional trails
- Valdez Glacier - develop access

## **MINERAL CREEK AREA**

### **What are the existing uses of the Mineral Creek Area?**

- 4 wheeling/motorcycles
- Berry picking
- Biking
- Camping
- Dog sledding
- Dog walking, pet exercising area
- Driving
- Flying, ultra lights and flight seeing
- Gold mining
- Gold panning
- Hiking
- Horse back riding
- Hunting, all around, bear/bird
- Ice climbing
- Jogging
- Kayaking
- Partying
- Photography
- Picnicking
- Rafting
- Site seeing
- Skijoring
- Sledding
- Snow boarding
- Snow machining
- Snow shoeing
- Special events, adventure races/treasure hunts
- Walking
- Wildlife viewing
- X-country skiing

### **What are other potential uses of the Mineral Creek Area?**

- Archery range
- Biathlon course
- Campsites
- Commercial use - bus tours, guided vans, biking and walking tours etc.
- DNR lands - divide it up and give permits for other activities that limit community access
- Mining, commercial
- Non commercial public improvements - i.e. Stamp Mill
- Outdoor education - flora, fauna and aquatic studies
- Paintball
- Races - motorcross/snowmachine
- Radio operated toys - boats and planes, etc
- Restricted use by private groups - i.e. film company
- State closes or/diverse limits/maintenance/possible fences/gates
- UAA land - development or sale of

**What are the qualities that draw people to the Mineral Creek Area?**

- Access, easy to get to from town - very close
- Accessible for wheelchairs and strollers
- Beauty of the area
- Challenging terrain
- Clean, not a lot of garbage
- Creek
- Dirt road surface, especially for jogging
- Feels safe
- Fish spawning area
- Flora & fauna
- Gold
- History of the area - gold mining etc.
- Location- the only place in town for, i.e. snow machining
- Multi-use capabilities
- Natural area - no development besides the road base
- Not crowded
- Peaceful
- Public lands
- Secluded
- Ski trails, groomed
- Stamp mill at the end of the road
- Trail system
- Trail, wide and good length
- Variety of scenes in a small area
- Waterfalls
- Wildlife, lots of it
- WOW factor

**What can you do as the Parks and Recreation Commission to insure the qualities and uses of this area remain intact for future citizens?**

- Clean up group to take care of garbage, etc.
- Diligently, keep on top of what is being talked about/be ready to address issues as soon as they surface - listen to the community, be proactive!
- Educate City Council on the importance of this area and the *Value* of this area
- Enforcement - Keep people accountable, be diligent
- Existing Road & Trail system – insure maintenance
- Government agencies, monitor - DOT, Park Services, any one that would impact this area
- Legislation, push for state legislation that would restrict development
- Planning and Zoning & City Council - work with to establish review authority for commercial use of area/or any use of the area
- Public Use Lands - dedicate land so it is in the books as unavailable
- Responsible use, promote through consistent communication (video)
- Rules/regulations, update as is needed (Current winter authority, not summer)
- Statistics, keep for area use - Intern project, sign in board/survey regarding use
- Volunteers, create a group/ *Friends of Mineral Creek Area* - Include in the Master Plan

## **ROBE LAKE AREA**

### **What are the existing uses of the Robe Lake Area?**

- B & B Lodge
- Berry picking
- Bird nesting/Habitat
- Bird watching
- Bugs – mosquito breeding
- Camping
- Fish spawning
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Ice skating
- Jet ski
- Kayaking/Canoeing
- Picnics/Bonfires
- Residential homes
- River access
- Rope swing
- Row boats
- Sea plane/Float plane
- Site seeing
- Skiing – Cross country
- Snow machining racing
- Swimming
- Water skiing
- Wildlife viewing

### **What are other potential uses of the Robe Lake Area?**

- Boat Rentals (Paddle)
- Cabin rental
- General Commercial enterprise/Rentals
- Homes/Residential expansion
- Lodge (s)
- Nature Trail – interpretation
- Overnight camping
- Park/Picnic enhancements
- Picnicking for large groups
- Special events/Recreation programs
- Trailhead/stepping off point for other lakes in area
- Winter ski races/sports

### **What are the qualities that draw people to the Robe Lake Area?**

- Accessible
- BBQs
- Beauty
- Close to town
- Feels remote

- Fishing
- Fresh water swim-unique lake
- Natural setting
- Peaceful
- Water/Sports
- Wildlife viewing

**What can you do as the Parks and Recreation Commission to insure the qualities and uses of this area remain intact for future citizens?**

- Advise and actively manage area
- Balance recreational use residential use
- Construct improvements/Infrastructure (restrooms, parking, picnics)
- Develop rules and regulations for use of area
- Identify potential conflicts/problem and plan for solutions
- Monitor Government agencies regarding impacts to the area
- Protect salmon spawning/Habitat
- Request P & Z to work with P & R to do a Master Plan
- Request support from the state for management of the lake
- Signage
- Work with P&Z and City Council to establish review authority for use of area (see Mineral Creek statement)

