

# Spenard Fish Creek Trail Survey

## Summary Report

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## Ch'atanaltsegh Stories of Fish Creek

### Project Background

In 2021, NeighborWorks Alaska (NWA) partnered with the Spenard Community Council, Anchorage Parks and Recreation, and Anchorage Park Foundation on this project. This initiative created and installed six culturally relevant interpretive signs along the Fish Creek Trail. The Dena'ina name for Fish Creek is “Ch’atanaltsegh,” meaning yellow water comes out. A goal of this project is to bring local stories and art into a creative place-making project along the Fish Creek Trail.

Spenard residents recently worked to rehabilitate its local greenbelt trail along Fish Creek. The trail connects to schools, a recreation center, six neighborhood parks, and many residential streets. In 2019, the community celebrated the new trail surfacing, bridge upgrades, and added lighting. Since then, trail use doubled: in April-May 2017 Fish Creek trail averaged 700 daily users, compared to 1,450 daily users in April-May 2020! The interpretive signs project was completed in Fall 2021; however due to supply chain delays and frozen ground over winter, the signs were installed in July 2022. The Spenard Community Council (SCC) Executive Board served as the planning and selection committee for this Stories of Spenard creative community development project.

### Community Survey Tool

The Stories of Fish Creek project is part of NeighborWorks America’s Creative Community Development evaluation cohort in 2022. Two community surveys were adapted to a Spenard Fish Creek Trail Survey to

learn more from the community about this project, their use of the trail system, and community connectedness. The two tools developed by NeighborWorks America were:

- **Community Attachment and Opportunities for Creative Activities:** Examines the link between creative placemaking strategies and residents' desire to continue to live in a particular community, pride of place and sense of belonging.
- **Use of Community Gathering Space:** Assesses community use of a community space that has been modified to incorporate arts and culture elements or reflect a particular culture.

The survey was distributed in June 2022 on social media, emailed to the Spenard Community Council listserv, and through a postcard to residents. 138 community members responded to this survey, but not everyone answered each question and this is noted for each question with the total number of responses in the results section.



# SPENARD FISH CREEK TRAIL COMMUNITY SURVEY

## Neighborhood Pride

Survey respondents are proud to live in Spenard.



**81%**  
would continue to  
live in Spenard



**78%**  
are proud to tell  
others they live in  
Spenard

## Belonging & Impact

Respondents are overwhelmingly proud to live in Spenard.



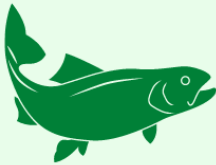
**84%**  
feel like they really  
belong in Spenard.



**52%**  
feel they can make a  
great or fair amount of  
positive difference

## Fish Creek Trail & Future Trail Improvements

Respondents enjoy the Fish Creek Trail overall.



**52%**  
often visit the trail;  
and 25% do  
"sometimes"



**48%**  
would bring visitors to  
relax and play or to  
see the neighborhood

Most respondents appreciated recent 2019 trail improvements and look forward to more:

- Extending the trail, especially to the Coastal Trail
- Daylighting the creek in Midtown
- Organized events
- Continued work to remove homeless camps

## Arts & Culture

Respondents agree arts and culture are valued and help them belong.



**65%**  
believe Spenard is  
welcoming



**59%**  
support artists and  
creative businesses

## Our Next Steps

Working with residents and the Spenard Community Council, we're working to build community involvement through:

- Neighborhood park beautification
- Neighborhood clean-ups
- Local arts and culture initiatives
- Community building events

### Summary of Respondents:

- 115 respondents are Spenard adults of all ages
- 85% are white, and all primarily speak English
- 88% have visited the Fish Creek Trail
- 77% own their homes
- 77% do not have young children

## Survey Summary

This survey sought to learn from residents within the Spenard neighborhood about their experience with the Fish Creek Trail, about their sense of pride for their neighborhood, and if they feel they can contribute and make a positive difference in other people's lives. This is also in the context of the Stories of Fish Creek arts, culture, and storytelling project. Below is a summary of these areas:

| Neighborhood Pride   |
|--|
| Most respondents agree they would continue to live in Spenard (81%), with 39% definitely agreeing.   |
| Most respondents agree they are proud to tell others that they live in Spenard (78%), with 44% strongly agreeing. Reasons include:<br><br>Strong sense of community, Feel part of the community and place, Diverse and welcoming, Vibrant history, Others (outsiders) misunderstand Spenard, and Innovative businesses |

