

Division of Wildlife Conservation

Ryan Scott, Acting Director



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: Aug. 25, 2023*

### Changes Coming to Potter Marsh

(Anchorage) – Changes are coming for Potter Marsh. At the south parking lot, residents and visitors now will see surveyor's flagging marking where new parking areas, a school bus stop, a vault toilet, and an educational kiosk will be. The project will be done in phases, some in the coming weeks and others completed next summer.

Brushing at the site started Friday, Aug. 25. Some trees will be removed to accommodate the new parking lot. Bank stabilization at the marsh's edge will protect the wetlands. This project has many parts and the survey work identifies their locations on the ground. The project is likely to disrupt some of the local uses and efforts are underway to accommodate residential mail collection and school pick-ups and drop-offs during construction. The asphalt will be torn up and hauled away as the site is prepared for new material.

Improvements to the parking lot are funded through the Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. This is the first step in a bigger effort: through the Rabbit Creek Community Council, a grant through the Municipality of Anchorage was awarded to the Department of Fish and Game along with a donation from Conoco Phillips to make the south end of Potter Marsh more accessible for wildlife viewing. This phase of the project is expected to occur in the coming years. Many thanks to these partners for all of their contributions. A special thanks goes to Alaska State Parks engineers for designing the project and administering the contract. This partnership shows how our community of Alaskans shines when we all work together.

The Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge is one of 32 refuges in Alaska managed by ADF&G. It essentially lines the coastal perimeter of Anchorage from Point Woronzof to Rabbit Creek Rifle Range. Across the Seward Highway, Potter Marsh is the southernmost portion of the refuge: it is a lively and accessible wildlife viewing area that endears local residents and visitors from afar to witness the birds and mammals that live in our front yard.

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