



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018
6 P.M.
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS**

Agenda Item	Presenter	Action Requested
I. Call to Order	C. Mertl	
II. Approval of Agenda A. Agenda Changes	C. Mertl	Motion to approve
III. Approval of Minutes A. Meeting of June 5, 2018	C. Mertl	Motion to approve
IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items	C. Mertl	
V. New Business A. Evergreen Cemetery Historic Landscape Preservation Plan B. Douglas Cemeteries C. Chicken Yard Park	G. Schaaf G. Schaaf G. Schaaf	Motion to adopt Recommendation to Assembly Recommendation to Assembly
VI. Unfinished Business		
VII. Department Information Items A. Project Playground B. P&R Master Plan	A. Pierce A. Pierce	
VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports Chair Report Liaison to the Assembly Board Member Liaisons Other Board Member Business	C. Mertl N. Gregory Liaisons All	
IX. Adjournment	C. Mertl	



TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director
DATE: August 1, 2018
RE: August 7, 2018 Meeting

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Please find enclosed the information supporting your agenda topics for this meeting. The meeting is anticipated to last 90 minutes and will take place in the Assembly Chambers at City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

A. EVERGREEN CEMETERY HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN – *Requested by George Schaaf, Director*
[Page 8-31]

Corvus Design approached the Parks & Recreation Department in May with an offer to develop a Historic Landscape Preservation Plan for Evergreen Cemetery at no cost to CBJ. The Department accepted this offer, and staff worked on the project with Debbie Mattson, an intern at Corvus Design. The plan “provides a framework to preserve and showcase the meaningful history that fills Evergreen Cemetery through the environment it occupies.” The plan identifies a range of actions to enhance the cemetery, which can be accomplished as resources allow.

RECOMMENDATION: The Department recommends that the PRAC adopt the Evergreen Cemetery Historic Preservation Plan.

B. DOUGLAS CEMETERIES – *Requested by Assembly Lands Committee [Page 32-49]*

The Assembly Lands Committee is considering a request by former Juneau Mayor Merrill Sanford to transfer ownership of the Eagles Cemetery in Douglas to the City & Borough of Juneau. Mr. Sanford also asked the Lands Committee to recommend that the Assembly acquire all other cemeteries in Douglas. If acquired by the CBJ, the Parks & Recreation Department would be responsible for maintenance of the cemeteries pursuant to CBJ 03.10.040(2). The Assembly Lands Committee referred this question to the PRAC for a recommendation.

The Department is unable to absorb additional maintenance responsibilities within existing resources. The attached cost estimate reflects additional personnel resources that would be required to provide minimal maintenance for cemeteries in Douglas, if they are acquired by CBJ.

NOTE: These cost estimates assume no future burials would take place in any of the cemeteries. If future burials are necessary, then maintenance costs would be significantly higher.

RECOMMENDATION: The Department does not have a recommendation regarding the acquisition of the Douglas cemeteries.

If the PRAC supports the acquisition of the Douglas cemeteries, then the Department requests that the PRAC recommend to the Lands Committee the addition of one (1) 0.40 FTE position to the Department's staffing schedule and (2) an increment of \$35,981 to the Department's FY19 budget for personnel services, contractual services, and other expenses necessary for cemetery maintenance.

C. Chicken Yard Park – Requested by George Schaaf, Director [Page 50-69]

Chicken Yard Park is located on Starr Hill at the corner of Sixth Street and Kennedy Street. It is designated as a Neighborhood Park in the Parks & Recreation Department's Comprehensive Plan (1996).

The playground equipment at Chicken Yard Park was installed in 1988, making it the oldest playground in Juneau's park system. A recent inspection by CBJ staff identified significant safety hazards. Due to its condition and continued use of the playground by motor vehicles, the existing playground equipment must be removed from Chicken Yard Park. The Department sent a letter to all property owners within 1,000 feet of Chicken Yard Park regarding the situation and also informing them of this PRAC meeting.

Funding for a new playground and other improvements at Chicken Yard Park was approved by voters as part of the Temporary 1% Sales Tax (2012-16). The Department is prepared to begin a public process to design and construct a new playground and other improvements; however, the property's viability as a park is incompatible with its continued use by cars and trucks. The Department has identified three alternatives to move forward:

1. Dispose of Chicken Yard Park through public sale;
2. Convert Chicken Yard Park from a Neighborhood Park to another use; or

3. Retain Chicken Yard Park as a Neighborhood Park that is closed to motor vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION: The Department requests that the PRAC recommend retaining Chicken Yard Park as a Neighborhood Park that is closed to motor vehicles.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. PROJECT PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Alix Pierce will present an update on the rebuild of Project Playground. The Community Build is scheduled August 8-12.

B. PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT MASTER PLAN

Alix Pierce will present an update on the Parks & Recreation Department Master Plan. The Park Inventory previously was provided to members of the PRAC.



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018 – 6PM
 ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order at 6:01 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: E. Carrillo, J. Gellings, T. Gilmour, C. Mertl, E. Palmer, C. Prussing, T. Rutecki

Absent: J. Anderson, K. Shelton

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Ana Corcoran, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – C. Mertl adds welcome to Jon Gellings, new PRAC member to New Business.

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items –

Paula Terrel (4970 Thane Rd.): Here on behalf of the Grateful Dogs of Juneau to address dog-free trails. Before the PRAC takes any action, there needs to be an assessment for this need for the community. Are they looking at walking trails or hiking trails? How broad is this need? This is our recommendation.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2018 – E. Palmer moves to approve minutes; no objection. Minutes adopted.

V. New Business –

A. Pickleball Presentation

Marc Wheeler (427 W. 9th St.): Sue (Warner) and I are here tonight to introduce you to Pickleball and ask for the PRACs support in Juneau. Pickleball is a cross between badminton and tennis and it's available to a wide age range.

Sue Warner (411 7th St.): It is the fastest growing sport in the country; the demographic that is taking off with the sport is seniors. Juneau is the only larger community in Alaska that does not have municipal Pickleball courts.

Marc Wheeler: We're asking the PRAC tonight to endorse Pickleball lines on one of the tennis courts at Cope Park and to allow us to store nets at the park. We can put four Pickleball courts on one tennis court.

Sue Warner: We have spoken with some tennis players and the ones we have talked to are for them.

Marc Wheeler: The cost of the paint and upkeep would be minimal for the City.

E. Palmer: How do you plan to grow the Pickleball community in town?

Sue Warner: Flyers, Juneau Empire ads, radio, Facebook and just word of mouth. In the past year, we have gained over 130 players.

E. Carrillo: I would like to hear from the tennis community; letting PRAC know they are for these lines and that they will not be disruptive to their play. For future meetings, having tennis representatives to voice their support as well would be nice.

T. Rutecki: What if Parks & Rec created an Adult Pickleball league like volleyball?

G. Schaaf: The Pickleball movement was facilitated by Parks & Rec's Dave Pusich. We're definitely

interested in supporting it and we recognize our population is getting older so we're looking at what we can do to provide more activities for adults and seniors. One of the things we're looking at doing is starting with tournaments to see what people are interested in and go from there.

C. Mertl: I support Pickleball, it's a great idea especially if you're getting 16 people on one court which is a win-win for everyone. The tennis community was very vocal during the Cope Park upgrades and I would like to see support from that community for these lines. My concern is that we're not displacing one user group for another.

Marc Wheeler: We're only asking for one court to be painted so there will always be one tennis court. We would also follow the same rules for the tennis courts.

C. Mertl: Can we put on temporary lines until we decide a resolution?

Marc Wheeler: Tape could be an option; we're currently playing with tape indoors.

Keith Murry (6260 Alaway Ave #7): I am a recent Pickleball player. What I have seen, where there is a place to play, the kids come out and play. Pickleball is a sport that a child can play partnered with their grandparent, it is a family sport. Pickleball is the natural conversion for tennis players when they get to the point where they cannot play tennis anymore. If the City is able to provide a place for us to get together that makes it easy for the entry to the game, it would benefit the community of all ages. With your support, it could grow very well in this town.

C. Prussing: We're limited in our outdoor recreation time in Juneau, if tape could temporary be put down and then solicit public input, then we will have some data we can discuss at the next meeting.

G. Schaaf: We can certainly do the tape as a starting point. What we are looking for tonight is a motion from the PRAC if this is something that you would like to see staff move forward with.

Bonnie Chaney (715 6th St.): I just started playing Pickleball this past fall. I laid down the court lines today and it took me an hour. Having something that is permanent would be greatly appreciated. We are not displacing tennis players; they can still use the tennis courts.

J. Gellings: I like how this will take a single use infrastructure and make it multiuse.

Chris Karte (9229 Long Run Dr.): I would like to add Floyd Dryden to the motion, having one of the courts at FDMS get temporary lines as well.

T. Gilmour: I move the PRAC supports putting temporary Pickleball lines on one tennis court at Cope Park and Floyd Dryden Middle School and storage of nets at Cope Park with consideration of permanent lines once the tennis community is involved in the conversation.

Motion passes unanimously.

B. Welcome New PRAC Member Jon Gellings

J. Gellings: I currently work for the Forest Service as a Contracting Officer, before that I was in primarily Parks & Rec type positions. I have worked in Matsu with Parks & Rec and Haines for Alaska State Parks. I have been living in Juneau since 2015.

VI. Unfinished Business – None.

VII. Director's Report – G. Schaaf –

A. PRAC Retreat Discussion

G. Schaaf: The board needs to discuss on when you would like to meet for a PRAC retreat. I want to focus on board development, moving toward a high performing board. It will be helpful having a facilitator navigate the retreat and help us come up with some hard, deliverable goals at the end. We will send out a doodle to find a time this fall on a Saturday at the Eagle Valley Center.

B. PRAC/Aquatics Board Roles

G. Schaaf: Any questions on the clarification on the respective roles of the PRAC & Aquatics Board?

C. Mertl: No questions.

C. Project Playground Update

G. Schaaf: The contractor, Carver Construction, has mobilized and materials have been ordered. The Community Build is scheduled for August 8-12 and the steering committee is looking for unskilled and skilled volunteers. IGA has generously offered to donate all the lunches and dinners for the community build volunteers. After the community build is complete, Carver Construction will back in and complete the punch list for the remaining items.

D. Additional Director Comments

G. Schaaf: The Lands Committee heard a proposal from former Mayor Stanford to transfer ownership and maintenance of the Eagle Cemetery in Douglas to the CBJ and requests to look into acquiring all the cemeteries in Douglas for ownership and maintenance by CBJ. This will be coming before the PRAC in the future. The department will be hosting the ribbon cutting for Mayor Bill Overstreet Park on July 3 at 5pm. Lastly, Brent Fischer has announced he will be retiring on October 31.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— The July PRAC meeting will be cancelled.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAB – T. Rutecki: None.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: Met with the City Manager & Mr. Schaaf; will have a retreat in July.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—T. Gilmour: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: The Allen Rogers land transfer is moving forward.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Treadwell Arena Board – VACANT

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: Held Arbor Day Celebration.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: None.

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Working on getting the board reinvigorated.

Other Member Business – None.

Adjournment – 7:30 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 7/31/2018

Evergreen Cemetery Historic Landscape Preservation Plan

Juneau, Alaska



Prepared by Deborah Mattson,
BLA Student Intern, Corvus Design



I.	Executive Summary	2
	Historical Summary	3
	Acknowledgements	3
	Location and Vicinity	4
	Terminology	5
II.	Conditions Assessment	6
	Land Uses	6
	Historic Character	10
	Circulation	10
	Views	11
	Entrances	12
	Vegetation	13
III.	Phased Recommendations	16
	Short-Term Goals	16
	Long-Term Goals	20
	Ongoing Maintenance	22

Juneau's first public cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, opened in 1891 and is located at 601 Seater Street. Evergreen Cemetery was deeded to the City of Juneau in 1907 and is maintained by the City and Borough of Juneau Parks and Recreation Department. A National Register of Historic Places nomination was in progress in 1997, but was never submitted.

Little documentation existed on Evergreen Cemetery until recently when the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Community Development Department (CDD), the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, and the Parks and Recreation Department partnered to confirm and input burial locations and records into a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) digital database. Previously, the Evergreen Cemetery Association (ECA) highlighted several burial sites in their historic walking tour and brochure. The landscape character of the cemetery provide an important means for understanding, interpreting, and appreciating the history of the community and the site. The character of a site is made up of the defining features that identify it with its significance historically, aesthetically, and organizationally. A Historic Preservation Landscape Plan identifies these character-defining features, compares them to the current state of the site, and provides recommendations for short-term and long-term improvement and maintenance practices.

This landscape preservation plan provides a framework to preserve and showcase the meaningful history that fills Evergreen Cemetery through the environment it occupies. Due to overcrowding, the cemetery was closed to burials in 1975 except for those who had reservations. Now it is a public space used mostly by walkers, runners, and tourists seeking the rich history found there. By examining historic aerial photos, surveys, records, and following guidelines, this plan lays out ideal ways to rehabilitate and beautify the landscape. It refers to the past by specifically examining landscape features and patterns rather than the gravesites and gravestones themselves.

Cemeteries are not simply snapshots of the past, but rather an active story between the past and the present. They create an opportunity to gain an understanding of individual people and their professions and families. Cemeteries also share stories about the community and its patterns of development, significant events, economics, and social values. Epitaphs are a touch of humanism along with raw facts and dates; the inscriptions reveal the character of those buried and those who wrote them. The materials themselves disclose the type of community: their religion, their means, their social status. Because of this wealth of information, cemeteries act as active and educational spaces and are extremely valuable resources. Preservation of these spaces, the information found there, and the variety of uses is increasingly valuable to local community. Preserving the Evergreen Cemetery will add to Juneau's connection to its rich history and transform it into a tangible resource.

Historical Summary

Juneau's first cemetery, "Ridge Cemetery," was full within 10 years of its founding, resulting in its relocation to Evergreen Cemetery in 1891. The Evergreen Cemetery Association (ECA) was established with a Board of Directors who selected and designated this 9-acre location. It was originally connected to the city's downtown with a two-track road, which today is known as Calhoun Road. Evergreen Cemetery originally included three sections: Catholic, Protestant, and Alaska Native. Portions were added and divided into fraternal organizations such as: the American Legion, Masonic, Moose/Masonic, Odd Fellows, Elks, and Servian. Through a long process, the organizations deeded their land back to the City of Juneau in exchange for maintenance, and these parcels are to this day maintained by the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ).