| Belonging and Making a Difference  |
|--|
| Most respondents believe they can make a positive difference in their community (52%), with 20% believing they can make a great deal of difference and 32% believe they can make a fair amount.  |
| Most respondents agree they feel they really belong in Spenard (84%), with 47% strongly agreeing. Reasons include:<br><br>Central location / Convenient / Proximity to grocery stores, trails, restaurants; Walkable & bikeable; Great neighbors; Large lots and unique homes; Diversity; Eclectic; and Community feel / Has character |

| Arts and Culture   |
|--|
| Most respondents agree arts and cultural activities have influenced their sense of belonging in Spenard, with 60% of respondents agreeing. Over half of respondents reported Spenard provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a welcoming environment for all people to participate (65%)</li><li>• support for artists and creative businesses (59%)</li><li>• opportunities for people of all ages to be creative or experience creative activities (57%)</li><li>• creative expression (56%)</li></ul> |
| Respondents value the following activities based on what is "very" important: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• support for artists and creative businesses (67%)</li><li>• participate in activities about cultures that are different from their own (62%)</li><li>• creative expression (61%)</li><li>• opportunities for people of all ages to experience art and cultural traditions (54%)</li><li>• participate in activities that express their cultural history and traditions (53%)</li></ul>       |

| Fish Creek Trail  |
|---|
| Respondents are familiar with Fish Creek Trail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most respondents (88%) had been to the Fish Creek Trail, while only 12% had not.</li><li>• Over half of respondents (52%) often visit the trail, and 25% do sometimes.</li><li>• Many respondents value the Fish Creek Trail for its access to nature and wildlife, as a connection through the neighborhood, because it is close to their homes, and to use for recreation. Some</li></ul> |

|   |
|---|
| <p>respondents referred to homeless camps and activities that make them feel unsafe, and noted that when they were removed they felt more comfortable accessing the trail system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respondents described the benefit they personally experienced from the Fish Creek Trail over the last 12 months, including: enjoyed being there (21%), find it relaxing to reduce stress (17%), feeling part of the neighborhood (11%), meeting new people in the community (9%), and meeting people who are different from the (8%)</li> </ul>                     |
| <p>Organized activities and visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most respondents have never (54%) or rarely (27%) visited Fish Creek Trail in the last 12 months for an organized event or activity.</li> <li>• Most respondents (64%) had not brought visitors from out of town to Trail, while 30% did.</li> <li>• Most respondents believed they would bring visitors to relax or play (29%), followed by giving a neighborhood tour (19%), showing the character of the neighborhood (17%) or that it is one of their favorite places in the neighborhood (14%).</li> </ul> |
| <p>Future improvements: Many respondents found the recent trail improvements to improve their experiences of the Fish Creek Trail. Twenty respondents (25%) also brought up hopes to extend the trail to the Coastal Trail, which has been approved and funded by voters, and to daylight the creek, which is a current resident-led initiative for the community.</p>  |

### Demographics Summary

- 138 total survey responses
- 115 respondents live in Spenard (88%)
- Most respondents were white (85%), then Alaska Native (6%), mixed race (3%), Asian (2%), and Black, Pacific Islander, and some other race (1% each).
- All respondents primarily speak English at home.
- Most respondents were women (57%), then men (36%), and gender nonconforming (2%).
- Most respondents own their home (77%), with 21% renting.
- Most respondents did not have children (77%).
- Overall, there was a generally even distribution of respondents between ages of 25-74 years old.

## Survey Limitations

This is a convenience sample that is not representative of the community. This survey was offered electronically in the month of June 2022. The survey respondents did not represent the racial diversity of the community, with 85% of respondents identifying as white. The survey was only offered in English, which may explain why all respondents primarily speak English at home. It was distributed by the Spenard Community Council and NeighborWorks listservs, which may tend to reach older residents with grown children.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been ongoing since early 2020. Questions about visitors and organized events in the past 12 months are influenced by a reduced number of gatherings due to the pandemic.