## **THOMPSON PASS AREA**

### **What are the existing uses of the Thompson Pass Area?**

- 4 wheeling/motorcycles
- Access to other towns
- Airplaning
- Alpine skiing
- Backpacking
- Beaver ponds
- Berry picking
- Biking
- Camping
- Commercial equipment test with Arctic Cat
- Commercial lodges
- Commercial skiing (cats, planes, heli)
- Commercial tour buses
- Dog walking
- Educational information/Training
- Glacier touring
- Gold panning
- Hand gliding
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Ice climbing
- Kayaking
- Mountain biking
- Mountaineering
- Movie filming
- Oil movement
- Photography
- Rafting
- Residential Homes
- Rock climbing
- RV Camping
- Site seeing/Driving
- Snow boarding
- Snow machining
- Snow shoeing
- Special events/Competitions
- Swimming
- Trapping
- Ultra lights
- Wildlife viewing
- X-country skiing

### **What are other potential uses of the Thompson Pass Area?**

- Educational tours
- Horseback riding
- More commercial business



- Natural gas movement
- Olympic training site
- Road to Cordova
- Ski lift
- Trailheads

**What are the qualities that draw people to the Thompson Pass Area?**

- Access to other towns
- Back country access
- Glacier
- Good fishing
- Lodging
- Mountains
- Open terrain
- Public lands
- Road access
- RV Parking
- Scenic Quality
- SNOW
- Unique skiing experiences
- Water/Lakes/Rivers
- Wilderness
- Wildlife

**What can you do as the Parks and Recreation Commission to insure the qualities and uses of this area remain intact for future citizens?**

- Educate the community
- Work with Governing agencies to oversee/Advise existing and potential use/Propose regulations
- Attend meeting of Governing agencies
- Develop promotional information regarding P&R facilities for visitors
- Partner with/State Parks Advisory Committee to provide a forum for comments/Coordinate local input for planning.

**GET IN THE LOOP**

**Goal: Increase revenues through visitor promotion**

## NEIGHBORHOOD LIST

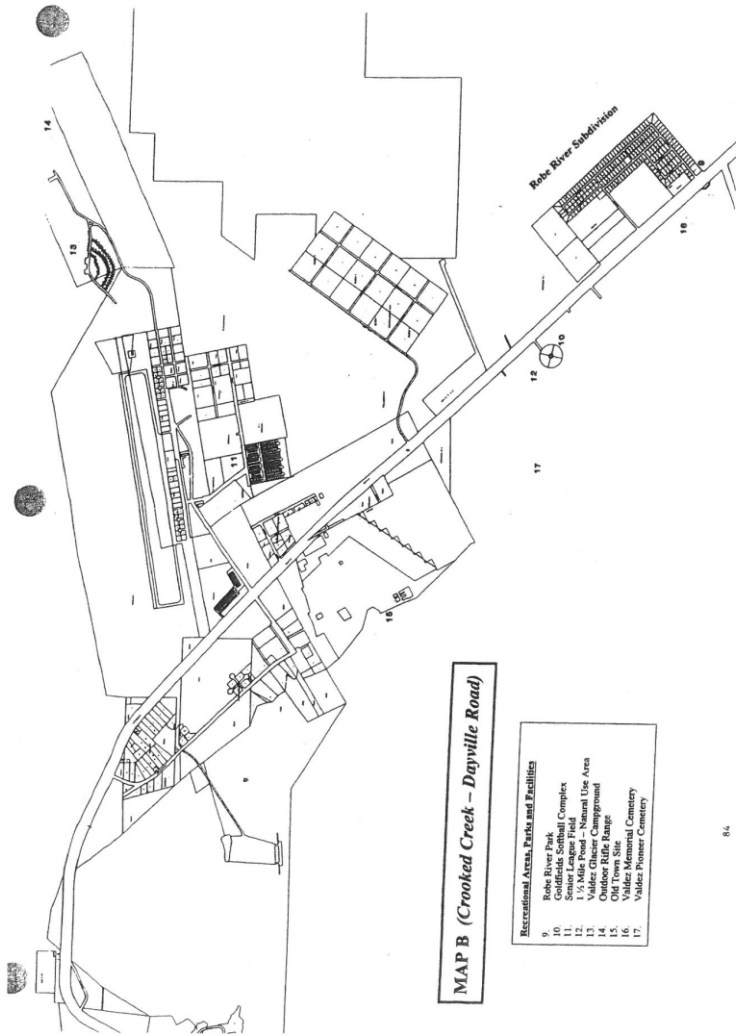
### APPENDIX M

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Population Estimate</u>
Airport/Aleutian	800
Alpine Woods	250
Cottonwood/Blueberry/D8	100
East Core (East of Hazelet)	1100
Robe Lake Subdivision	30
Robe River Subdivision	390
West Core (West of Hazelet)	715
Zook/Loop Road	290

# MAP A (Core Valdez - Crooked Creek)

- Recreational Areas, Parks and Facilities**
1. Merring Park
  2. Black Gold Parkstrip
  3. Ruth Point Park
  4. Overlook
  5. Woods Recreation Center
  6. Black Gold Recreation Hall
  7. Valdez High School Swimming Pool
  - 8.





**MAP C (Dayville Road – Alpine Woods)**

Recreational Area, Parks and Facilities  
18 Alpine Woods Volunteer Park

