

SUBJECT: Wasilla/Lucille Lake Pedestrian Trail

REQUESTED BY: Wasilla Planning Office

PREPARED BY: Tim Krug, City Planner

DATE: June 19, 2001

FOR AGENDA OF: July 23, 2001

SUMMARY:

This ordinance is intended to provide recreational users a designated route between Wasilla Lake and Lake Lucille. On April 10, 2000, Ordinance Serial No.00-26 accepted the grant funds for identifying the recreational trail within the Alaska Railroad right-of-way. The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOTPF) has joint use of the railroad's right-of-way and will not allow this designated recreational use in the railroad's right-of-way. ADOTPF asked us to review alternate routes. We hired a landscape architect and the architect came up with three different concepts. ADOTPF has since proposed a trail undercrossing at Wasilla Lake and the George Parks Highway and Knik Goose Bay Road. Trail route concept "B" is before you to dedicate portions of Park Avenue and Wasilla Street as the designated route to connect recreational users between our two lakes.

The Wasilla City Council (WCC), Wasilla Planning Commission (WPC), and the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) have shown their past support in the following ways:

- ◆ WCC passed Serial No. Ordinance 00-26 accepting the grant funds.
- ◆ Mat-Su Motor Musers Resolution No. 99-02
- ◆ Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission Resolution Serial No. 99-02
- ◆ Mat-Su Trails Council Letter dated 2/26/99
- ◆ Several East-West trails and lake trails are identified in the Wasilla Comprehensive Plan to assist recreationalists, such as:
 - Trail Number 2 – Parks Highway
 - Trail Number 16 – Alaska Railroad
 - Trail Number 20 – Susitna Avenue
 - Trail Number 22 – Iron Dog Trail
 - Trail Number LLW – Lake Lucille
 - Trail Number WLW – Wasilla Lake

Susitna Avenue has been developed with both public and private improvements, making it extremely difficult for trail development. Therefore, Park Avenue is recommended for the proposed routes between the lakes.

Park Avenue and Wasilla Street dedication and trail development will have less direct contact with developed properties and will provide a safer route between the lakes. Susitna Avenue has a greater number of developed properties and the railroad/highway routes pose higher risk and safety concerns. Should Council concur with the route, the funds will be spent on trail markers, fencing, and landscaping (clearing, grubbing, embankments and trees).

FISCAL IMPACT: No Yes, amount requested: . Fund:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Introduction Ordinance Serial No. 01-41.

MAYOR REVIEW/COMMENT:



Reviewed by: Sarah Palin, Mayor

Attachments: Ordinance Serial No. 01-41
Ordinance Serial No. 00-26
IM No. 42 (Trail marker only)
Trail Route Concept "B"

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

3601 C STREET, SUITE 1200
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-5921
PHONE: 907-269-8700
FAX: 907-269-8907

February 16, 2000

Dear Recreational Trails Grantee:

Your Recreational Trails Grant Agreement has been signed by the Director and is enclosed for your signature. Please review the agreement and all attachments before you sign. Under "**SIGNATURE BLOCKS**" on page 1, complete the section titled "Grantee" and return original signed copy of page one to me at the address in Article 4.3. Retain the enclosed material for your future use. You will need to send us completed copies of Appendix D-1, D-2 & D-3 with each progress report and request for reimbursement.

Our receipt of your signed agreement is your authorization to proceed with your project. All authorized and documented expenditures on or after February 4, 2000 are eligible for reimbursement or match.

Reimbursements. Reimbursements may only be requested in June and January of each year. You must present receipts or cancelled checks for all expenditures for which you request reimbursement.

Match. You must keep accurate records so you can document your required 20% match. Documentation of match, such as time sheets for donated labor and receipts for donated equipment and materials is also required to be submitted with your request for reimbursements.

Documentation of Assured Public Access. Before you may request your first reimbursement, you must provide us with documentation from the land owner or land manager that the public has been assured access to your trail project for 5 years where the trail is on private land, or for 10 years where the trail is on public land. This documentation can be in the form of an easement or a letter of assurance from the land owners or land managers.