## Survey Results

### Q1. Do you live in Spenard?

Most respondents live within Spenard, with 88% of respondents agreeing. Because a majority of respondents identify as living within the focus neighborhood, analysis separating residents geographically is not necessary.

|   |       | # of Responses | Percentage |
|---|-------|----------------|------------|
| 1. Do you live in the Spenard neighborhood? | Yes   | 115            | 88%        |
|   | No    | 16             | 12%        |
|   | Total | 131            |            |

### Q2. How long have you lived in Spenard?

Respondents have a good distribution on how long they have lived in Spenard, from less than 1 year to over 30 years. Most respondents have lived in their home for ten years or less (47%), with 24% under 5 years and 23% between 5 and 10 years. Twenty-six percent of respondents have lived in their homes from 11 to 20 years, followed by 27% of respondents over thirty years.

|  |                | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 2. How long have you lived in Spenard? | 1 year or less | 14             | 13%        |
|  | 2-4 years      | 12             | 11%        |
|  | 5-7 years      | 17             | 16%        |
|  | 8-10 years     | 7              | 7%         |
|  | 11-15 years    | 20             | 19%        |
|  | 16-20 years    | 7              | 7%         |
|  | 21-30 years    | 14             | 13%        |
|  | 31-39 years    | 7              | 7%         |
|  | Over 40 years  | 7              | 7%         |
|  | Total          | 105            |            |

### Q3. Continue to live in Spenard

The majority of respondents agree they would continue to live in Spenard (81%), with 39% definitely agreeing. Only 3 respondents (3%) definitely agree to move.

|  |  | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|--|----------------|------------|
| 3. Right now, if you had the choice, would you continue to live in Spenard or would you move somewhere else? | Definitely continue to live in Spenard | 46             | 39%        |
|  | Probably continue to live in Spenard   | 49             | 42%        |
|  | Probably move somewhere else           | 19             | 16%        |
|  | Definitely move somewhere else         | 3              | 3%         |
|  | Total                                  | 117            |            |



#### Q4. Belong in Spenard

Most respondents agree they feel they really belong in Spenard (84%), with 47% strongly agreeing. Only 2 respondents (2%) strongly disagree.

|  |                   | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|-------------------|----------------|------------|
| 4.<br>How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I feel that I really belong in Spenard – it feels like home to me." | Strongly agree    | 50             | 47%        |
|  | Somewhat agree    | 40             | 37%        |
|  | Somewhat disagree | 12             | 11%        |
|  | Strongly disagree | 2              | 2%         |
|  | Don't know        | 3              | 3%         |
|  | Total             | 107            |            |

#### Q5. Open-ended: Belong in Spenard

Most respondents agree they feel a sense of belonging in Spenard, with 87% providing details on why they feel this way. Respondents believe they "feel at home" in Spenard due to its convenient location, great neighbors, walkability and bikability, and great neighbors. They described the community feel as diverse, eclectic, unpretentious, and unique. Those who did not feel they belong in Spenard referred to the crime, trash, homeless camps, and unmaintained roads and properties.

|  | Themes  | Representative Quotes   |
|--|---|---|
| Strongly Agree<br><br>44 responses<br>48%    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grew up here. Been here a long time.</li> <li>Central location / Convenient / Proximity to grocery stores, trails, restaurants</li> <li>Walkable &amp; bikeable</li> <li>Great neighbors</li> <li>Large lots and unique homes</li> <li>Love the trees</li> <li>Diversity</li> <li>Eclectic</li> <li>Unpretentious</li> <li>Community feel / Has character</li> </ul> | <p>"I feel at home here."</p> <p>"I chose Spenard because of the diversity, the absence of cookie cutter houses, and the feel of the neighborhood. Spenard is home."</p> <p>"I like the diversity of people and businesses and the creativity in Spenard."</p> <p>"Spenard is funky, in a good way."</p> <p>"Spenard is a special community. We love our neighbors, our school, and the convenience of location. It's always sunny here."</p> |
| Somewhat Agree<br><br>36 responses<br>39%    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good location / Convenient</li> <li>Too much crime, drugs, and police activity</li> <li>Too much trash</li> <li>Homeless camps</li> <li>Bad infrastructure (sidewalks, bike lanes)</li> <li>Sense of community</li> <li>Eclectic and Unique</li> </ul>   | <p>"I like living here but now that I have a baby I'm not sure it's the best."</p> <p>"I want to move more out of anchorage. Too much crime: but if I'm stuck in anchorage Spenard isn't too bad. Has a bad reputation though."</p> <p>"Spenard is a small neighborhood where people can make a big difference."</p>  |
| Somewhat Disagree<br><br>10 responses<br>11% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too much trash</li> <li>Other neighborhoods have better access to trails, cleaner streets, less theft</li> <li>Poorly kept homes, apartment buildings, and roadways</li> </ul>   | <p>"Ever since the bike trail connecting Northwood to Spenard was completed are quality of life has greatly decreased, multiple bike thefts, car break ins, trash, litter from massive increase in illegal homeless camping etc."</p>   |
| Strongly Disagree<br><br>2 responses<br>2%   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homeless camps</li> <li>Too much trash</li> </ul>  |   |
| Total Responses                              | 92  |   |