Evergreen Cemetery began as a rural cemetery and is now surrounded by housing and streets. The single road that led to the cemetery was the transition from busy city life to a rural park. In the 1800s in America, cemeteries were often associated with churches in the downtown core of many towns. However, with populations increasing and towns and their cemeteries becoming overcrowded, cemeteries were pushed to the outskirts of towns, beginning the rural cemetery movement. These cemeteries became a welcome recreational space for town residents, as well as a burial ground at the edge of town. Today, many of these cemeteries have become surrounded by growing city centers and are now green havens found in the midst of development. As a growing attraction within these urban centers, cemeteries have remained recreational spaces and historic tourist destinations as well a reverent place for family visits.

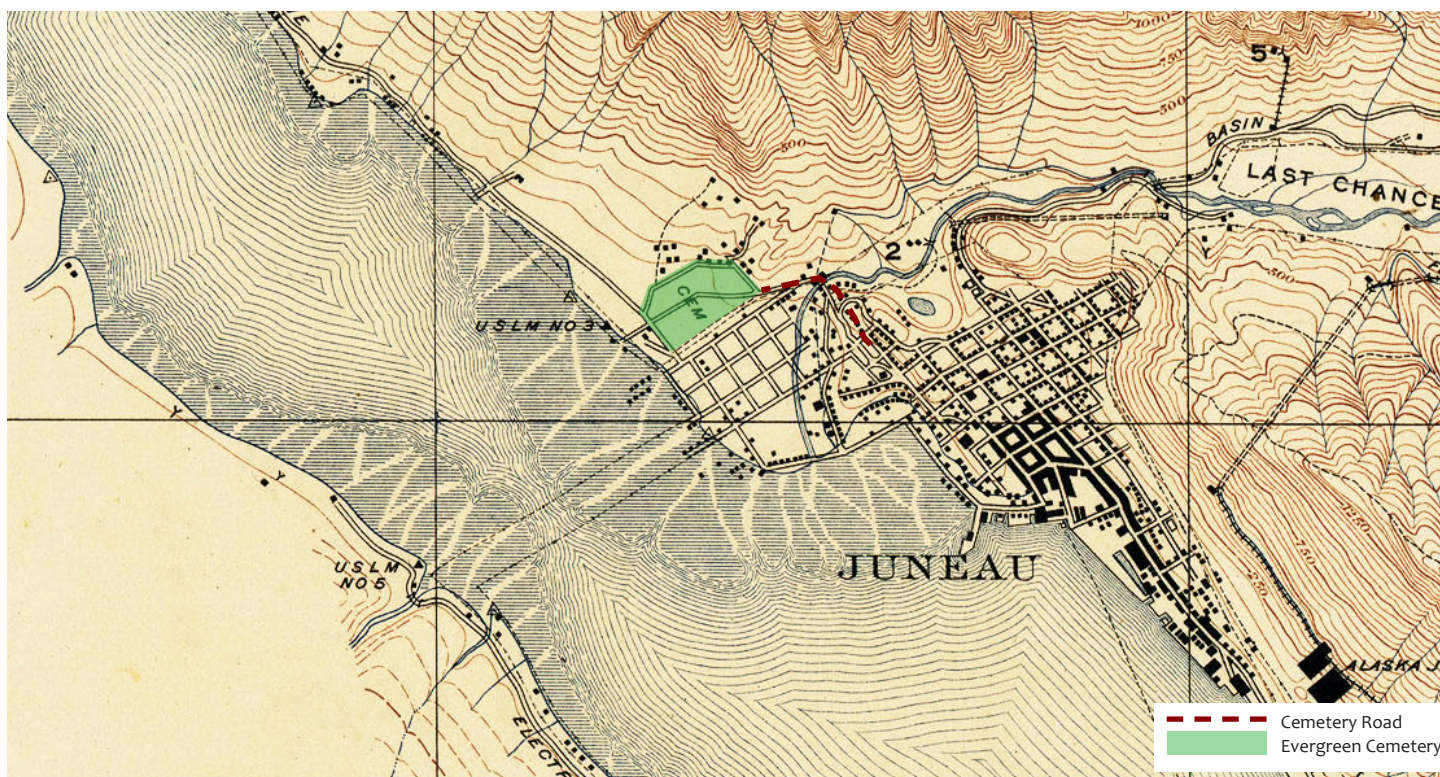
Evergreen Cemetery is the first cemetery in Juneau that has remained in its original location, and it showcases the history of Juneau through the prominent people it protects. These include the founders of Juneau: Joseph Juneau and Richard Harris, and others such as Chief Kola Kowee, and Emery and Jennie Valentine, who were influential people to the growth of Juneau. It is an example of a historically "rural" cemetery surrounded by development but with the potential to maintain a character of peacefulness and solitude. Segregated by its sections, the cemetery is a picture of these fraternal and religious organizations, which can be seen spatially in delineation of boundaries, types of grave markers, and organization of the graves. These three factors—prominent people, rural character, and organization—make Evergreen Cemetery significant to the community of Juneau. As this cemetery becomes a popular destination, it will provide an opportunity for Juneau to cultivate a well managed historical landmark and a focal point for the community.

Acknowledgements

This work has been done by Deborah Mattson, a landscape architecture intern with Corvus Design, in an effort to assist the CBJ Parks and Recreation Department with the rehabilitation of Evergreen Cemetery. The research and work was financed by Corvus Design as a pro bono community contribution.

Thank you to all contributions and assistance from Linda Pringle, Chris Mertl, and Christine Carpenter from Corvus Design, Tracie Krauthoefer from Corvus Culture, Ben Patterson from CBJ, and materials from the CDD and the Evergreen Cemetery Association.

Location and Vicinity



1918

In 1918, Evergreen Cemetery and Cemetery Road were on the edge of town. Only a few houses were scattered north of it.



2018

In 2018, Evergreen Cemetery has been surrounded by the north and northwest by residential streets. Cemetery Road is renamed Calhoun Road and still connects the cemetery with downtown Juneau.



Mausoleum
Building for the housing of bodies in compartments, owned and used by a single family or group.



Ledger Stone
Grave marker placed horizontally to cover the full grave.



Upright Stone / Headstone
Flat, slab-like stone grave marker placed at the head end of the grave. Edging and details vary.



Flush Stone
Grave marker placed horizontally, flush with the earth surface. These are the most common in Evergreen Cemetery.



Grave Curb
Low border of stone or concrete surrounding a grave, beginning slightly underground and extending no more than a few inches above the ground's surface. It is open in the middle with the central area filled with gravel, earth, lawn, or paving.



Grave Landscaping
Modification of the grave area in plantings or fountains. It often signifies a prominent person.

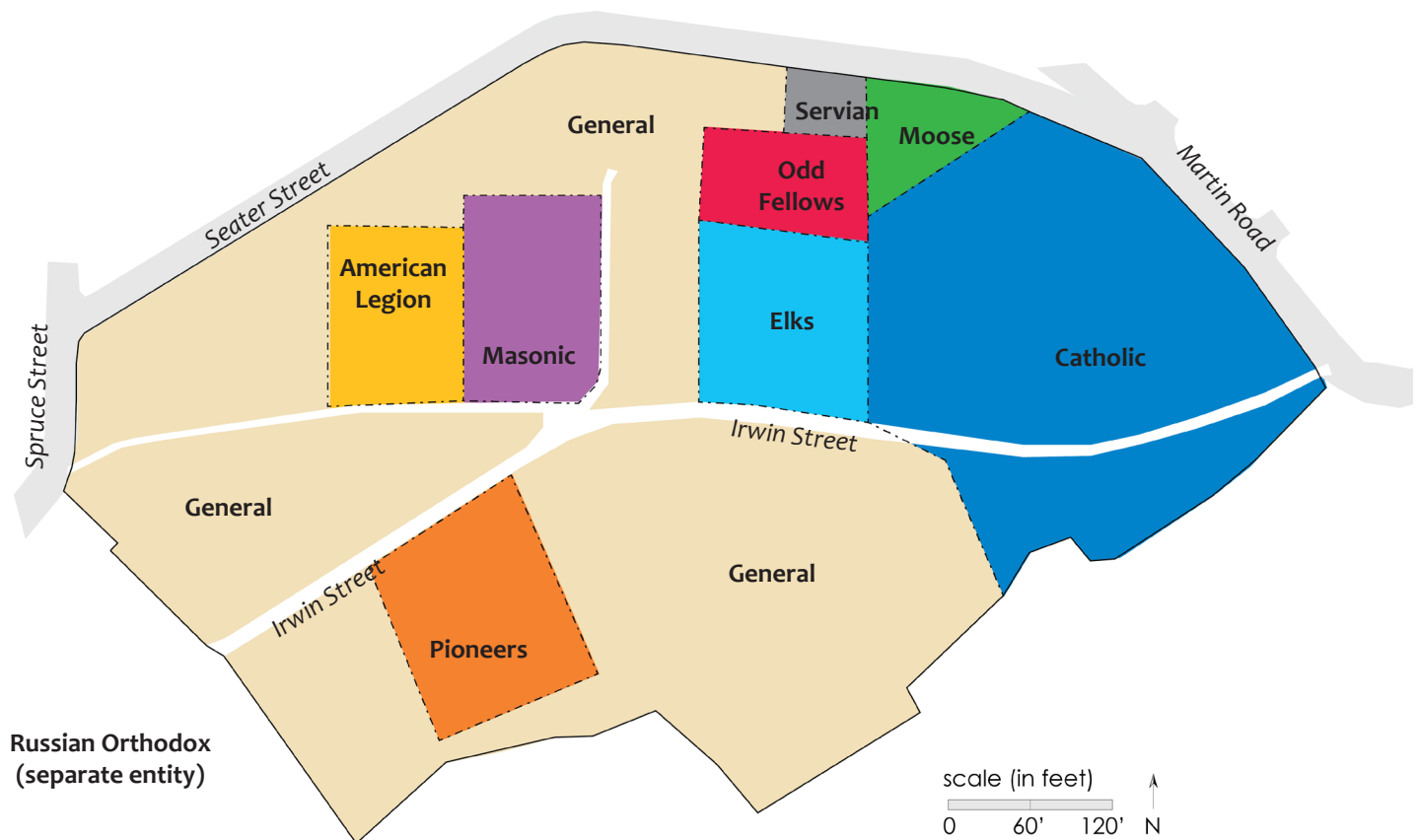
II. Conditions Assessment

14 of 69

Land Uses

Evergreen Cemetery was originally divided into three sections: Protestant, Catholic, and Alaska Native. In 1910 and 1911, portions of the land were granted to the Elks (B.P.O.E. Lodge No. 420), the Odd Fellows Lodge, the Moose Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, the Servian Society, and the Catholic Church. In 1922, a portion of the land was granted to the Igloo No. 6, Pioneers of Alaska and to the Roman Catholic Church. The Cemetery Association charged a fee of \$5 for burials, but also provided them for those who had no means. The divisions of the cemetery show the evolution of the community in how they interacted and major events, such as the founding of the American Legion after World War I and mining disasters in the Servian plot.

Evergreen Cemetery Section Plan



General (Protestant)

The general public area was open to any who did not belong to another organization. These are often Protestants who were not a part of the Catholic church or those who died before other organizations created sections. There are many grave markers, including flush, ledger, upright, and grave curbs. The graves are laid out in a tight grid. Some areas are wooded. Notable people include: Chief Kola Kowee, and Emery and Jennie Valentine.



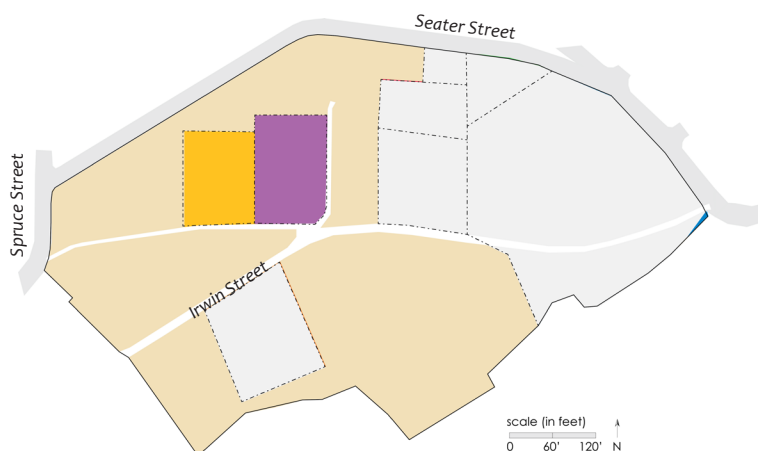
The American Legion

The American Legion was founded in Juneau at the close of World War I as a post and auxiliary with both men's and women's veteran and volunteer organizations. This section is unique as the flush graves circle a flagpole, rather than the grid pattern favored by the rest of the cemetery. Annual Memorial Day services are held here. The original plan called for plant beds and walkways, where were not installed.



The Masonic Lodge

The Juneau chapter was founded in 1912 with an Eastern Star chapter following in 1913. They shared lodge space with the Oddfellows until 1928. The grave markers are mostly flush stones set into the grass. Notable people include: B. M. Behrends, Dr. Leonard Pratt Dawes, Mildred Robinson Hermann, and Edward Webster.



Pioneers of Alaska (Igloos)

Founded in 1913, this is “an organization formed from the need of helping each other survive.”

In 1923, President Warren G. Harding was made an honorary member when he visited. The grave markers arranged in family plots with grave slabs, ledge stones, upright stones, and mausoleums beneath the shade. A few notable people include: Johannes Gerhard Petersen, “China Joe,” and Lloyd V. and Percy Pond.