Thank you and good Luck with your project. If you have any questions at any time, please contact me at 269-8704.

Sincerely,



Ron Crenshaw, Administrator
Recreational Trails Grant Program

Cc: Bev Holt, Grants Section

Enclosures

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
2000 Recreational Trails Grant Agreement

This grant agreement is between the State of Alaska, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, **HEREAFTER, THE STATE, AND, City of Wasilla, HEREAFTER, THE GRANTEE**

Project Title: Trail Marker Installation Between Wasilla Lake & Lake Lucille.

Grantee's Mailing Address: 290 E. Herning Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: 373-9052 & 9053

Article 1 Appendices: Appendices referred to in this agreement and attached to it are considered part of it.

Article 2 Performance of Services:

2.1 Appendix A General Provisions, Articles 1 through 29 and AS 37.05.316 govern the performance of service under this agreement.

2.2 Appendix B contains the description of the project to be performed by the Grantee.

2.3 Appendix C sets forth the periodic reporting requirements.

2.4 Appendix D sets forth the requirements for requesting reimbursement.

Article 3 Period of Performance: The period of performance of the grant agreement begins February 4, 2000 and ends March 1, 2002.

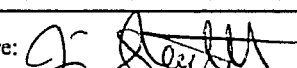
Article 4 Consideration:

4.1 In full consideration of the Grantee's performance under this grant agreement, the State shall reimburse the Grantee a sum not to exceed \$30,000 in accordance with the provisions of Appendix D.

4.2 Matching requirement. Grantee is required to provide 20% of the total project cost as match.

4.3 When billing the State, the Grantee shall refer to Project Number 10795220 and send the request for reimbursement to Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, 550 W 7th Ave., Suite 1380, Anchorage, AK 99501.

SPECIAL NOTES: Fish & Game requests trail not be developed within 50 feet of Lucille Creek.

SIGNATURE BLOCKS	FOR DNR USE ONLY
<i>GRANTEE</i>	<i>GRANT TRACKING DATA</i>
Organization or Agency: City of Wasilla	AWD
Printed Name & Title:	UWA
Signature: _____ Date: _____	Authority
Phone: _____ Tax EIN or SSN: _____	
<i>ADMINISTERING AGENCY</i>	Encumbrance No.:
DNR, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation	Project No.: 10795220
Printed Name & Title: Jim Stratton, Director	
Signature:  Date: 15 Feb 2000	

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Department of Natural Resources
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Printed Name & Title:	UWA
Signature: _____ Date: _____	Authority
Phone: _____ Tax EIN or SSN: _____	
<i>ADMINISTERING AGENCY</i>	Encumbrance No.:
DNR, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation	Project No.: 10795 220
Printed Name & Title: Jim Stratton, Director	
Signature:  Date: 15 Feb 2000	

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FORM

1. GRANTEE INFORMATION

City of Wasilla
Tim Krug, City Planner
Kaye Sloan, Recreation Asst.
290 E. Herning Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654
Tax ID#: 92-6010143
(907) 373-9052 & 9053
Fax: (907) 373-9072
Email: tkrug@ci.wasilla.ak.us
ksloan@ci.wasilla.ak.us

2. **PROJECT TITLE:** Trail Marker Installation Between Wasilla Lake and Lake Lucille

3. **AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED:** \$30,000.00

4. ABBREVIATED PROJECT DESCRIPTION.

This project will place markers, regulatory signs and barriers between the trail and railroad tracks to identify a multi-use primitive trail in the railroad right-of-way between Wasilla Lake and Lake Lucille on the south side of the Parks Highway. Currently there is a well-used trail running between the railroad tracks and the Parks Highway, closer to the highway, which makes it unsafe for users.

5. **PROJECT CATEGORY.** Motorized and/or Diversified

6. PUBLIC ACCESS REQUIREMENT.

The Alaska Railroad has indicated that it would gladly work with the City of Wasilla to establish safe trail access along their right-of-way (See Exhibit A).

7. DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION.

Site Description

The Parks Highway runs east to west through the center of Wasilla, with the railroad paralleling it between Wasilla Lake and the northern tip of Lake Lucille. Over the years, 4-wheelers, walkers, bike riders and snowmachines have created a primitive trail between the railroad tracks and the highway, since it is the shortest distance between the two lakes. (See Exhibit B).

Safety

The railroad has tolerated this primitive trail usage in the past, but with the increased snowmobile traffic on the easement during the winter, safety has become an issue. Proper signage and a barrier between the trail and the railroad are imperative for safety of the users.

Wasilla Municipal Code Chapter 14, Section 14.17.060 (See Exhibit C), addresses off-road vehicle speed limits, and this project would provide signage of these regulations. By establishing a marked trail in this area, Wasilla will ensure safe travel for snowmobiles, ATVs, bicyclists, walkers and other east-west bound travelers going on to the Knik Goose Bay Road trails, trails to Big Lake, or to the proposed trailhead near the Wasilla Municipal Airport. Under "Public Comments on Signage" in the Winter Trails on Alaska State Highways research, they state that "signs work. People pay attention to them", and "education and signage are cheaper than enforcement". (See Exhibit C1) The Wasilla Trails Plan, approved by Wasilla City Council, supports this trail safety application. (See Exhibit D)

8. MAPS & OTHER VISUAL MATERIALS. (Exhibit E)

1. Aerial photo of proposed trail marking (See Exhibit B)
2. Pictures of trail usage
3. Wasilla Trails Plan Map

9. PUBLIC BENEFITS.

Economic

Snowmachines bring thousands of people to the valley every weekend during the winter months. The Parks Highway is a steady stream of traffic, some hauling dog boxes, skis, trailers, and snowmobiles. The Mat-Su Borough Trails Council counted 1,311 snowmachines entering the valley in a 24-hour period beginning Friday, February 12, 1999 (Reference article dated 2/19/99, Exhibit F). These recreationists tend to buy gas, groceries and eat at our local restaurants on each outing, which in turn will boost the local economy during the winter months.

The development of recreational trails stimulates small business development. Products required by people using trails include a vast array of service industries, e.g. bicycle shops, hotels, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, equipment rentals/repair shops. Tourism products are attractive to local and regional users as well as national and international markets. (See Exhibit G)

Safety

With this increased traffic, users, particularly snowmachiners, are competing with cars for the easiest route to their destinations. Since the wide-open spaces created by lakes are so inviting, most snowmachine owners park and unload near or on the two lakes in

Wasilla. Wasilla Lake has no public access, but a resort on the north end allows cars and trailers to park there. The same situation exists at Lake Lucille, plus one 50' wide public boat landing area that is used for a snowmachine loading area. The railroad easement is the most popular route between the two lakes, even though it is not marked for usage. The most dangerous situation created by this route is crossing the Parks Highway near Wasilla Lake. By properly marking the most-used portion of this trail, and coordinating crossings with the traffic patterns of that area, safety will be insured for all recreational users.

Public Access

Wasilla Lake has a private resort on the north side, which allows cars and trailers to park and get onto the lake. It is approximately 1.75 miles from the Parks Highway. At this point snowmobiles and 4 wheelers would have to cross the 4 lanes of the Parks Highway. This project would provide trail markers that would direct them to the intersection of Crusey and the Parks where they could cross safely with the traffic light. Car traffic would be alerted that other vehicles would be crossing at this corner and safety of the snowmobilers would be assured.

10. COMMUNITY SUPPORT. (Exhibit H)

- Joint Chambers of Commerce Resolution of support
- Mat-Su Motor Musers resolution of support.
- Wasilla Parks & Recreation Commission resolution of support.
- Frontiersman article entitled "More than 1,300 snowmachiners flock to Valley for weekend fun" (Exhibit F)
- Mat-Su Trails Council letter of support.

11. SPONSOR COMMITMENT.

The City of Wasilla has built bicycle trails, playgrounds, parking lots and various other city amenities. The City will oversee this project and assure that proper documentation (i.e. photos, videos) is kept before, during and after the installation phase. (Exhibit E contains current photographs of the project area.) The Parks and Recreation Commission has a trails sub-committee which has researched this project as part of the city's comprehensive Trails Plan (See Exhibit D). The Mat-Su Trails Council will also be involved (Reference the Frontiersman article of 2/19/99). The city will be responsible for proper signage on this trail, and will seek input from the two trails committees.