## Q6. Proud to live in Spenard

Most respondents agree they are proud to tell others that they live in Spenard (78%), with 44% strongly agreeing. Only 4 respondents (3%) strongly disagree, while 6 respondents (5%) didn't know.

|   |                   | # of Responses | Percentage |
|---|-------------------|----------------|------------|
| 6.<br>How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I am proud to tell others that I live in Spenard"? | Strongly agree    | 53             | 44%        |
|   | Somewhat agree    | 41             | 34%        |
|   | Somewhat disagree | 16             | 13%        |
|   | Strongly disagree | 4              | 3%         |
|   | Don't know        | 6              | 5%         |
|   | Total             | 120            |            |

## Q7. Open-ended: Proud to live in Spenard

Most respondents agree they feel proud to live in Spenard, with 81% providing details on why they feel this way. Respondents feel a strong sense of community, appreciate its history, and choose to live in the neighborhood. They recognize the businesses and neighbors and believe it has a bright future ahead. Respondents also noted the mixed reputation Spenard has that others often make negative assumptions when they talk about Spenard. Those who did not pride for Spenard were embarrassed by the bad reputations and believe the neighborhood is in decline.

|  | Themes   | Representative Quotes   |
|--|--|---|
| Strongly Agree<br><br>41 responses<br>45%    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong sense of community</li> <li>Choose to live in Spenard</li> <li>Feel part of the community and place</li> <li>Diverse and welcoming</li> <li>Vibrant history</li> <li>Others (outsiders) misunderstand Spenard</li> <li>Innovative businesses</li> <li>Bright future</li> </ul> | <p>"I love the feel of Spenard. I love the diversity and the culture of what feels to me like old Alaska."</p> <p>"Alaska is full of misfits and they all fit in Spenard."</p> <p>"I'm proud to live here and be a part of a growing and powerful community."</p> <p>"I've never felt like I "belonged" in a neighborhood before, but Spenard has welcomed me and given me opportunities that I've never felt I had in other neighborhoods."</p> <p>"We got the arts, we got the culture, we got the eccentricity! I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in this city."</p> |
| Somewhat Agree<br><br>33 responses<br>36%    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bad reputation for drugs, homelessness and prostitution</li> <li>Not feel safe</li> <li>Community history</li> <li>Strong sense of identity</li> </ul>  | <p>"I like that Spenard has such a strong sense of identity."</p> <p>"I think our neighborhood is great, but when I tell people I realize that our neighborhood is seen as a rougher part of town, mainly due to our history of criminal/prostitution activity that still does occur and the homeless population that migrates here."</p> <p>"Spenard gets a bad rap. I have never had an issue here and think we should support our community members who are experiencing hardship."</p>  |
| Somewhat Disagree<br><br>13 responses<br>14% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embarrassed</li> <li>Neighborhood is declining</li> <li>Stigma</li> </ul>   | <p>"Generally when friends ask what it's like living in Spenard I respond "real mixed bag.""</p> <p>"Most of my friends and colleagues live in bougie neighborhoods, and we're in the low rent district."</p> <p>"Spenard is higher with homeless population and high amount of renters with landlords that don't</p>   |



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  |  | necessarily invest in their place of residence. It's a "starter" home neighborhood with low middle income." |
| Strongly Disagree<br><br>4 responses<br>4% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bad reputation</li> <li>• Homeless camps</li> </ul> |   |
| Total Responses                            | 91   |   |

## Q8. Sense of Belonging

Most respondents agree arts and cultural activities have influenced their sense of belonging in Spenard, with 60% of respondents agreeing.

|   |       | # of Responses | Percentage |
|---|-------|----------------|------------|
| 8.<br>Do you feel that arts and cultural activities have influenced your sense of belonging in Spenard? | Yes   | 68             | 60%        |
|   | No    | 46             | 40%        |
|   | Total | 114            |            |

## Q9. Opportunities for Art and Cultural Activities

Respondents were asked how they rate various opportunities in Spenard for art and cultural activities.