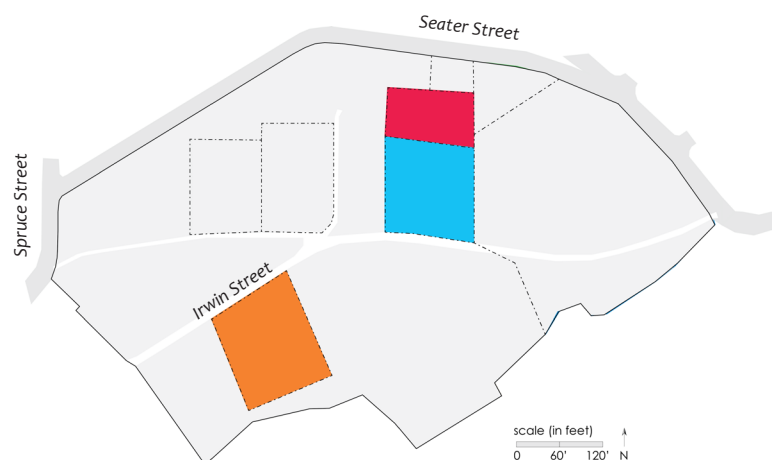
The Elks Lodge

The Elks is a fraternal organization chartered in 1898. In 1909, they built their lodge on Franklin Street and it became the first Legislative Hall in Juneau until 1915 when the Elks used it solely for their own purposes. The grave markers are flush stones with some small grave landscaping and occasional grave curbs. Notable people include: Grover Cleveland Winn, Crystal Snow Jenne, and Elmer J. “Stroller” White.



The Odd Fellows Lodge

Chartered in 1899, this organization, fully known as the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), is dedicated to pursuing projects for the benefit of mankind. The grave markers are flush stones with small landscaping, surrounded by little to no vegetation. A notable person was Minnie Field.



The Servians

This plot housed the graves of Servian miners (descending from Balkan countries), who made up roughly 25% of the miners in 1918. This section and 58 of its graves were deeded back to the City in 1952 in exchange for perpetual maintenance. These are all upright stones or pedestals with crosses, and most have grave curbs as well. A notable person was Sam Dapceвич.



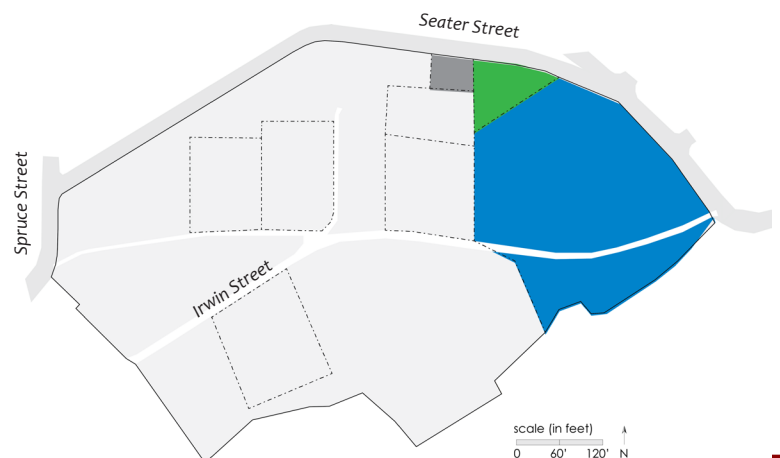
The Moose Lodge

This fraternal organization to celebrate life together was chartered in Juneau in 1914 and is still active today. One of the smallest organizational plots, the Moose section is one of two sections with no sources of vegetation; it contains all flush gravestones.



The Catholic Diocese of Juneau

In 1885, the Roman Catholic Diocese is connected with hospitals, schools, and churches throughout Juneau. Their section in Evergreen grew multiple times and is the largest organizational area in the cemetery. This portion has the lowest grave density and almost no vegetation. It also houses the crucifix that looks over the cemetery. Notable people include: Joseph Juneau, Richard Harris, Richard Dixon, and Judge John Henry Dimond.



Historic Character

Historical surveys, plans, and photographs show a structure of vegetation that defined spaces through the 1900's at the height of its use. Four patterns emerge: an allée of deciduous trees along Irwin Street, a border of deciduous trees along Seater Street, scattered vegetation of deciduous and coniferous trees in the south half, and deciduous trees edging the American Legion, Elks, and Masonic plots.

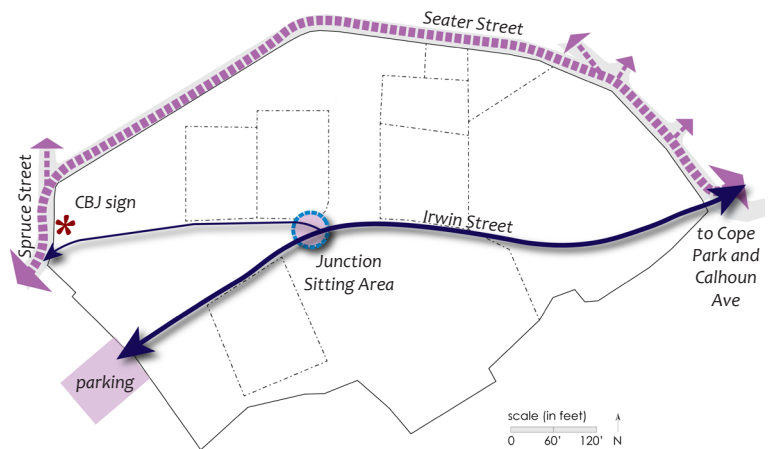


Many of these trees have died or have been removed due to damage. Originally, these trees helped define the edges of the various sections and their loss has opened up the rooms they once defined and has lost the historical character of the site.

The other defining character is the organization of multiple cemeteries within one, and this collage of organizations should be clearly understandable and celebrated.

Circulation

Historically, Evergreen Cemetery was connected to downtown by a two-track road, first called Cemetery Road and now called Calhoun Street. Irwin Street cuts through the parcels which CBJ set aside for Evergreen and was once wide enough for carriages or walking, although it is now closed to vehicles. There is one other major path that continues straight west towards Spruce Street, but it is not used as often by walkers. Irwin Street is often used for people walking with dogs or friends. In this way, it is a cut-across for visitors rather than a destination, and there is nothing clearly laid out or explained to hold their attention or draw them off the main path.



Irwin Street heading west

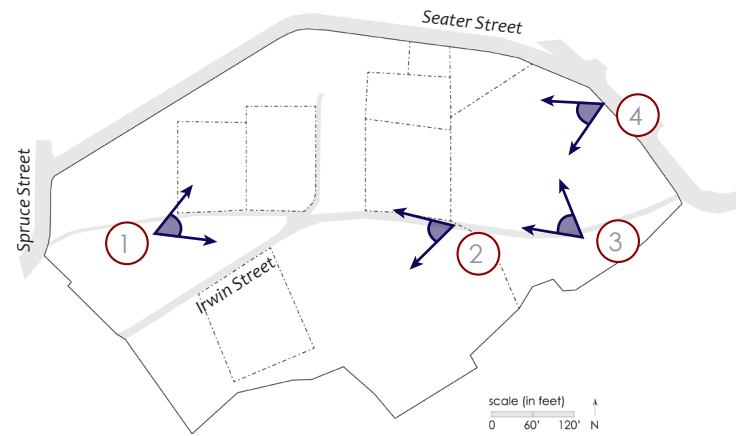


Irwin Street heading east

Views

Visitors within the site look north to see the gentle slope with a backdrop of houses behind. Looking south, they see denser trees with a border of overgrown shrubby material hiding a chain link fence. Most of this has grown naturally with little opposition and is encroaching on the graves and also degrading the view through the trees to a clear boundary, especially in the southern general and Pioneers sections.

The bench at the path junction in the center of the cemetery faces east and is the only designated place of rest within the cemetery.



Along the walking path is the American Legion plot and a young allée of mixed species rather than a unified canopy.



Irwin Street is bordered by a shaded area of primarily spruce in the general plot.



The slope north of Irwin Street is open and without trees. The lawn is well kept.



Looking down from Seater Street, plots can be defined by grave density and tree lines. There are no paths found within the plots.

Entrances

Of the three existing entrances, the Spruce Street entrance has the latest origination. The two Irwin Street entrances were built in the first plan of the cemetery in 1891 and the route between them forms the main thoroughfare.



Spruce Street Entrance

This entrance is blocked by eye-level spruce branches requiring a visitor to duck to look along the path. CBJ's "Evergreen Cemetery" sign stands to the left with a trash can, and a no dogs sign stands to the right. This is the only entrance with an entry sign, however, it is the least often used. The view outward is similarly blocked and connects to Spruce Street and parking.



West Irwin Entrance

This path is bordered by wood bollards and emerges from an easement beside the Russian Orthodox Cemetery. There is no signage indicating this transition. The view opens up to expansive lawn and the makings of an allée with some older original trees and some younger trees of mixed species.



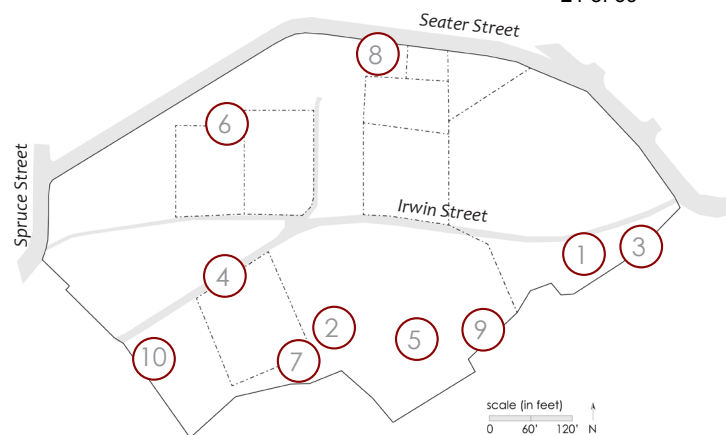
East Irwin Entrance

This entrance is marked by a wood bollard and a no dogs sign. The Catholic plots dapple a gentle, treeless slope to the right, the path leads forward into trees, gradually turning, and shrubs and trees are a buffer on the left. The view out leads directly into Irwin Road that connects to Calhoun, the original Cemetery Road. Powerlines and a utility box intrude on the natural setting.



Vegetation

Vegetation is paramount to defining space, softening edges, and integrating character into a site. The location and the species of a tree contribute to the aesthetic appeal, continuity, and structure of an area. European mountain ash once defined space within the cemetery, however, they have died out in much of the north half and along Irwin Street. Now invasive, these European mountain ash are not an ideal option available for replacement. These division of space, however, was important to the character of the site and should be replanted to replace structure and organization as well as mark the boundaries of the sections.



Aging Vegetation

Many of the European mountain ash are reaching the end of their life span and are declining. To not inhibit the powerlines along Seater Street, the few remaining trees have been pruned but are struggling to stay fully upright. Others throughout the site are rotting or losing branches and many will need to be removed soon. Some of the European mountain ash that have been cut down have begun to grow suckers, resulting in stumps and scrubby branches. Other aging vegetation has been removed, including much of the Irwin Street allée. The gaps are substantial enough to lose the allée character of continuity, which could be enhanced by replanting the allée with a single species of tree.



Fallen tree near Joseph Juneau's grave



Aging trees are breaking limbs and losing structural integrity



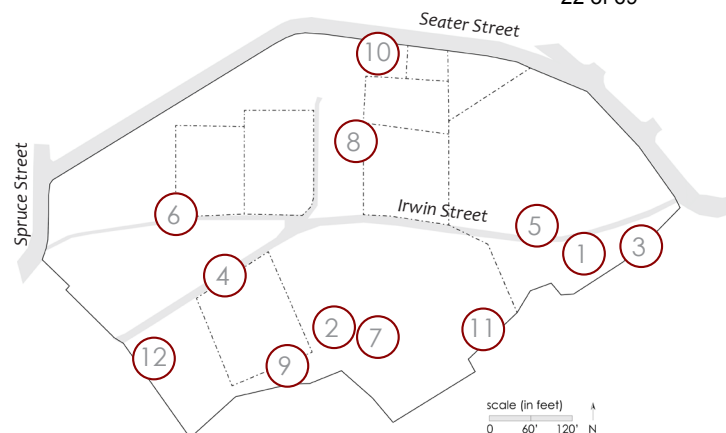
European mountain ash stump with suckers



Remnants of the allée along Irwin Street

Recent Plantings

Over the last decade, the cemetery has become a celebration site for planting trees on Arbor Day, resulting in a wide arrange of tree species planted along the allée, both deciduous and coniferous as well as several shapes and types. Most are planted in the place of historic trees, but this variance in species loses an opportunity to capitalize on the historic unification of the allée.



Newly planted pine tree along Irwin Street



Newly planted trees in stump locations

Overgrown Vegetation

Vegetation has overtaken graves, grave stones, and curbs. In some cases, it has directly affected the state of the gravestone, in others it obscures it. Some grave landscaping has overpowered the graves rather than enhancing them. Groundcovers have reached out of the border plantings toward the graves where grass can not grow. Spruce have invaded the General section as well.



Seedlings over grave markers



Overgrown grave landscaping



Overgrown groundcovers

Edge Vegetation

The southern edge was once a hedge but now is overgrown with encroaching shrubs and grasses. The northern border, once lined with trees, is now defined by Seater Street and powerlines. The original trees have extensive pruning or have been removed. The transition between Evergreen and historic Russian Orthodox cemeteries is marked only by a change in tree density.



Powerlines and trees along Seater Street



Shrubs on southern edge



Edge of Russian Orthodox Cemetery and Evergreen

III. Phased Recommendations

To beautify and activate the landscape of Evergreen Cemetery, a series of three goals has been developed: short-term goals, long-term goals, and maintenance. As funds, time, and resources become available, CBJ Parks and Recreation Department will be able to implement portions of this plan with clear goals and directives in sight. With these improvements, the cemetery goes from a thoroughway to a destination with multiple points of interest and a clear wayfinding system.