12. PROPOSED BUDGET.

Land values are currently approximately \$6 per square foot. The railroad would provide a 15 foot wide strip that is approximately 6,000 feet long. The value of the property used

for this trail would be over \$540,000. The City of Wasilla will fund \$5,000 for construction and \$2,500 for in-kind services.

Budget Table

Itemized Expenditures	From Grant Funds	From Matching Funds	Total	Notes
Labor	\$ 5,000 (1)	\$ 2,500 (2)	\$ 7,500	1) Surveying 2) Govt. Coordination
Supplies	\$25,000	\$5,000	\$30,000	
Equipment				
Land / Easement acquisition		\$280,800*	\$280,800*	Use of land within RR right-of-way
Other				
Total Amount	\$30,000	\$288,300	\$318,300	

*Figure derived from MSB average of \$1.24-\$5 square foot assessed value

NOTE: Percent of total project cost from matching funds: 91%

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Tim Krug, City Planner
Kaye Sloan, Recreation Services
290 E. Herning Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654
Tax ID#: 92-6010143
(907) 373-9052 Or 9053
Fax: (907) 373-9072
Email: tkrug@ci.wasilla.ak.us
ksloan@ci.wasilla.ak.us

2. **PROJECT TITLE:** Winter Recreation Staging Area Trailhead Site Amenities

3. **AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED:** \$30,000.00

4. **ABBREVIATED PROJECT DESCRIPTION.**

To provide site amenities such as picnic tables, waste disposal, vault toilets, security lighting, and an informational kiosk at Wasilla's multi-use recreation staging area.

The requested site amenities would provide a safe, secure area to unload, park and get onto existing trails. The staging area currently under construction will be a gravel pad only, provided by the City of Wasilla, and the proposed site amenities would greatly enhance the public usage of this area.

5. **PROJECT CATEGORY.** Diversified

6. **PUBLIC ACCESS REQUIREMENT.** The City of Wasilla owns tax parcel D2, and has designated this five-acre parcel for the trailhead with South Church Road as access.

7. **DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION.**

Site Description

The area chosen for this trailhead is ¼ mile to the south on the Parks Highway at mile marker 44.5. A five-acre parcel has been cleared.

Project Access

Church Road South construction has begun, and eventually will be the entrance road to the trailhead.

Project Goal

To provide a complete staging area, away from the busy retail strip, for safe access to the existing trail systems leading to Big Lake, Wasilla Lake, Lake Lucille and Knik Road. An adequate parking area and amenities would also alleviate unsafe highway crossings by non-motorized and motorized recreational vehicles while trying to get to those trails. Amenities at this site would include a parking area, loading ramps, picnic tables, vault toilets, waste disposal, security lighting, a message/informational kiosk, and proper signage. (See Exhibit A). During the Iditarod re-start, the first Sunday in March every year, this area could also be used for overflow parking for this national televised event, which begins at the Wasilla Municipal Airport a few hundred feet to the west. The nearest wintertime public highway restroom facilities are at mile 130 of the Parks Highway and at Mirror Lake on the Glenn Highway. Wasilla receives more Alaskan tourists in the wintertime than it does in the summer. Unfortunately, there is a lack of restroom facilities during the winter months, and having one open at this site would be most appropriate. And, during the summer months, we anticipate that this site would be a welcome quiet retreat along the busy Parks Highway.

8. **MAPS & OTHER VISUAL MATERIALS.** See Exhibit B.

- M1 City of Wasilla Map
- M2 Enlarged map of the trailhead area
- M3 Trails Plan Map

9. **PUBLIC BENEFITS.**

Economic

Wasilla is a destination area for thousands of snowmobilers during the long winter months in Alaska. With two major developed lakes at each end of town, and the Parks Highway connecting, Wasilla is an inviting host for winter recreationists. The valley temperatures are much milder than the interior and coastal areas. (See Exhibit C)

This project will encourage snowmachine enthusiasts to stop in Wasilla to buy gas, groceries and eat at our local restaurants, which in turn will boost the local economy during the winter months.

