

SUBJECT: INFORMING THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS PARTNERING WITH GREAT LAND TRUST ON A POTENTIAL 187.6 ACRE LAND ACQUISITION AND ADDITION TO SETTLERS BAY COASTAL PARK.

AGENDA OF: May 17, 2022

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Presented to the Assembly 5-17-22
(Signature)

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: For information only.

APPROVED BY MICHAEL BROWN, BOROUGH MANAGER:

(Signature)

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator	JM	
	Community Development Director	EP	
	Finance Director	CS	
	Borough Attorney	NS	
	Borough Clerk	BPA for LRM	

ATTACHMENT(S): Proposed property acquisition map (1 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Recently, Great Land Trust (GLT) contacted the Community Development Department with a potential land acquisition opportunity adjacent to Settlers Bay Coastal Park. A private landowner has expressed interest in selling two parcels of land totaling 187.6 acres to GLT. GLT would purchase the property and donate the land to the Borough. GLT would hold a conservation easement on the property in perpetuity to ensure open space and habitats are protected and conservation values are upheld. The Borough and GLT have partnered on many successful projects in the past including the acquisition of the nearly 300-acre Settlers Bay Coastal Park in 2018.

Settlers Bay Coastal Park opened to the public in the fall of 2019 and trail development and Park infrastructure have been ongoing

since then. The Borough trail crew and volunteer organizations have built miles of multiuse non-motorized trails throughout the Park and installed other essential infrastructure including parking areas, restrooms, trash cans, an accessible bluff viewing platform, and signage.

Since opening in 2019, the Park has quickly become a popular destination for people living in the Settlers Bay and Knik-Fairview areas. Adding an additional 187.6 acres to the park would allow for future expansion of Park amenities and make the Park more of a regional destination for visitors. Much of the existing infrastructure and trails in the Park have been funded by grant dollars and by utilizing the Borough Trail Crew to complete the work. With the already existing infrastructure at the Park, the future monetary burden to the Borough could be kept at a minimum with allowing for expansion of trails and Park amenities.

This memorandum is being provided for information purposes only, and future acquisition of the 187.6 acres will require Borough Assembly Approval.

