

1 By: Bryce J. Ward, Mayor
2 Referred to the
3 Planning Commission
4 and Platting Board: August 25, 2022
5 Revised for
6 Introduction: October 27, 2022
7

8 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

9
10 ORDINANCE NO. 2022 – 47

11
12 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE RECREATIONAL TRAILS
13 PLAN AS AN ELEMENT OF THE FNSB REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
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15 WHEREAS, The Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan was adopted as an
16 element of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) Regional Comprehensive Plan on
17 June 13, 1985 via Ordinance No. 85-053 and was updated in 2006; the plan is generally
18 referred to as the "Trails Plan"; and

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20 WHEREAS, The Trails Plan is used by the Borough to identify, preserve and
21 manage important recreational trail corridors throughout the Borough and inform
22 Borough policies that will help facilitate the coordination of trails with other land
23 development; and

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25 WHEREAS, The Borough is responsible for planning, zoning, and
26 subdivisions throughout this area and frequently considers trail use and access during
27 those processes; and

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29 WHEREAS, The Borough acquired areawide parks and recreation powers by
30 election in 1972 and manages parks, recreational facilities and trails through those
31 powers; and

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33 WHEREAS, The 2006 Trails Plan strongly recommends updating the Trails
34 Plan at least every five year; and

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WHEREAS, Except for individual trail amendments, most recently in 2006, the Trails Plan itself, including its goals, objectives, and policies, has not been updated since its original adoption in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Since the adoption of the original Trails Plan in 1985, the Borough population has grown by approximately 35 percent according to the US Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Since 1985, new trends in trail use have emerged and demand for trails and outdoor recreation trail use has increased in ways the original plan did not anticipate; and

WHEREAS, Access to many trails in the Borough have been lost due to changing land uses and land development during the 37 years since the original plan adoption; and

WHEREAS, The updated Trails Plan intends to protect trail access and outdoor recreation opportunities as the Borough continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, Population growth has continued in part due to the arrival of two squadrons of F-35 fighter jets at Eielson Air Force Base, bringing approximately 3,300 new residents to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, The Trails Plan planning effort was funded in cooperation with the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation to address the impacts base development can have on surrounding communities; and

63 WHEREAS, The Assembly passed Ordinance No. 2019-20-2C, appropriating
64 federal grant funds and a match from the general fund for the Eielson Air Force Base
65 Realignment Implementation 2 Project that includes an update of the Trails Plan; and

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67 WHEREAS, Development of the Trails Plan was led by the Borough Trails
68 Advisory Commission (TAC) who served as the steering committee and met fifteen times
69 to invite public feedback, review, and provide input on plan topics; and

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71 WHEREAS, The Trails Plan was developed through an extensive and well
72 attended public participation process, including fifteen TAC meetings, two public open
73 houses, a project website that included interactive maps, resident surveys, flyers
74 advertising participation opportunities, multiple post card mailings to property owners
75 affected by the Trails Plan, forums and meetings with major landowners in the Borough,
76 and a fair booth; and

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78 WHEREAS, The Trails Plan includes a vision, goals, recommendations and
79 implementation strategies developed by the Trails Advisory Commission and the greater
80 community of trail users to guide the Borough as it manages local trail resources; and

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82 WHEREAS, The vision statement of the Trails Plan is "The Fairbanks North
83 Star Borough trail system is cherished and essential to our community identity, health
84 and economy; connects our communities to each other and their surrounding wild
85 landscapes through an expansive network; and provides all ages and abilities an
86 unparalleled variety of high-quality experiences for every season;" and

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88 WHEREAS, The Trails Plan recommendations are consistent with goals and
89 recommendations in other areawide adopted Borough plans including but not limited to
90 the 2010 North Pole Land Use Plan, the 2005 Regional Comprehensive Plan, 2018 Eielson
91 Regional Growth Plan, and the 2019 Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan; and

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93 WHEREAS, The adopted 2019 Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan specifically
94 lists updating the 2006 Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan as a priority strategy
95 number 9 and transportation strategy number 8; and

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97 WHEREAS, The Trails Plan recommendations are consistent with goals and
98 recommendations in other functional plans including but not limited to the Borough's
99 1990 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan and the 2016 Chena Riverfront Plan,
100 and the State of Alaska's 2000 Alaska Recreational Trails Plan; and

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102 WHEREAS, The Trails Plan includes a categorized list of priority trails to be
103 protected for continued or eventual public access; and

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105 WHEREAS, The Trails Plan includes a map depicting the locations of priority
106 trails, replacing the previous 2006 Trail Plan map, to guide development and inform
107 subdivision design; and

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109 WHEREAS, The Trails Plan ensures future development is compatible with
110 trail needs, as expressed by the public during the planning process, while emphasizing
111 private property rights; and

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113 WHEREAS, The Trails Advisory Commission, the Planning Commission, and
114 Platting Board each recommend adopting the Trails Plan as an element of the Regional
115 Comprehensive Plan; and

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117 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Assembly of the Fairbanks
118 North Star Borough:

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120 Section 1. This ordinance is not of a general and permanent nature and
121 shall not be codified.

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123 Section 2. The Fairbanks North Star Borough Regional Comprehensive Plan
124 is amended by replacing the 2006 Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan with the revised
125 Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan attached hereto as Attachment 1.
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127 Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance is effective at 5:00 p.m. on the
128 first Borough business day following its adoption.

129 ADOPTED THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2022.
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132 _____
133 Mindy O’Neill
134 Presiding Officer

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136 ATTEST:

137 APPROVED:
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139 _____
140 April Trickey, MMC
Borough Clerk

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Jill S. Dolan
Borough Attorney