Safety

By providing this complete staging area, we eliminate many dangerous crossings on the Parks Highway by 4-wheelers and snowmobilers. This area can easily be patrolled by Wasilla Police Department. Security lighting will deter vandalism, and ensure safe loading and unloading of recreational equipment from trailers and vehicles. Out-of-town snowmobile owners would no longer have to park their trucks and trailers along roads and other unsecured areas. A kiosk would contain a trails map of the surrounding area, and could address the laws and regulations of use. It could also serve as a message board for recreationists.

Public Access

The majority of Wasilla Lake property is privately owned, with no public parking available for entry onto the lake for boats or snowmobiles. The length of Wasilla Lake is 2.5 miles from the Seward Meridian Parkway to the western edge of Newcomb Park on the Parks Highway. One major resort on the north side provides limited parking for trailers and cars, and allows snowmobiles and boats access to the lake. Lake Lucille has one major resort that also allows cars and snowmachines to get onto the water from its boat launch area, and two small public parks with limited parking and no amenities in the winter. Lucille Creek flows out of the west end of Lake Lucille and drains towards Big Lake. Many snowmobilers tend to travel this beautiful Lucille Creek drainage, including many of the well-known Iron Dog snowmobile racers.

Recreational Use

During the summer months, this area can be used to load and unload horses for riding on established trails. Dog mushers could also use this for a summer training staging area. Travelers would have a quiet rest area just outside of town with convenient access to the Parks Highway. It can be used for overflow parking at the airport during air shows, and special summer events held at the Alaska Museum of Transportation and Industry which is located on the adjoining property. Mountain bike enthusiasts and hikers will park here to take off on the many challenging trails.

In the winter, this trailhead could be used for snowmachines, dog mushing, cross-country skiing, and spectator parking for the Iditarod re-start. In the future, we plan to work with the Alaska Railroad to bring snowmobile groups into the valley for special events, unloading at this trailhead and winter use amenities would be most welcomed.

Wasilla Trails Plan

This staging area/trailhead will serve as a definite point of reference for our city trails system. Currently, winter trail users have to park cars and trailers on private properties to get onto the frozen lakes and trails. By providing a safe, secure public parking area and trailhead within the Wasilla City limits, the city would be inviting recreationists to stop in Wasilla, rather than pass on by going to Big Lake or Denali. This trailhead ties in with Wasilla's Comprehensive Trails Plan, and would provide a vital link in the future Anchorage-Wasilla trail development. (See Exhibit D)

10. **COMMUNITY SUPPORT (Exhibit E)**

1. Wasilla Municipal Ordinance 98-29 funded \$50,000 to build a trailhead and CIP commitment
2. Resolution 99-06 Support letter from joint Chambers of Commerce
3. Memo dated 1/18/99 from Iditarod Trail Committee
4. Mat-Su Motor Mushers resolution of support.
5. Wasilla Parks & Recreation Commission resolution of support.
6. Wasilla Ordinance #98-31 – property acquisition
7. Mat-Su Trails Council letter of support

