

Fish Creek Park & Estuary Area Planning

August 2021 Walkthroughs Event Takeaways

The following are some key takeaways from the walkthroughs:

- **Community Walkthrough**

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

- **Professional Walkthrough**

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

- **Overall Consensus**

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

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

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FISH CREEK FOCUS GROUP WALKTHROUGHS



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

