

Knik River Access: Palmer Hay Flats SGR

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Client: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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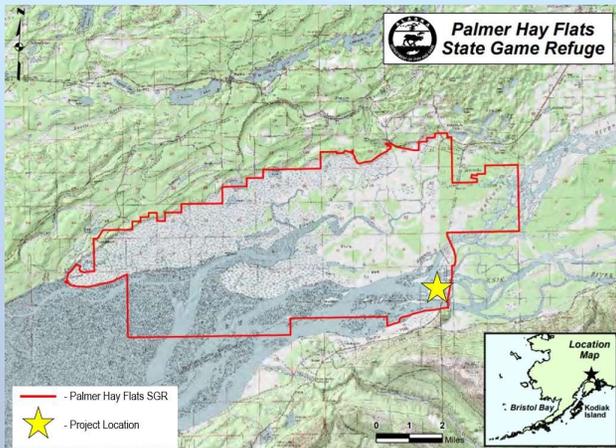
Background:

The Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge (SGR) protects 28,800 acres of coastal and freshwater wetlands, sloughs, flats, lakes, and streams that attracts tens-of-thousands of visitors each year. Located between Palmer, Anchorage, and Wasilla, the Knik River Access Point provides entrance to the eastern reaches of the Palmer Hay Flats SGR including the Knik River and Reflections Lake. The access point supports a variety of recreational activities including hunting, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, and hiking. In the current state, the existing facilities at the site are inadequate to support the high level of use, and do not support the vision the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has for the site.

Objectives:

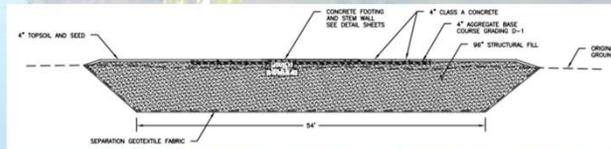
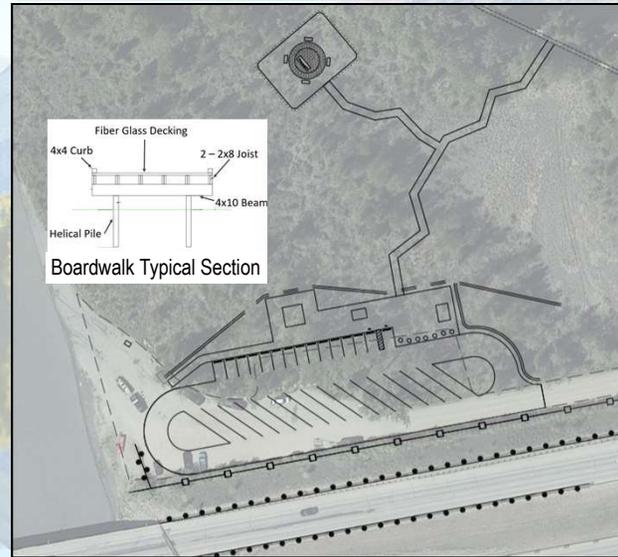
The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is interested in improving and expanding facilities at the Knik River Access Point to include trailered and non-trailered parking, public restrooms, picnic shelter, elevated boardwalk, informational signage, and the construction of a Gold Star Families Memorial Monument. The ADF&G objectives addressed by the design were to:

- Develop infrastructure at the site to meet user demands and expectations.
- Encourage the use of the site from motorists travelling along the adjacent Glenn Highway.
- Expand the use of the site beyond purely recreational purposes through the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument.

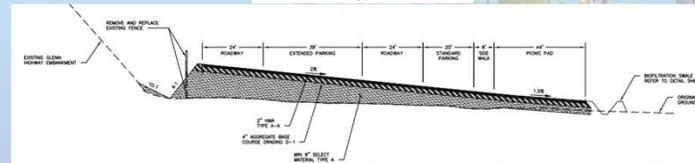


Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

Proposed Design



Monument Typical Section



Monument Typical Section



Main Elements of Design:

Parking Lot

The existing gravel parking lot will be replaced with an expanded asphalt paved structure with 15 standard spaces, 15 extended pull through spaces, and area for other visitor amenities. The pavement will maintain a 2% slope away from Glenn Highway to ensure proper drainage for pavement longevity.

Gold Star Families Monument

The centerpiece of the site memorial will utilize an inscribed black granite memorial with the outline of a saluting servicemember oriented towards Gold Star Peak to the south. A 60ft x 85ft aggregate pad will support the memorial.

Visitor Amenities

Amenities added to the site will utilize Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) standard facilities. An Interpretive Kiosk Type A will welcome visitors to the site and a "Kids Don't Float" Kiosk - Type A will warn river access users of boating dangers while supplying personal flotation devices. The picnic area will be covered with a DNR Picnic Shelter. The lavatory will be a CXT Double Rocky with Chase Toilet.

Boardwalk

A boardwalk will tie new site amenities into the existing trail loop around Reflections Lake in an environmentally conscious manner while remaining ADA accessible. The indirect 460-foot-long path will be composed entirely of an 8ft wide elevated fiberglass boardwalk supported by helical piles.

Biofiltration Drainage Swale

Drainage from the parking lot will be distributed away from Knik River into the low-lying area north of the site via a biofiltration swale using a mixture of perennial grasses as a filter medium.