11. SPONSOR COMMITMENT

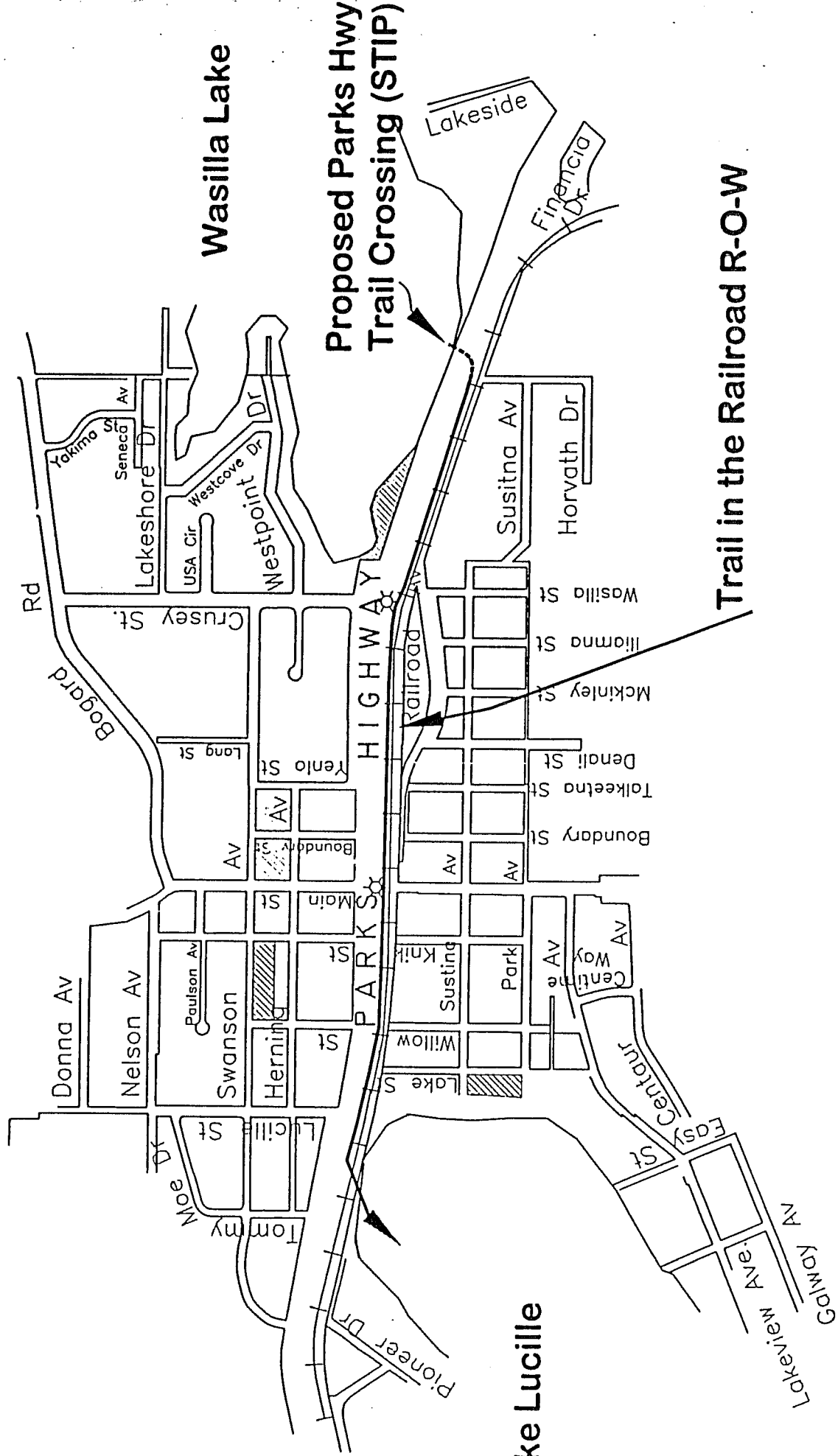
The City of Wasilla purchased this 5-acre parcel for \$179,000 and designated it for a multi-purpose trailhead. The City of Wasilla will provide all labor, either through force account or contract. The grant is expected to pay for all materials and shipping. All work will be documented by photographs and video. Long-term maintenance would include plowing snow for access in the winter, and grading in the summer, garbage pickup, and vandalism repair. Electricity for the security lights will be provided by the City of Wasilla. Grounds maintenance will be the City's Park Properties Department's responsibility. They will also build the Kiosk. Eagle Scouts will be enlisted to build picnic tables, and the City will maintain them. Signage will be necessary on the Parks Highway, as well as at the trailhead itself, and will be maintained by the City of Wasilla.