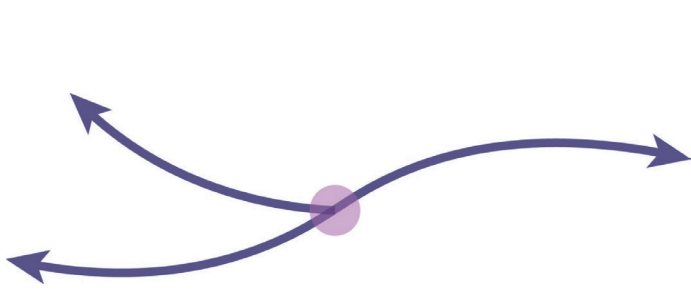


Diagram showing how people use Evergreen Cemetery in its existing state.

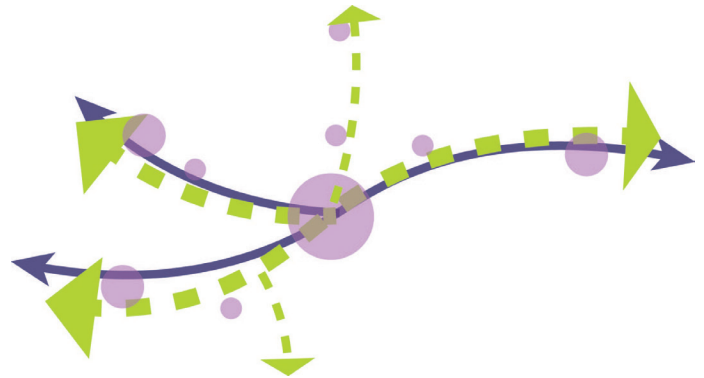
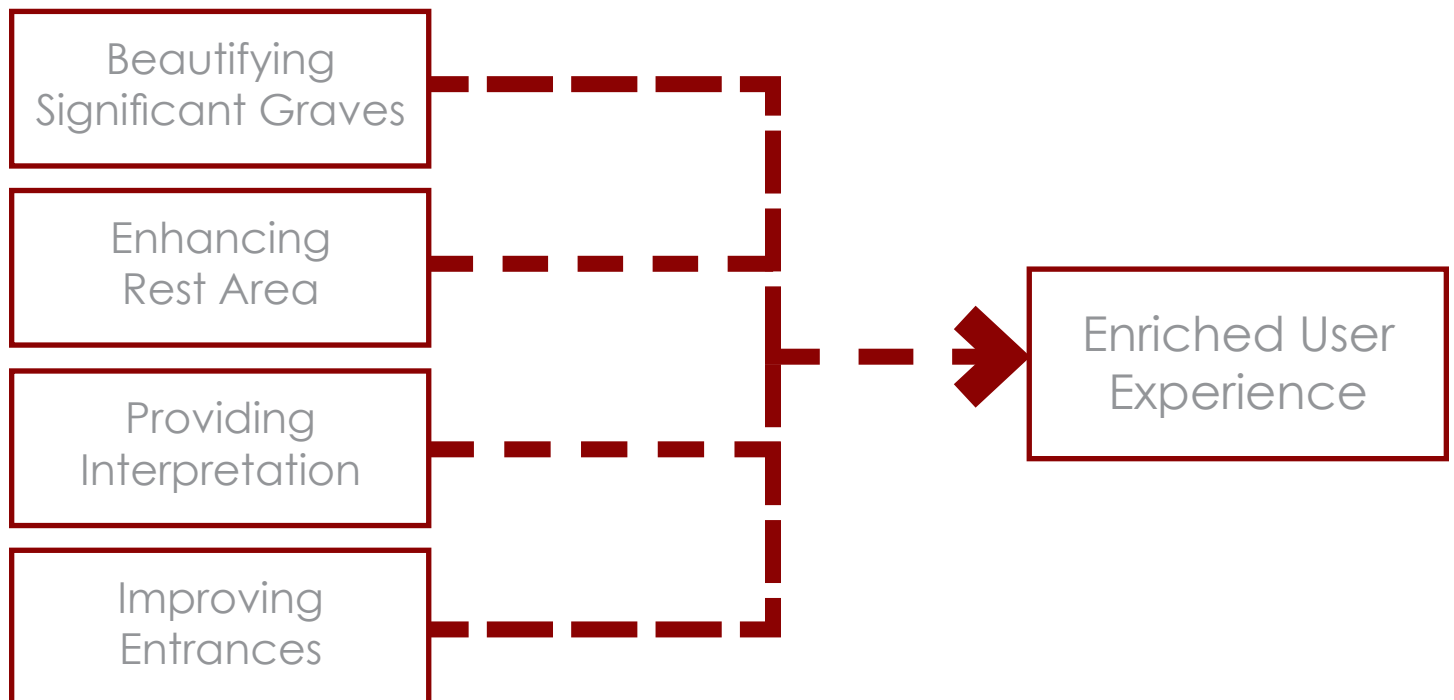


Diagram showing how people can use Evergreen Cemetery with proposed improvements.

A. Short-term Goals

Short-term goals can be implemented and completed with immediate impact and results.



Beautifying Significant Graves

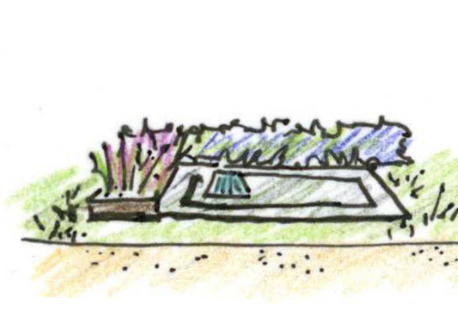
Around the graves of Joseph Juneau and Richard Harris, and other prominent people such as the Valentines, maintained plantings would highlight and draw attention to these landmarks of the cemetery.



Grave landscaping example



Conceptual grave landscaping around Joe Juneau's grave



Enhancing Rest Area

Currently the bench and trash bin are surrounded by gravel, providing no backing for the bench and no invitation to rest. Low perennials will edge the area while not intruding upon grave space. A black and white interpretive sign along Irwin Street tells the stories of significant events and tragedies, such as the wreck of the USS Princess Sophia.



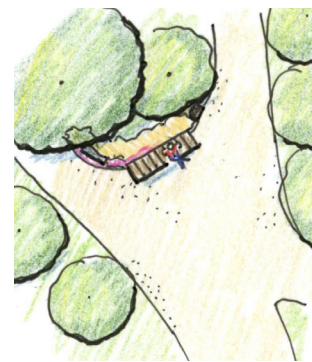
Interpretive panels



Existing junction



Precedent planting

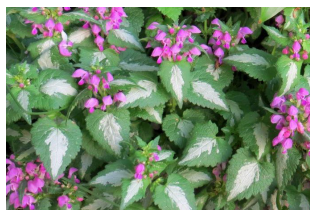


Conceptual Plan

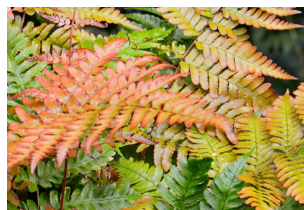
Plant Species Suggestions



Hosta
Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears'



Lamium
Lamium maculatum



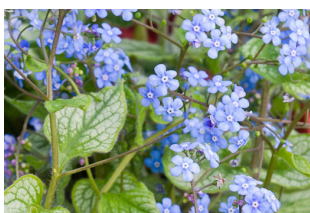
Autumn Fern
Dryopteris Erythorsora



Bleeding Heart
Lamprocampnos spectabilis



Lungwort
Pulmonaria



Siberian bugloss
Brunnera macrophylla



Bugleweed
Ajuga reptans

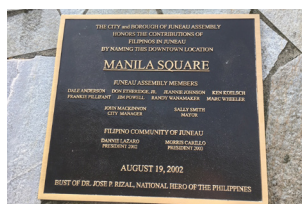
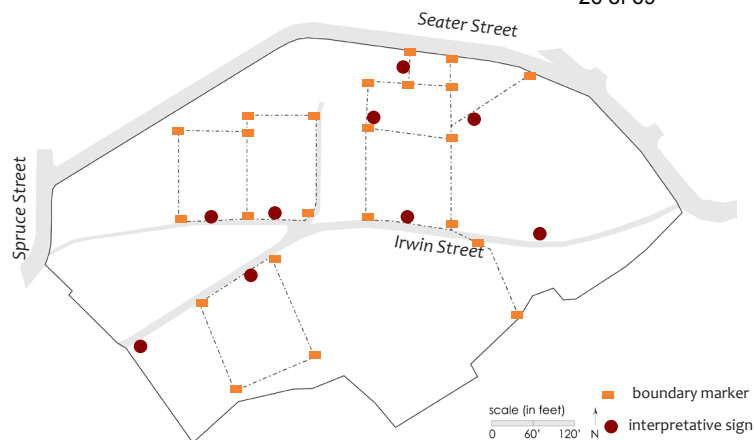


Golden Lights Azalea
Azalea x 'Golden Lights'

Providing Interpretation

The primary interpretive method in a cemetery is small signage. Because of the uniqueness of the nine organizations, a sign at each section would help connect locations in the cemetery to locations on the walking tour map or brochure. These signs would give a brief summary of the organization and a few prominent people. An introductory sign at the West Irwin entrance would provide an overview of the cemetery's history and context as well. This signage should be developed with the entities concerned, CBJ HRAC, and with a strong historical basis.

Markers at the corner of organization plots would show the boundaries of each area, guiding visitors through the site.



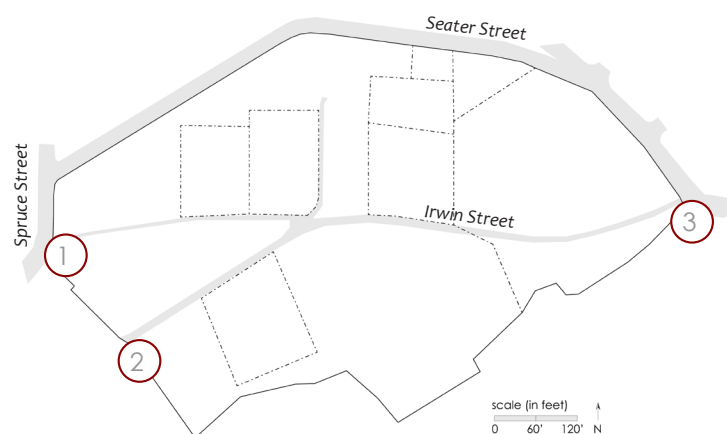
Interpretive sign



Boundary marker

Improving Entrances

The entrances are unmarked except for a wooden bollard on both Irwin entrances and the CBJ Evergreen Cemetery sign on the Spruce Street entrance. All entrances should be enhanced to mark the transition from the street into the haven of memories and nature. The same concepts can apply for any of the three entrances.



Spruce Street Entrance

The only one with signage and also the least used, this entrance could be improved by pruning and planting. The branches of the spruce should be pruned to 8' height to open up the views into the cemetery and to prevent obstruction. A small plant bed beneath and in front of the sign and barrel planters will provide a softer footing. The sign itself should be retouched for clarity.



Spruce Street: planting at foot of existing CBJ sign

Irwin Street Entrances

Both of the Irwin Street entrances are unmarked beside “no dogs” signs, missing an opportunity to give Evergreen Cemetery a distinguishable transition and symbol. These concepts can be implemented individually, adapting to each entrance, or combined on each to include more elements. The East Irwin entrance is narrower and connects to the sidewalk and road, while the West Irwin entrance crosses into the Russian Orthodox Cemetery

Irwin Street Concept One

This returns to a common threshold of historic cemeteries: the cast iron arch. This offers a clear transition from the outside to the inside of the cemetery. However, Evergreen Cemetery did not originally have this type of entrance marker, and it may be deemed historical while being a modern addition. This entrance type could be repeated at all entrances for consistency.



Irwin Concept One: common cemetery entrance gateway

Irwin Street Concept Two

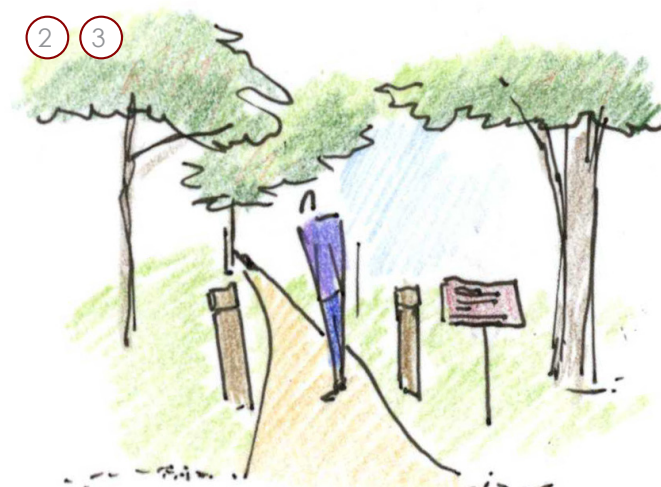
This is similar to the approach already taken at Evergreen Cemetery. By adding or moving the CBJ Parks and Recreation “Evergreen Cemetery” sign, visitors can see that it is not a historic feature in itself, yet it provides ample identification of the site. This sign would also complement other CBJ signs across Juneau, creating unity in the parks.



