

**RESOLUTION NO. 5006**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRAIL  
CONNECTING BIRCH HILL RECREATION AREA TO THE CREAMERS  
FIELD TRAILS SYSTEM TO INCLUDE A STEESE EXPRESSWAY  
TRAIL UNDERPASS**

**WHEREAS**, Fairbanks residents enjoy using trails for different recreational activities, including motorized and non-motorized use; and

**WHEREAS**, residents have expressed interest in the creation of a comprehensively developed trail system and wildlife area located between Farmer's Loop Road, College Road, and the Steese Highway; and

**WHEREAS**, a well-developed and comprehensively managed trail system and wildlife area will provide benefits to residents of the borough by enhancing quality of life and opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, community trails are proven to improve the health and well-being of a community as well as provide direct, indirect, and induced economic benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, the City supports the efforts of the Fairbanks North Star Borough to create a network of recreational trails by connecting existing trails in the Fairbanks area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan is currently being updated to include new connector trails and re-prioritization of trails projects; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the Steese trail connector may be a component of the new trails plan, as well as other connecting trail systems; and

**WHEREAS**, planning and development of this trail system would be done in accordance with the Borough Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan and the Plan Update; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to have safe means to connect the trails between the west side of the Steese Expressway and the east side, and a trail underpass installed during the construction of road improvements to this area would be the most efficient use of resources; and


**WHEREAS**, DOT is planning to conduct a feasibility study of the Steese/Johansen Interchange project to determine if a recreational underpass can be constructed and whether there is community support for it; and

**WHEREAS**, connecting community recreation areas through local trails provides a network of resources for residents and visitor to enjoy.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fairbanks City Council supports consideration in the update to the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan of the development and construction of a connector trail between the Birch Hill Recreation Area and the Creamers Field trail system with a recreational underpass and encourages collaboration between government agencies to determine the appropriate location of the trail improvements.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the State of Alaska Northern Region DOT Director, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Northern Area Office superintendent, US Army Fort Wainwright Garrison Commander, Bureau of Land Management Alaska State Director, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Director of FAST Planning, and the local US Fish and Wildlife Service office.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 14th day of March 2022.

  
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Jim Matherly, Mayor

AYES: Gibson, Cleworth, Marney, Rogers  
NAYS: Clark  
ABSTAIN: Therrien  
ABSENT: Matherly  
APPROVED: March 14, 2022

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk  
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Paul Ewers, City Attorney





*The map depicts the proposed connectivity trails that would connect Creamer's Field Waterfowl Refuge to Fort Wainwright and Birch Hill Recreation Area.*