12. PROPOSED BUDGET

Budget Table

Itemized Expenditures	From Grant Funds	From Matching Funds	TOTAL	Notes
Trailhead labor and materials		\$60,844	\$60,844	Construction Contracts for parking area
Amenities Labor		12,000	12,000	Labor estimate
Materials & shipping	\$30,000		30,000	
Land or Easement Acquisition		5,800+	5,800+	Land purchase Ordinance No. 98-31
Other: Program Mgmt.		1,500	1,500	
Yearly Maint.		5,000	5,000	
Total Amount	\$30,000	\$85,144	\$115,144	

NOTE: Grant amount & percent of total project cost = 26%
 Matching funds percent of total project cost = 74%



Wasilla Lake

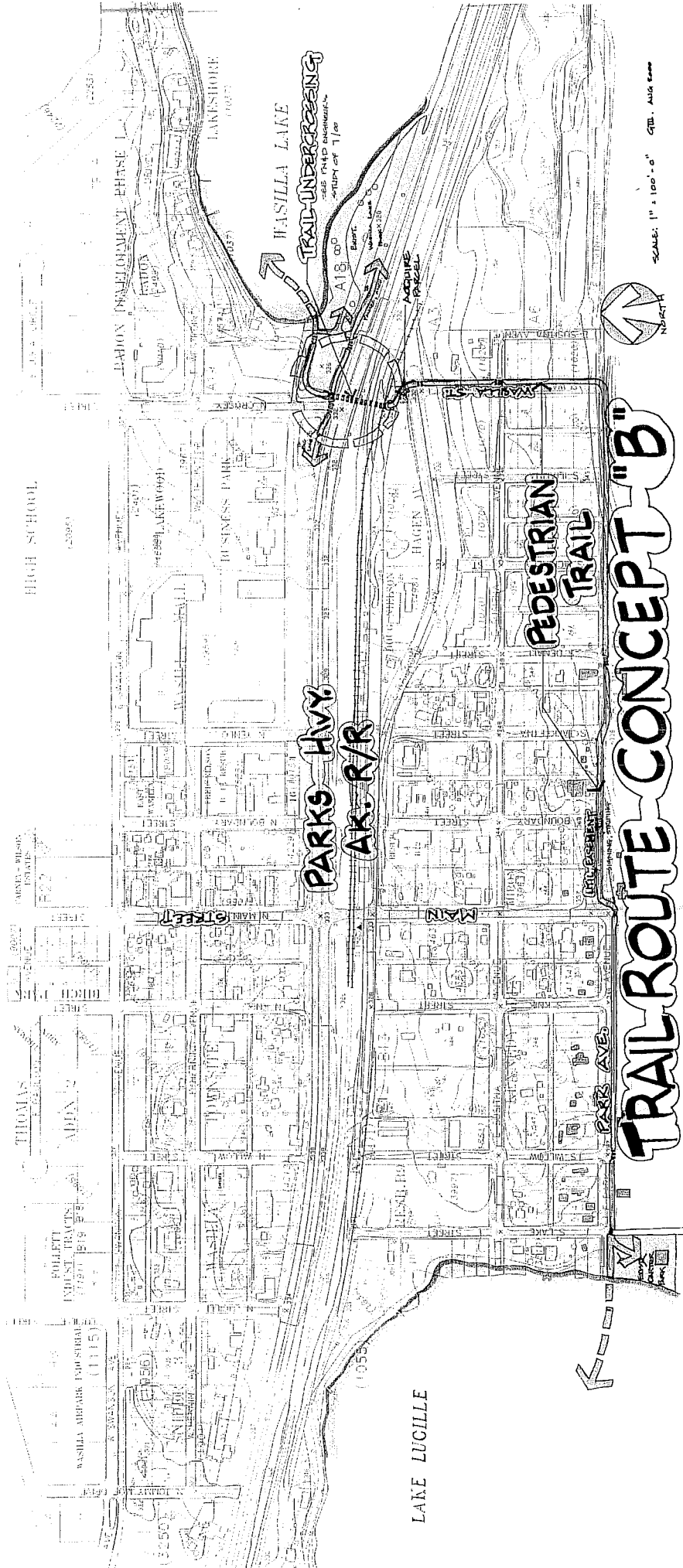
Proposed Parks Hwy
Trail Crossing (STIP)

Lakeside

Finencia

Trail in the Railroad R-O-W

Lake Lucille



TRAIL-ROUTE CONCEPT "B"

LAKE LUCILLE