Irwin Concept Two: CBJ sign marks entrance

Irwin Street Concept Three

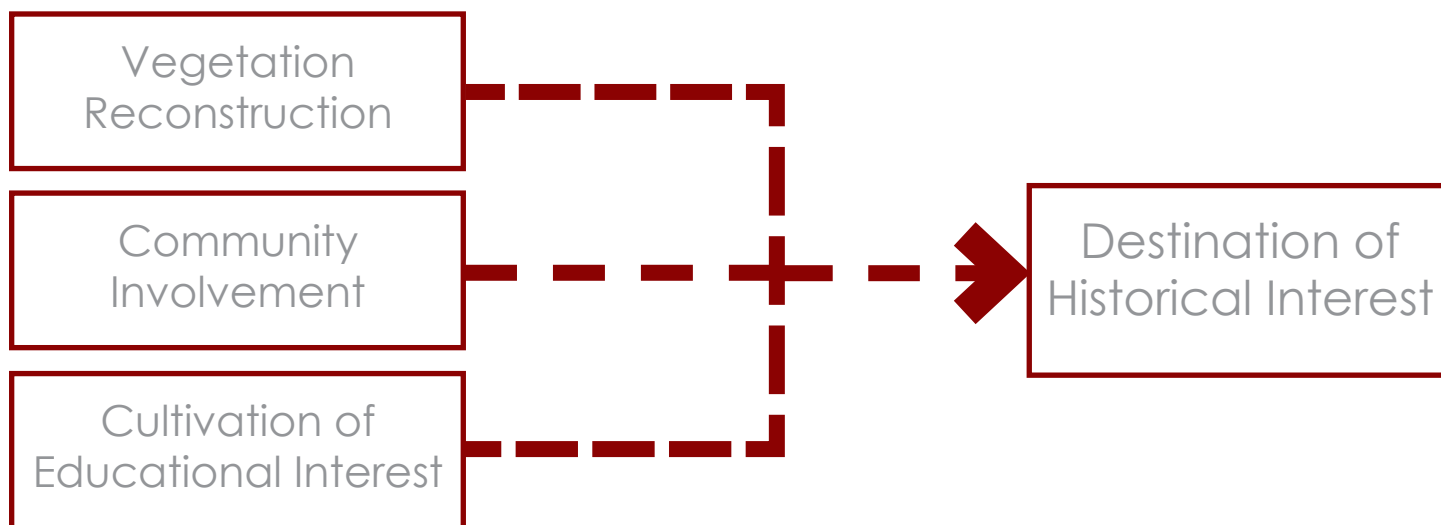
The simplest concept yet also the least notable, this entrance replaces the wood bollards and installs an informational plaque introducing the cemetery and its history, similar to the interpretive plaques suggested for interpretation of the organizational sections.



Irwin Concept Three: small plaque and bollards

B. Long-term Goals

Long-term goals take longer to come to fruition, but the results are more impactful and enduring.



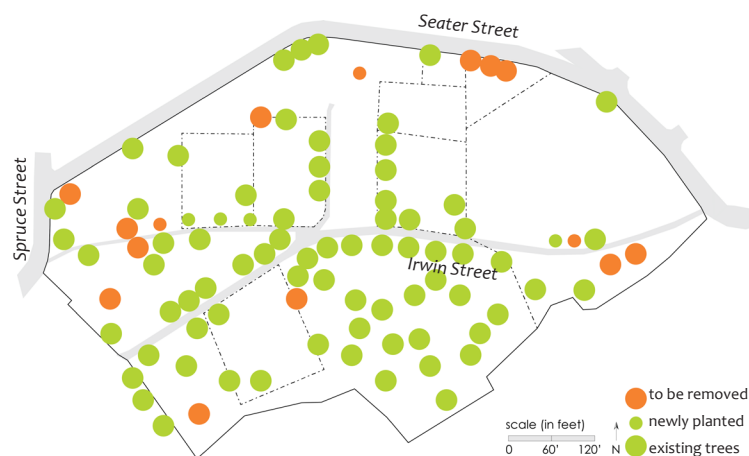
Vegetation Reconstruction

Every year on Arbor Day, the Parks and Recreation Department plants a tree in the location of a stump, most of which were European mountain ash. While ash is not ideal and is invasive, consistency in the tree species will provide structure and formality as well as an educational opportunity. The death and removal of vegetation, especially deciduous trees, has caused the rooms and structure to disappear. These newly planted trees (<10 years old) are a variety of species, mixing coniferous and deciduous.

The young coniferous trees along Irwin Street should be removed for aesthetic reasons, as they will not blend with the allée like other deciduous trees will. The old trees and those under powerlines are suffering and could be a safety hazard. As they are gradually pruned and removed, many should be replaced with new saplings, especially beneath the powerline and along the allée.



Existing trees along allée and Seater Street



Trees to be removed

To restore the historic character through vegetation, deciduous trees, specifically *Tilia cordata* (littleleaf linden), could be planted in the gaps along the Irwin Street and the walking path to Spruce Street. They should also replace conifers that have been newly planted along the allée to increase continuity.

Along Seater Street, the gaps are even more prominent, and the powerlines present a challenge. Low-growing trees such as *Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance,' (apple serviceberry) would be a good replacement as they will not affect the functionality of the powerlines and bring colorful beauty to the site.

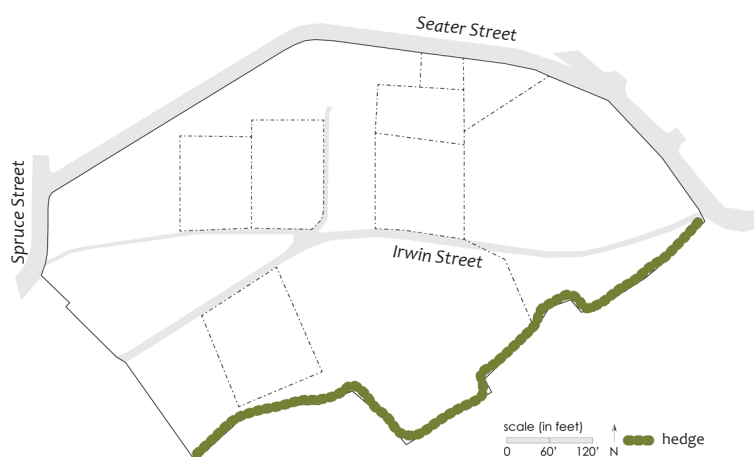
Articulating the edges of the organizational plots on the northern half, deciduous trees would gradually replace the European mountain ash that are dying out.

The southern edge requires major cutback of aggressive, naturalized species of grasses, shrubs, and trees. Once these have been cut back, the historic hedge could be planted with a formal hedge of *Taxus cuspidata* (yew), with an occasional border of *hosta*, and autumn fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*). This hedge will hide the chainlink fence and provide a more defined edge than at present.

The majority of the scattered trees in the general section should be left if they are not a risk. Young spruce that have been spreading into the site should be removed year to year. This proposed vegetation will restore the historical character in the separation of organizational plots, the paths, and the edges. This structure provides rhythm and scale to visitors exploring the cemetery and creates a well-maintained arboretum feel.



Proposed trees along Irwin Street and Seater Street



Hedge on southern edge



Existing and proposed vegetation throughout site

Community Involvement

To connect the community with the cemetery, its history, and its naturalism, opportunities for the public to engage with its history and beauty are necessary. This could include drawing or photography classes, volunteer cleanup days, or gravestone restoration workshops. Other cemeteries, such as Cedar Hill Cemetery in Connecticut, host specialized tours and children's education activities such as scavenger hunts. Others, like Portland's Evergreen Cemetery, focus on historic tours that target a specific event or people group. Special events could celebrate the birth or death of notable people.



Cultivation of Educational Interest

Similar to the reconstruction of the allée, the construction of an arboretum adds a scientific layer to the historical layers already present. Providing identification signs at the base of species allows visitors to recognize species and groupings. This would be a low effort requiring identification of existing species as well as new plantings but would be simple and informative.



C. Ongoing Maintenance

The lawn is well-maintained and the paths are graded. Routine maintenance with some additional target areas will keep the cemetery tidy and simplify the implementation of short-term and long-term improvements.

- Fallen branches and trees should be removed.
- Shrubs should be pruned, especially around gravesites.
- Grasses and shrubs along the southern border should be trimmed and cut back to form a neater edge.
- Low-hanging branches should be trimmed to not obscure views or circulation.

D. Resources and Contacts

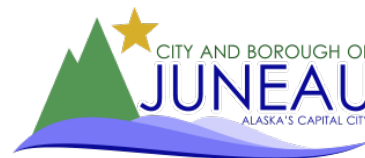
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office:

Summer Louthan
907-269-8717
summer.louthan@alaska.gov

Preservation Brief #48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries

<https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/preservedocs/preservation-briefs/48Preserve-Brief-GraveMarkers.pdf>

MEMORANDUM



PARKS & RECREATION
155 S. Seward St., Juneau, AK
99801
Phone (907) 586-5226
FAX (907) 586-5677

DATE: August 3, 2018
TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director
SUBJECT: Acquisition and Maintenance of Private Cemeteries in Douglas

Introduction

Former Juneau Mayor Merrill Sanford has proposed donating the Eagles' Cemetery in Douglas to the City & Borough of Juneau. In addition to the Eagles' Cemetery, Mr. Sanford asked the Lands Committee to consider acquiring seven other cemeteries in Douglas that are privately owned or whose owners are unknown (Catholic Cemetery, Russian Orthodox Cemetery, Masons Cemetery, Native Cemetery, Asian Cemetery, Servian Cemetery, and the "City" Cemetery).

This memo provides information regarding the estimated cost to maintain these cemeteries if they are acquired by CBJ. These cost estimates assume a low level of maintenance and do not include costs associated with future burials.

The Assembly Lands Committee referred this issue to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission for its regular meeting on August 7, 2018. The Parks & Recreation Department does not have a recommendation regarding the acquisition of the cemeteries, but recommends that the Assembly provide an increment of \$35,981 and 0.40 FTE to assume future maintenance.

Background

The CBJ owns the parcel containing the Odd Fellows Cemetery, and the Parks & Recreation Department clears brush on a monthly basis. After construction at Gastineau Elementary School disturbed human remains in 2012, the city manager's office directed the Department to provide weekly maintenance of the Douglas Indian Cemetery, which is owned by the Ross Estate.

The other cemeteries in Douglas receive varying amounts of maintenance. Of the eight cemeteries under consideration, only the Eagles' Cemetery and Catholic Cemetery receive regular maintenance from volunteers. The other cemeteries are overgrown with dense vegetation, including berries, alder, spruce, and hemlock.

Owner	Cemetery	Area (ft ²)
Unknown	Servian Cemetery "City" Cemetery	35,393
Merrill Sanford, Trustee	Eagles Cemetery	5,230
Corp of Catholic Bishops of Juneau	Asian Cemetery Native Cemetery Catholic Cemetery Russian Orthodox Cemetery	46,928
Ross Estate	Masons Cemetery	18,885
Total		106,436 (2.44 acres)

Maintenance Costs

Maintenance costs depend on the level of service provided. It would be very costly to restore most of these properties to a high standard, such as the Eagles' Cemetery. Most of the graves are sunken and unmarked, making it difficult to establish and maintain grass. A private contractor would need to clear brush in most of the cemeteries, as the Parks & Recreation Department does not have the staff capacity for this work.

The following estimate reflects one-time contract costs to clear the cemeteries and increased staff to provide a minimal level of maintenance. This level of service includes keeping the area clear of brush and saplings, but does not include turf or gravesite restoration and maintenance. Attachment "A" contains examples of different service levels for cemeteries in Juneau.

Since 2013, the Parks & Recreation Department has assumed responsibility for a significant amount of additional landscaping, including Statter Harbor, Mendenhall Valley Public Library, Dimond Park Aquatic Center, and Mayor Overstreet Park. This additional workload has made it difficult to maintain existing facilities and parks.

Cemetery	Initial Clearing (Contractor)	Labor (FTE)	Labor Costs (FY19)
Servian Cemetery "City" Cemetery	\$5,000	0.10 FTE	\$6,480
Eagles' Cemetery	\$0	0.07 FTE	\$1,440
Asian Cemetery Native Cemetery Catholic Cemetery Russian Orthodox Cemetery	\$3,000	0.14 FTE	\$9,360
Masons Cemetery	\$2,000	0.09 FTE	\$2,880
TOTAL	\$10,000	0.40 FTE	\$25,981

Incrementally acquiring these properties without a corresponding increase in staff would steadily erode the Department's ability to maintain other parks and facilities. It is not practical to hire an employee to work 41 hours per year (0.02 FTE), for example, so an additional 0.40 FTE position is necessary to maintain these cemeteries without reducing service levels elsewhere.

Conclusion

Based on the information available, the Parks & Recreation Department can maintain the Douglas Cemeteries with a budget increment of \$35,981, which includes contract costs for initial clearing and an increase in staff of 0.40 FTE for ongoing maintenance.

The Department is unable to absorb this additional work with existing resources, without reducing service levels elsewhere.

Attachment A – Examples of Maintenance

High*Eagles' Cemetery***Medium***Douglas Indian Cemetery***Minimal***Odd Fellows Cemetery*

No Maintenance

"City" Cemetery





DIOCESE OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 31, 2018

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
155 S Seward Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Committee Members:

By way of introduction, I am the Business Manager and Vice-Chancellor for the Corporation of the Catholic Bishop of Juneau, also known as the Diocese of Juneau.

Early last year the Douglas Island Advisory Board reached out to the Diocese, seeking our participation in their request to have the City and Borough of Juneau take over maintenance of the historic cemeteries on Douglas Island. As you know, there are a number of historic cemeteries on Douglas, one of them being a Catholic cemetery.

Since then, the Diocese of Juneau has been in regular communication with the Douglas Island Advisory Board and supports their request. These cemetery properties have historical and cultural significance, which was recognized by the Borough in the 1995 report produced by the Community Development Department. That report concluded

It appears that the historic cemeteries of Douglas, Alaska meet the concepts of historic significance, historic integrity, and historic context needed for consideration to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Consideration should be given to prepare a multiple property nomination of the Douglas historic cemeteries.

The Diocese is willing to discuss conditional transfer of this property to the City and Borough in order to ensure their maintenance and upkeep, and to preserve the historical value of these properties.

I plan on attending the PRAC meeting on August 7th. If you have additional questions, please let me know. I can be reached by email at businessmanager@dioceseofjuneau.org, or by phone at (907) 586-2227, extension 27.

Sincerely,

Deacon Michael P. Monagle,
Business Manager

8/1/2018

TO: PRAC Members

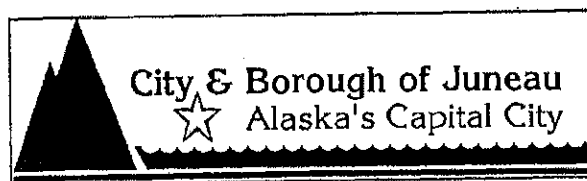
FROM: Mary Kay Pusich

I have included some of the correspondence from our Douglas Advisory Board over the years to CBJ regarding the Historic Douglas Cemeteries. I have also included the first few pages of the report of the survey and inventory of the Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska. This 1995 report can be found in its entirety on the CBJ website.

Former Mayor Sanford has a file of correspondence with the City going back to 1983 and efforts made to resolve the maintenance and upkeep of these historic cemeteries. It is our hope that the time is now.

Thank you for your consideration.

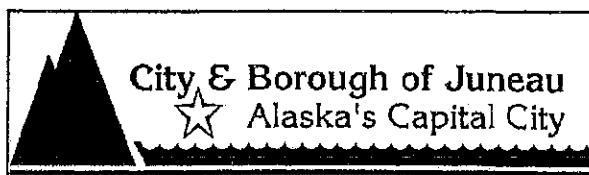
Report of the Survey and Inventory of the
HISTORIC CEMETERIES
in
DOUGLAS ***ALASKA***



September 1995

REPORT
of the
SURVEY AND INVENTORY
of
HISTORIC CEMETERIES
in
DOUGLAS, ALASKA

Prepared By
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



With
Willette Janes, Historical Researcher
and
Renee Hughes, Photographer

September 1995

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Survey and Inventory of Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska was produced by the CBJ Community Development Department, and community volunteers, with the support of the Juneau Historic Commission and the Juneau Historic Resources Advisory Committee.

Juneau Historic Commission (CBJ Assembly)

Dennis Egan, Mayor
Al Clough
Tom Garrett
Rosemary Hagevig
Ralph Kibby
John MacKinnon
Cathy Engstrom Munoz
Dwight Perkins
Rod Swope

Historic Resources Advisory Committee

David Stone, Chairperson
Charles Carlson
Mark Choate
Gerald Clark
Kathryn Cohen
Travis Miller
Marie Olson

Community Development Department

Murray Walsh, Director
Gary Gillette, Historic Preservation Planner
Jeanette St. George, Cartographer

Volunteers

Willette Janes, Historical Researcher
Renee Hughes, Photographer

The research for this report has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and through the assistance of the Office of History and Archaeology, Alaska Department of Natural Resources. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Natural Resources.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

Historic Cemeteries Maps and Survey Sheets	
Douglas Indian Cemetery	32
Cemeteries Map Key	34
Catholic Cemetery	35
Eagles Cemetery	37
City Cemetery	39
Odd Fellows Cemetery	41
Masonic Cemetery	43
Servian Cemetery	45
Native Cemetery	47
Asian Cemetery	49
Russian Orthodox Cemetery	51
Statement of Significance	
Evaluation Criteria	53
Where From Here?	55
Sources	56

*Cover photograph: Memorial Marker for Chief Aanalahaash (Anna-Cla-Ash), 1985
CBJ Collection
Photograph by Diane Brady*

FOREWORD

In July of 1994 the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Community Development Department (CDD) embarked on an ambitious project to survey the historic cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska located within the City and Borough of Juneau. The following report documents this research effort and presents a look at the significance of these cemeteries and the community as a whole. When the project began it was believed there were only three cemeteries in Douglas; the Catholic Cemetery, Eagles Cemetery, and Douglas Indian Cemetery. Once research got under way it proved that there are actually ten separate recognized cemeteries in Douglas; the Catholic, Eagles, Douglas Indian, Masons, Odd Fellows, City, Servian, Asian, Native, and Russian Orthodox.

Research of the burial records indicated 514 burial sites within nine of the cemeteries. The field survey found 157 grave markers in these cemeteries. No burial records were available for the Douglas Indian Cemetery but 12 markers were found. Each cemetery was surveyed, inventoried, and researched for historical significance and physical condition. It is believed that the cemeteries are historically significant and retain the integrity to be considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

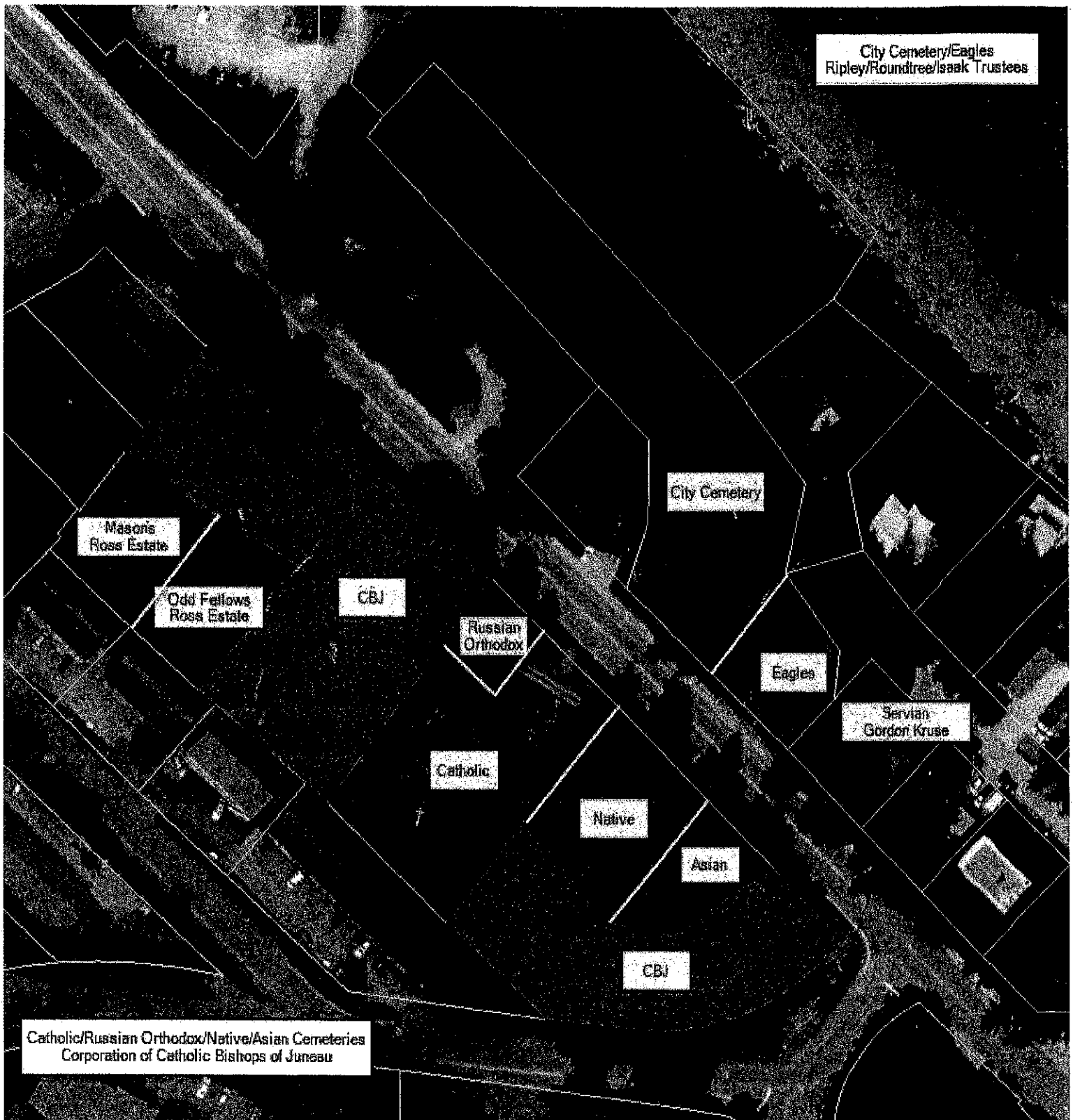
The historic cemeteries offer information which helps to better define the historic community of Douglas, Alaska. Although only a few are regularly maintained they all render the opportunity to yield information about the individuals, the community, and the religious practices of the people of their period.

Historic preservation is an important ingredient in the process of community development. It helps with the understanding of influences in the growth and development of a region and the local community. It tells the tale of the struggle of our predecessors as they strived for development and modernization in this Southeast region of Alaska. It helps decision makers plan for the future with an understanding of the past. The importance of informing people of their community's heritage cannot be understated. The City and Borough of Juneau's commitment to historic preservation is contained in Policy 53 of the Comprehensive Plan which states; "It is the policy of the CBJ to identify and protect historic and archaeological resources." It is with this goal that the Community Development Department has pursued the Survey and Inventory of the Historic Cemeteries in Douglas, Alaska.

Gary Gillette
Historic Preservation Planner

Douglas Cemeteries

44 of 69



Date: February 24, 2016

To: Kirk Duncan, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: John DelGado, President
The Douglas Advisory Board

Subject: Historical Cemeteries located in Douglas

It has been brought to the attention of the Douglas Advisory Board that only a small portion of one of the five historic cemeteries in Douglas is being maintained by CBJ. Elderly Douglas residents that have family buried in the area has provided the majority of the lawn maintenance and upkeep. These few residents, particularly Tony McCormick, have been dedicating their own time, labor and money for decades to take care of the area where their loved ones are buried. They are at a point where the ability to physically maintain and preserve the ancient burial sites of the founding families of Douglas Island can no longer be done alone.

It is the belief of the Douglas Advisory Board that the few cemeteries of Douglas should be part of the Parks and Recreation maintenance program. These historic cemeteries are included in a comprehensive report of a survey and inventory completed in September 1995 by the Department of Community Development with the assistance of historians and photographers. This report can be accessed on the CBJ website.

In June 2012 during renovation of Gastineau School a contractor the City hired unearthed unknown gravesites. This caused much anguish among the community. To avoid a repeat of such an event reoccurring in the future, the gravesites on the Island need to be maintained so that they are clearly visible.

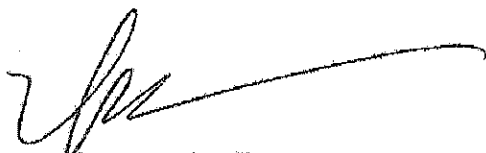
At the Douglas Advisory Board meeting on February 10th you attended the Douglas Advisory Committee meeting and we had the opportunity to show you a draft letter regarding the cemetery maintenance. At the time, you appeared to indicate that this is quite feasible and had several ideas how to accomplish this with minimal effort. This is only a seasonal activity with a little brushing and mowing and CBJ crews are already in the area. It is the Douglas Advisory Board's hope that this will begin this spring and summer.

Page 2 of 2
Douglas Cemeteries

It is only right that we preserve these historic burial sites and give proper respect to those who helped build the City of Douglas and Treadwell. The past should always be part of our present and future.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you regarding our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Delgado', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Delgado, Chair
Douglas Advisory Board

Cc: Kim Kiefer, City Manager
Molly McCormick, President, Douglas 4th of July Committee

TO: Director Kirk Duncan

FROM: Douglas Advisory Board

The Douglas Advisory Board is requesting CBJ take over the maintenance of the five historic cemeteries on our Island. You and your staff have been generous with your time and met with us on several occasions over the past two years. At the last meeting we had members of the public with loved ones interned at the grave sites and have taken it upon themselves to do some up keep over decades of years. They no longer can do this. CBJ has been doing a limited amount of maintenance on some of the cemeteries but it is time now to address the internment sites as a whole.

When the City of Douglas incorporated with the City of Juneau it appears there was an oversight and this important detail was not clearly addressed. Records show that since the 70's this has been an issue to present day. Correspondence with the State, the City and concerned Douglas residents has resulted in no action being taken to give the dignity our ancestors who are buried on the Island deserve. In the 90's there was a request that was given to the City Manager and the Lands Director, but this did not happen and maintenance for the cemeteries went ignored.

The Douglas Advisory Board recommends that it is time for CBJ to do whatever is necessary to provide maintenance to these historic and sacred grounds. We can't let another fifty years go by before we do something. Our families and our community need to know the loved ones buried in Douglas, who contributed so much to the Island, will not be forgotten.

The Douglas Advisory Board will do anything it can to assist CBJ in this effort and respectfully asks to be included in correspondence and meetings as you move this request forward to the appropriate entities within the City government.

Clerk's Office Received Nov. 14, 2017 B. McEwen

To: Mary Becker, Chair

Lands Committee

From: Douglas Advisory Board

February 15, 2018

The Douglas Advisory Board supports the letter to the Lands Committee and CBJ from Merrill Sanford on February 2, 2018, regarding the transfer of the Eagles Cemetery to CBJ. Please see other correspondence the Clerk has provided from our Board to CBJ and Parks and Recreation Director Duncan regarding our request that maintenance of the Douglas Cemeteries be performed by CBJ.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. Please keep the Douglas Advisory Board apprised of this request and status moving forward.

-----Original Message-----

From: Merrill Sanford <fish3duck@aol.com>

To: jmbecker <jmbecker@pci.net>

Cc: rorie.watt <rorie.watt@juneau.org>; GREGG.CHANEY <GREGG.CHANEY@juneau.org>;

Kirk.duncan <Kirk.duncan@juneau.org>; rob.steedle <rob.steedle@juneau.org.

amy.meade@juneau.org>; mikespl <mikespl@eagle.ptialaska.net>

Sent: Fri, 2 Feb 2018 2:23 pm

Subject: Eagles' Cemetery Letter

**Mary Becker, Chair
CBJ Lands Committee**

Our family on the Isaak side, long time Douglas residents, have maintained and taken care of the Eagles' Cemetery on Douglas Highway. The land was deeded over to G. R. (Mex) Isaak from the Eagles' Aerial in the 1970's. Grandpa Mex maintained the grounds for many years. He deeded the cemetery over to a friend and two family members in 1987. Various family members have helped maintain the cemetery for the past 25 years. We have buried several Douglas residents and family members at this site during this time. We have a current deed in the name of Merrill Sanford, son-in-law of Mex Isaak. This was just executed in January 2018, to help facilitate with the transfer (hopefully) to the City & Borough of Juneau.

We have an official deed in hand, a plat of the land and a plat of the grave sites with names. We also have some history of the Eagles' Cemetery and the Odd Fellows Cemetery. Kim Kiefer worked on trying to straighten out the Odd Fellows Cemetery land ownership when she was Parks & Rec Director. We have written history on the Odd Fellows Cemetery which was given to Kim when she was City Manager. There are five cemeteries in the area and they should be owned and taken care of by the CBJ. Our ancestors, family and friends are interned here.

Since we have clear title and plat information on the Eagles' Cemetery we wish to transfer the deed to the city at no land cost. The family has paid \$500-\$800 a year for the past five years that I know of to maintain the Eagles' Cemetery. Some of us would still like to volunteer to do light maintenance on site according to your rules.

Kirk Duncan, Parks & Rec Director, came to the Douglas Advisory Committee Meeting a few months ago and knows about this idea.

Please let us know, as soon as possible, what the next steps are for having the City & Borough to take over the Eagles' Cemetery.



August 1, 2018

<Name>
 <Street Address>
 Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Chicken Yard Park

Dear Starr Hill Resident,

You are receiving this letter because you live near Chicken Yard Park, located at the corner of Sixth Street and Kennedy Street. We understand this park is very important to the Starr Hill neighborhood, and we are writing to let you know that the CBJ Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee will discuss future management of the park at its August meeting (details below).

The CBJ Parks & Recreation Department manages over 40 parks, including 16 playgrounds enjoyed by children and families throughout our community. It's our responsibility to make sure that Juneau's playgrounds are safe for everyone, and we inspect every playground on a regular basis to make sure that it meets nationally recognized safety standards established by the Consumer Products Safety Commission and the National Recreation and Parks Association.

The playground equipment at Chicken Yard Park was installed in 1988, making it the oldest playground in Juneau's park system. Our goal is to replace playground equipment every 10-15 years, but this isn't always possible. Due to its poor condition and continued use of the playground by motor vehicles, the existing playground equipment must be removed from Chicken Yard Park to preserve public safety.

Voters approved approximately \$90,000 for improvements at Chicken Yard Park as part of the Temporary 1% Sales Tax in 2012. The CBJ Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee will consider several options for future management of the park at its next regular meeting. Options include offering the property for sale, changing its designation as a Neighborhood Park, or retaining the property as a park and closing access to motor vehicles. The public is invited to attend, and we welcome your comments:

Who:	Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
What:	Chicken Yard Park improvements
When:	Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 6 p.m.
Where:	Assembly Chambers (155 S. Seward St.)

For more information, please call 586-5226 or send an email to parks.rec@juneau.org.

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yark Park
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 8:12:50 AM

From: Eileen Wagner [mailto:eileenwwagner@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 5, 2018 10:20 AM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Chicken Yark Park
517 Kennedy St.
Juneau, AK 99801
August 3, 2018

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
155 S. Seward St.
Juneau, AK 99801

I am writing to support Vickie and Jack in their effort to use the Chicken Yard to access their property. I believe they should be allowed to continue driving through the park as residents have done for years.

I moved to Kennedy St. 37 years ago and raised 3 children here. I have a 1200 square foot house and no yard. The children played in the Chicken Yard and in the street. I have never seen a car in the Chicken Yard drive as fast as they do on Kennedy St. Children are safer in the Chicken Yard than on Kennedy, and it would make more sense to control movement of vehicles on Kennedy than in the park.

Houses on the hill are very close together; we need all the open space we can get. Please allow the Chicken Yard to continue as it has been for decades without incident.

Respectfully,

Eileen Wagner

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Request for delay in Chicken Yard Reports to CBJ Lands Committee and PRAC
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 8:13:17 AM

From: Claire Richardson [mailto:snowoman60@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 5, 2018 2:51 PM
To: Parks Rec; gvschaaf@gmail.com
Cc: Ken Koelsch; mary.becker@cbj.org; cmertl@corvus-design.com
Subject: Request for delay in Chicken Yard Reports to CBJ Lands Committee and PRAC

August 5, 2018

George Schaaf

Director

CBJ Department of Parks and Recreation

Re: Request for delay in Chicken Yard Reports to CBJ Lands Committee and PRAC

Dear George,

I write to you today in hopes that the CBJ Parks and Rec staff can work with the residents of Starr Hill to craft a solution regarding Chicken Yard Park.

Your letter from last week that outlined options for turning the park into a parking lot or selling it came as a huge shock to neighbors. Especially since last year when we met with the PRAC the focus was on park improvements using the authorized money approved by voters for various CBJ projects all over town. I believe the sum allotted for Chicken Yard was approx. \$90,000.

After that meeting, you installed a game camera to monitor the park. I am not sure why you began to monitor us, but would like to know the purpose and results of the study? (I noticed a CBJ worker removed it yesterday.)

In our neighborhood there is precious little space for children to play and adults to gather. Most of us don't have yards. The idea that Parks and Rec would seriously consider closing the park, given the dearth of green space downtown, is upsetting. This is where our kids grow up, where we have garage sales, celebrations, dance parties (The most recent one was on July 3rd), where school kids come for recess (Charter School) where a memorial currant bush in honor of former residents Mrs. Fiorella and Mrs. Thomas was planted.

Chicken Yard is more than a playground. It is part of our history. Chicken Yard is the heart of Starr Hill.

I disagree with your statement that the property's 'viability as a park is incompatible with its continued use by cars and trucks'. What data do you have that shows there has ever been 'incompatibility' with the use of the park and the access to a house and former garage located next to the park over the past 70+ years? I do not recall any accidents or harm to people or playground equipment since 1994 when I began to live at 510 Kennedy Street. I was perfectly comfortable having my daughter play in Chicken Yard with her friends. The only vehicles I have seen on a regular basis in the park are the various homeowners who have dwelled in the house adjacent to the park, and the CBJ Parks and Rec trucks that come regularly to empty the trash and rototill the sand under the swings. The drivers are all very careful, observant and respectful.

My other concern is personal. My basement entrance is at the rear of my home located at 510 Kennedy Street. The only access to the basement is through Chicken Yard. I use my car in the spring to haul up all the summer gardening equipment and deck chairs and then return them all again by car in the Fall. I would like to continue to have access to my property for access and for any future property improvements.

During a neighborhood meeting on Friday night, 23 former and current residents reviewed

photos and information about the home that would lose its access. I had never seen photos of the old garage and surprised to see even a boat! The other photo of the vintage car in Chicken Yard in the 1930s was used for our Centennial celebration in 2013. The value of the current homeowners property would plummet should they no longer have access to a home that has had a garage for many, many decades.

I am still not quite clear on the laws and statutes that would allow CBJ to move forward in the manner you are suggesting. Former homeowner, Mrs. Judy Crondahl, mentioned that in 1980 (or thereabouts) this issue came up and the CBJ assembly 'tabled' it. I'm wondering if it has been tabled for 38 years does that mean only the Assembly can bring it back up again?

Because we received such short notice of this dramatic development, I am requesting that you remove from the agenda your update on Chicken Yard to the Lands Committee on Monday, August 6th, and also remove the agenda item from the Tuesday August 7th PRAC agenda. That would give you time to schedule a work session with Starr Hill residents and your staff to discuss this issue, answer questions and move towards a sensible solution that improves Chicken Yard Park and provides appropriate access to homeowners and CBJ work crews.

Sincerely,

Claire Richardson

Snowoman60@gmail.com

Cc: Mary Becker, Ken Koelsch, Chris Mertl

Date: August 5, 2018

To: CBJ Parks & Recreation Department, Parks & Rec Advisory Committee

From: Ann Metcalfe

Re: Chicken Yard Park

My name is Ann Metcalfe, and I live on Starr Hill with my husband Mac. We have spent 35 of the last 40 years in this wonderful neighborhood, 7 years at 510 Kennedy from 1978-85, and the last 28 years at 624 6th Street, across the street from the entrance to Chicken Yard Park.

I write in support of working with CBJ staff to (1) keep the Chicken Yard a public park, with play equipment, and (2) grant the property owners at 626 5th the easement to access their home. This option was not presented on the letter sent to property owners, however to my knowledge, no input was solicited from property owners and residents as to what we desired for the park prior to the letter we received this week. We understand that Parks & Rec is considering using the voter approved public funds allocated to Chicken Yard for another purpose. This action should not be taken without additional public input.

As to the easement for vehicular access: I personally attest that the owners of 626 5th have used that access without interruption for the last 40 years (our time on the hill) and I presume many years before that based on the recollections of my husband, who has lived here his entire life.

As to risk management concerns of CBJ: this needs to be addressed cooperatively by CBJ, the holder of the easement, and users of the park. Given the history of *no known vehicle injuries*, there should be a more creative approach taken than the "either/or" option in the letter.

Finally, Chicken Yard Park is a focal point of not just the Starr Hill area, but all of the "Uptown Downtown" areas of Chicken Ridge, Basin Road, all the way over to Main Street and down to around 3rd Street. Over the years, multiple generations of kids have grown up playing in the park, and in a neighborhood with tiny or no yards, it has provided a safe, neutral, central area for them to play. Several new families have moved into the area, and as our boomer offspring are now starting their families, the usage will grow.

Thank you for your solicitation of this feedback. My wish is for a cooperative and positive conversation between local residents and CBJ in coming to resolution on keeping this gem of an historic downtown park.

Sincerely,

Ann Metcalfe
624 6th Street

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: The Chicken Yard
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 8:13:57 AM
Attachments: [Chicken Yard 8.5.2018.docx](#)

From: Jan Gregg Levy [mailto:levyjan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 5, 2018 5:46 PM
To: Robert Palmer; Rorie Watt; Parks Rec; Mila Cosgrove
Subject: The Chicken Yard

Greetings City Officials:

Attached is a statement I wrote regarding the current issues related to the Chicken Yard. I understand there may be some meetings this week on the topic and I am leaving town in the morning for a few days. I hope my thoughts will be considered and forwarded to any individuals who are considering this matter. Thanks for your hard work for the CBJ.

Jan Levy

August 5, 2018

TO: Juneau Parks and Recreation and Juneau Assembly

I write to support the continued designation of the Chicken Yard as a Neighborhood Park in Juneau, and also to support the Van Fleet's right of ingress and egress to their property. We must look for the win/win solution here.

I live at 534 5th Street. My grandparents purchased this home in the 1940's and I played at the chicken yard as a child in the 1950's. My husband and I purchased the home in 1992. Our two younger children grew up playing in the Chicken Yard daily with dozens of other neighborhood kids. It was the center for swinging, ball play, kick the can, and general congregation and laughter.

Demographics change, and the population of kids in the area declined, but it is now on the upswing again. We enjoyed a lemonade stand across the street this summer and I've been caught in the cross-fire of more than one Nerf battle. This is good news. We also have six grandchildren who live in Juneau and visit us regularly. I've taken some to the Chicken Yard, but the old equipment (and sometimes dog poop) makes it unattractive.

We need this Neighborhood Park. This is as important a neighborhood park as any in Juneau. Lots in this area are tiny, with very few yards or even driveways for play. The Chicken Yard is everyone's back yard. It needs updating, not closure.

Closing the Chicken Yard would increase risk for children. The kids will play somewhere. Playing in the Chicken Yard with one car occasionally creeping through is much safer than playing in the street where cars are the intended, dominant use. Creating a parking lot or other development would only increase car traffic in the area, thereby increasing risk to children at play. I suggest the following:

1. upgrade playground equipment, with possibly a covered area.
2. mobilize neighborhood cooperation regarding dogs, as increased dog poop is a real disincentive to letting kids play.
3. provide clear marking of the drive to Van Fleet's property – perhaps with colorful edging.
4. possibly decertify the driveway portion from the Neighborhood Park designation while retaining the designation for rest, to avoid liability issues.

We can and must resolve this matter in way that protects and enhances the Chicken Yard, permits the historic use of the driveway, and addresses CBJ liability concerns.

Jan Gregg Levy
534 5th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
907-586-1427

From: [Lisa Phu](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: New submission from Connect with City Hall
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 12:03:10 PM

From: "domadmin@juneau.org" [mailto:domadmin@juneau.org]

Sent: Monday, August 06, 2018 12:00 PM

To: Managers Office

Subject: New submission from Connect with City Hall

Subject

Closure of Chicken Yard Park?

This comment is a

Suggestion

CBJ Department (select the department involved)

Parks & Recreation

Date of Incident or Problem

08/06/2018

Comments or Problem Description

I am very concerned and confused about the removal of the play equipment in Chicken Yard Park.

The swing set was removed today. The slide was removed a couple of weeks ago. My grandchildren use that equipment regularly. We consider the Chicken Yard to be a safe place for play. It is essential to the Star Hill and Uptown Neighborhoods.

I understand that the city is examining related right of way and use issues. I encourage the city to seek real input from the immediate neighbors before making any changes in this park.

Name

James Simard

Address

503 5th st
Juneau 99801
[Map It](#)

Phone

(907) 209-9059

Email

simard@gci.net

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#); [George Schaaf](#); [Susie Edwardson](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken yard park.
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 12:56:50 PM

Ana Corcoran
Administrative Assistant
Parks & Recreation Department
City and Borough of Juneau
155 Seward St.
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 586-0424
Fax: (907) 586-4589
<http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Bethpotter [<mailto:alexandericey@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 12:51 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Chicken yard park.

I am responding to your letter of July 31 regarding Chicken Yard Park.

I would like to suggest an option of working with the neighborhood to solve this "problem" (although the park has been used for access to the house on the back of the park for about 100 years, and I am not aware that there has ever been a problem).

My understanding is that this park is the oldest park in Juneau, giving it great historical value. It is in a high density residential area where many houses have no yard.

I have lived on Starr Hill for 35 years and have seen this park used constantly by neighborhood residents.

Again, I suggest that you sit down and work with the residents of Starr Hill to come to an agreement on how to proceed.

Beth Potter
621 East st.
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Sent from my iPod

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 8:12:39 AM

From: John Greely [mailto:john_greely@hotmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, August 4, 2018 3:44 PM

To: Parks Rec

Subject: Chicken Yard Park

George Schaaf August 4, 2018

Director

Department of Parks & Recreation

City Borough of Juneau

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter of last week informing neighbors of Chicken Yard Park of impending public meetings regarding the future of the park. As one of the Starr Hill families whose home borders directly on the park, Marla and I are very interested in the city's plans as outlined in your notice.

During our 20 years of residency at 529 East Street we have used the park property extensively as a meeting place for the neighborhood, as a playground for our children and their friends, and as a welcome open area in a tightly packed residential area. Never have we witnessed any threats to public safety referenced in your letter.

Yes, the park could use an upgrade or three. We understand the park improvement ballot issue voters approved in 2012 contains some funds for a Chicken Yard upgrade. We look forward to discussing those plans with the Assembly Lands Committee and/or the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board so that the park can continue to be an integral part of our neighborhood, both as a park and as important access to neighboring homes.

We firmly believe that any park improvements should meet the needs and desires of the neighbors who use it the most. Please consider our request as you and your staff look at options for the future of Chicken Yard Park. It has served Starr Hill well over the past eight decades and can continue to do so into the future.

Sincerely,

John Greely & Marla Berg

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 8:12:58 AM

From: kimberly metcalfe [mailto:kimmetcalfeak@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 5, 2018 12:09 PM

To: Parks Rec

Subject: Chicken Yard Park

To: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director; Chris Mertl, Chair; Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:

On August 2nd I received your letter relating to Chicken Yard Park and feel obliged to respond. I have a memorial event I must attend on August 7th, or I would attend the PRAC meeting in person.

I am dismayed that you would suggest the sale of the Chicken Yard, and am equally disturbed that you would suggest removing playground equipment, and blame your reasoning on vehicular access through the park.

It is my understanding that the current property owners who drive through the park to their home have an easement to do so. It is also my understanding that previous owners of the property had an easement to drive to their property. I have personally observed the current and former owners driving through the park, and they have been incredibly cautious in doing so. To my knowledge, no one has ever been injured by the property owners driving through the park.

The Chicken Yard is a historic site and the very center of the Starr Hill neighborhood. Many of the homes in that area do not have yards, and for generations the Chicken Yard has been a play area for children and a gathering place for adults. Some years ago I interviewed men who played in the Gold Medal Tournament in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and they commented fondly on the time spent practicing basketball in the Chicken Yard. The current residents of the neighborhood gather there for picnics and other events, and the children play there on a daily basis, rain or shine, and learn important social skills. The open space makes the Starr Hill neighborhood an attractive place to live for young families.

As a resident of downtown, I strongly object to any action that would change the nature of the Chicken Yard Park. The park is truly a city treasure, reminiscent of "common" areas in England, the Delaney Park Strip in Anchorage, and the Boston Common. The CBJ can certainly find the funds to continue to maintain the park as it is currently maintained, allow continued, historic vehicular access, and replace playground equipment. As residents of the city, our tax dollars should be spent on parks and recreation areas that enhance our way of life, and the Chicken Yard certainly meets that standard.

Kimberly Metcalfe

730 Gold Street

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 8:13:28 AM

From: Catherine Wilkins [mailto:moi@catherinewilkins.com]

Sent: Sunday, August 5, 2018 3:01 PM

To: Parks Rec

Subject: Chicken Yard Park

Hello – as a resident of Starr Hill, I was contacted recently and invited to comment on the future management of Chicken Yard Park. Starr Hill is a very dense urban neighborhood, where many/most houses have tiny-to-nonexistent yards. The Chicken Yard park is beloved, and well used. I myself have a garden plot there, where I attempt to grow vegetables. I see the park used daily by many of my neighbors, especially by those who have children and dogs. I do not want to see children and dogs playing in the street, which is the only alternative in this neighborhood.

I understand there may be some concern with the continued vehicle access through the park, by the residence which is located next to the park. Frankly, in this neighborhood on-street parking is already beyond capacity and I would encourage you to continue to allow this very needed off-street parking.

In summary: I do not want to lose the park. I do not want to add to the number of vehicles competing for limited on street spaces.

Thank you,

Catherine Wilkins

440 Kennedy Street

Juneau

907-586-2457 cell

moi@catherinewilkins.com

August 6, 2018

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
155 S. Seward Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Chicken Yard Park

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in response to your letter dated July 31, 2018 concerning the future of the Chicken Yard Park.

My husband Bob King and I strongly support maintaining Chicken Yard Park as a community park/playground area with the vehicle access and parking that has existed for the home in question since the 1930s, according to CBJ records.

Chicken Yard Park is a play area and community gathering area that is of immense importance to the neighborhood. Not only is it used as a playground, but also for impromptu musical gatherings, yard sales, barbecue parties, and candlelight vigils. There are more than 35 homes in close proximity to Chicken Yard that lack any yard whatsoever for children to play in. Chicken Yard Park is their yard. We have at least five children in the neighborhood below the age of 5 years who will need a place to play.

With regard to vehicle access, there have been zero accidents between children and vehicles in the park in the nearly 90 years that the practice has been in place. This practice has a minimal impact on the park and has been clearly documented in CBJ records through photographs and correspondence. It should be a closed matter after all these years, based on historic precedence.

Finally, we would like to see the approximately \$90,000 allocated for improvements for Chicken Yard Park be used for that purpose. If it would satisfy the CBJ's concerns about liability, we would support using a portion of the funding for reconfiguring the park if necessary to accommodate both uses of limited vehicle access and recreation, but we don't think that's necessary.

Sincerely,

Sally Schlichting and Bob King
419 Kennedy Street

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#); [Susie Edwardson](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 12:49:11 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Ana Corcoran

Administrative Assistant
 Parks & Recreation Department
 City and Borough of Juneau
 155 Seward St.
 Juneau, AK 99801
 Phone: (907) 586-0424
 Fax: (907) 586-4589
<http://www.juneau.org/parkrec/>



From: Barbara Sheinberg [mailto:barbara@sheinbergassociates.com]

Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 12:26 PM

To: Parks Rec; George Schaaf

Cc: Borough Assembly

Subject: Chicken Yard Park

Greetings,

I am sending this letter as I am out of town and cannot attend either the Lands Committee meeting tonight (August 6) nor the PRAC meeting tomorrow. Please as needed to these committees. At one or both of these meetings it is my understanding that Chicken Yard Park in Starr Hill will be discussed. If this is not correct, I suspect you will be hearing about this soon.

Residents of Starr Hill received a letter from the CBJ last week suggesting that the city is interested in either selling the park, turning it into a parking lot, or selling an easement to the landowners that must use it for vehicular access their home. Vehicular access to this home on a cautious and judicious basis has been occurring for the 30+ years I've lived in the neighborhood without incident. We, as many before us, have raised our kids telling them to "go down to Chicken Yard and play until dinnertime." This is a small close-knit neighborhood where people generally don't have yards and not only is this open space used and needed, but there really is not a conflict with occasional slow cautious vehicle access to this one home.

I find it very odd that CBJ chose to begin this dialogue by sending out a terse letter listing limited options as well as by pulling all the playground equipment without having a neighborhood conversation.

Can we please instead and have some neighborhood conversation to figure out some solutions?

Most important: this park must be retained for open space and park use. And, Jack & Vickie should be able to cautiously access their home with their car along an appropriate easement.

We had a quickly called neighborhood meeting about this matter and over 25 showed up. We care; let's talk.

Thank you,

Barbara Sheinberg

Barbara Sheinberg

www.SheinbergAssociates.com

phone 907- 586-3141

fax 907-586-2331

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Cc: [Susan Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park
Date: Monday, August 06, 2018 3:53:01 PM

From: George Schaaf
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 1:30 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park

From: ODIN BRUDIE [mailto:odin@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 11:40 AM
To: Beth McEwen; George Schaaf
Cc: Odin
Subject: Chicken Yard Park

George and Beth, I am re-sending the following e-mail, which I accidentally sent to your old email addresses.
 Thanks, Odin

 George Schaaf, Director
 CBJ Parks and Recreation Department

Dear Mr. Schaaf,

As a long time resident in the Chicken Yard Park area, I received the recent letter from the Parks and Recreation Department outlining problems and laying out options for the park. The letter suggests there is some urgency to dispose of the park and/or curtail access for residents through the park. While I agree the park needs attention and improvement, I respectfully request that CBJ work with the neighborhood to compile and present more comprehensive information about needed improvements to the retaining walls, playground equipment, and vehicular access.

This is the first time I have heard the suggestion to sell Chicken Yard Park, a critical piece of public open space for Starr Hill and for downtown Juneau. Our peers, our children, and now our grandchildren have relied on Chicken Yard Park as a place to gather and play. Certainly safety is important. I'm not aware of incidents where use of the park for access has been abused.

On the surface, it would appear that the \$90,000 designated for Chicken Yard Park (2012) is a good start for designing and building a new, improved Chicken Yard.

Thank you for the notification, and I hope this opportunity is a winner.

Sincerely,

Odin Brudie
 512 6th St.
 Juneau AK 99801

cc: City Clerk for the Assembly Lands Committee

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Cc: [Susan Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 8:18:26 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Julianna [<mailto:julianna327@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 5:20 PM
To: Parks Rec
Subject: Chicken Yard Park

To the CBJ Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the citizens in the Starr Hill, Chicken Ridge and other downtown neighborhoods, and for taking in account our preferences as you draw up a plan for the Chicken Yard's future.

I would like to say that open spaces for children and neighbors to gather and play has always been highly valued, especially in places where housing is dense, as it is in residential downtown Juneau.

I would like for the CBJ to use the \$90,000 that was approved in 2012 to replace the old and unsafe equipment in the park and continue to designate the Chicken Yard as a usable city park. Is that money still available? Even if the playground equipment must be taken down due to age and there are insufficient replacement funds, I would love to see the space remain a neighborhood park, perhaps with mown grass, landscaping and benches. Children will play games, run and enjoy the out of doors in such a place. I fear that if the City sold the property, the owner would put a building (or two or three!) on it and exclude the opportunities for children to play outside, near their homes, and out of the narrow streets.

Please come up with a plan that is aligned with the neighborhood's need and desire for a place to play and talk and read that is close to home, and safely off the streets.

Julianna Humphreys
7th Street, Chicken Ridge

Sent from my iPad

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Cc: [Susan Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 2:11:07 PM

From: Tsifira Kiehl [mailto:tsifira.kiehl@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 10:08 AM

To: Parks Rec

Subject: Chicken Yard Park

Chicken Yard Park is the heart of the Starr Hill neighborhood. It's small, safe, and contained, which makes it ideal for families with young children. Due to its location, there's also less crime and fewer inebriates in the park, which makes it safer for young people to play there without their parents. Chicken Yard is slightly safer than Capital School Park, the other park within walking distance of the homes in the neighborhood, in that it only has one way out to the street, while Capital School has several. My sister and I both played at Chicken Yard when we were little, and we have many happy memories of the park. We've seen children of all ages--and even adults--enjoying themselves at Chicken Yard.

I respectfully request that Chicken Yard park be kept as a park and receive updated equipment that meets safety standards.

Thank you,

Tsifira Kiehl

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Cc: [Susan Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Chicken Yard Park
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 2:11:28 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Wilson [<mailto:kwilson@wileng.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 11:09 AM
To: Parks Rec
Cc: Jeff Wilson
Subject: Chicken Yard Park

To the Juneau Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:

We are writing as longterm downtown residents of Sixth Street and previously Nelson Street on Starr Hill. We are absolutely opposed to the loss of Chicken Yard as a neighborhood park. We need more parks, not fewer.

We understand the concerns about vehicles driving through the park, and we urge your committee and the City to find a solution that is fair to those with established vehicle access and still maintains Chicken Yard as a neighborhood park. We are currently out of town, so we can't visit the park and envision a clear solution. However, it seems that one possibility would be to develop a parking area at the edge of the park. There could be a space reserved for the homeowners in question, along with handicapped parking.

We urge all involved to work together for a solution that preserves and improves the park and replaces the lost playground equipment, while still allowing the homeowners reasonable access. This is a perfect opportunity for the City and the downtown neighborhood to work cooperatively for the good of all. Selling the park or losing its use as such are NOT acceptable options.

Thank you for your time and work on this and so many other issues!

Sincerely,

Karen & Jeff Wilson

From: [Parks Rec](#)
To: [George Schaaf](#); [Lauren Verrelli](#)
Cc: [Susan Phillips](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on Chicken Yard Park
Date: Tuesday, August 07, 2018 2:11:49 PM

From: Thomas Fletcher [mailto:tfletch40@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 2:00 PM

To: Parks Rec; Chris Mertl; George Schaaf; Claire Richardson

Subject: Comments on Chicken Yard Park

To George Shaaf, Chris Mertle & the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee,

Dear George and Chris,

George, thank you for your presentation and Chris, for your insightful comments last night at the CBJ Lands committee meeting. Unfortunately, I will be traveling this evening, but wanted to share my thoughts with you and the Parks and Rec committee.

First, I appreciate the difficulty in updating and maintaining Juneau parks, especially in an old and quirky neighborhood like Starr Hill with mismatched plots, neighborhood agreements, and people... There are a lot of unwritten rules and understandings in a place like this and it's precarious to come in and ask for a much-needed change.

I don't think you intentionally stepped on our collective feet, but I hope you do appreciate that there is a lot of history and nuance to this situation that may trump your training and credentialing. For instance, it's important to know that the neighborhood banded together to buy this parcel to be a park and playground for their children. The neighborhood raised the \$4000 because the assembly, at the time, refused to fund it. As far as anyone knows, vehicles have been allowed to cross the park since its inception, with or without, written agreement. Since I have lived here (1994), there has always been an unwritten rule about allowing a car or two pass ...and those drivers always looks, slowed down, etc. The occupants of the house inside Chicken yard have always been considerate of their surrounding (With a couple notable infractions by one short lived tenant who also happens to sit on this Committee! Heheheh) Hundreds of us-- parents, educators from the charter schools, and homeowners have made this agreement work....and none of us feel like our judgement should be questioned about letting our kids play next to parking space, despite national playground best practices. Many of us live in Alaska and in this neighborhood because we don't conform to national standards.

That being said, many of work for (or have worked for) various government agencies and we completely understand that money for maintenance and upgrades often comes with strings attached. That in order to keep the park alive, things may have to change. I urge everyone on your committee to keep an open mind—people from my neighborhood may not want what you want. And there may be a legal right to drive through the park. And there may not be playground equipment in the park anymore and kids may continue to play there anyways alongside the dogs and cars (as they have for years and year).

Or the dirt in Chicken Yard may be transformed into proper park like you both seem to desire. My only hope is that the Chicken Yard remains a park...and that someday, not too soon, I get to watch my grandkids play there as my kids have done.

Thanks for listening!

Tom Fletcher

529 Kennedy St.

Juneau Alaska