- Most respondents believe there are good to very good opportunities, based on 54% of overall responses.
- Respondents more strongly believe there are good to very good in this order:
  - a welcoming environment for all people to participate (65%)
  - support for artists and creative businesses (59%)
  - opportunities for people of all ages to be creative or experience creative activities (57%)
  - creative expression (56%)
  - participate in activities about cultures that are different from their own (42%)
  - participate in activities that express their cultural traditions (33%)
- Respondents most strongly believed there were poor opportunities for participating in cultural activities of others (16%) or of their own (15%), and these were also the areas people were less familiar with 17% and 23% responding "don't know" respectively.

| 9. How would you rate Spenard on the following?  |           |     |      |     |      |     |      |     |            |     |       |
|--|-----------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------------|-----|-------|
|  | Very good |     | Good |     | Fair |     | Poor |     | Don't know |     | Total |
|  | #         | %   | #    | %   | #    | %   | #    | %   | #          | %   | #     |
| Opportunities for people of all ages to be creative or experience creative activities                    | 11        | 11% | 45   | 46% | 17   | 18% | 10   | 10% | 14         | 14% | 97    |
| Opportunities for people to participate in activities that express their cultural history and traditions | 8         | 8%  | 24   | 25% | 27   | 28% | 14   | 15% | 22         | 23% | 95    |
| Opportunities for people to participate in activities about cultures that are different from their own   | 7         | 7%  | 33   | 35% | 23   | 24% | 15   | 16% | 16         | 17% | 94    |

|   |    |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |    |     |     |
|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| Creative expression (examples: murals, sculpture, performances, temporary art installations) in public places | 18 | 20% | 32  | 36% | 21  | 24% | 10 | 11% | 8  | 9%  | 89  |
| Support for artists and creative businesses   | 14 | 16% | 37  | 43% | 13  | 15% | 9  | 10% | 14 | 16% | 87  |
| A welcoming environment for all people to participate   | 24 | 28% | 32  | 37% | 17  | 20% | 5  | 6%  | 9  | 10% | 87  |
| Totals  | 82 | 15% | 203 | 37% | 118 | 22% | 63 | 11% | 83 | 15% | 549 |

## Q10. Importance of Art and Culture

Respondents were asked how they rate how much they valued the various opportunities in Spenard for art and cultural activities.

- A majority of respondents believe these are somewhat to very important, based on 90% of overall responses.
- All of these activities are valued, and respondents value these in the following order based on what is “very” important:
  - support for artists and creative businesses (67%)
  - participate in activities about cultures that are different from their own (62%)
  - creative expression (61%)
  - opportunities for people of all ages to experience art and cultural traditions (54%)
  - participate in activities that express their cultural history and traditions (53%)

|   | 10. How important are the following to you personally? |     |                    |     |                    |    |                      |    |            |    |       |
|---|--|-----|--------------------|-----|--------------------|----|----------------------|----|------------|----|-------|
|   | Very important   |     | Somewhat important |     | Not very important |    | Not important at all |    | Don't know |    | Total |
|   | #  | %   | #                  | %   | #                  | %  | #                    | %  | #          | %  | #     |
| Opportunities for people of all ages to experience art and cultural traditions                                | 52   | 54% | 36                 | 37% | 5                  | 5% | 1                    | 1% | 3          | 3% | 97    |
| Opportunities for people to participate in activities that express their cultural history and traditions      | 51   | 53% | 37                 | 38% | 3                  | 3% | 2                    | 2% | 4          | 4% | 97    |
| Opportunities for people to participate in activities about cultures that are different from their own        | 59   | 62% | 27                 | 28% | 4                  | 4% | 2                    | 2% | 3          | 3% | 95    |
| Creative expression (examples: murals, sculpture, performances, temporary art installations) in public places | 58   | 61% | 26                 | 27% | 6                  | 6% | 3                    | 3% | 2          | 2% | 95    |
| Support for artists and creative businesses   | 63   | 67% | 22                 | 23% | 5                  | 5% | 2                    | 2% | 2          | 2% | 94    |
| Totals  | 283  | 59% | 148                | 31% | 23                 | 5% | 10                   | 2% | 14         | 3% | 478   |

### Q11. Been to Fish Creek Trail

Ninety-nine respondents shared if they had been to Fish Creek Trail in the last 12 months. Most respondents (88%) had been to the Fish Creek Trail, while only 12% had not.

|   |       | # of Responses | Percentage |
|---|-------|----------------|------------|
| 11.<br>In the last 12 months, have you been to Fish Creek Trail for any reason? | Yes   | 87             | 88%        |
|   | No    | 12             | 12%        |
|   | Total | 99             |            |

### Q12. How often to the Trail

One-hundred-fourteen respondents answered this question, though in Q11, twelve respondents indicated they had not visited the trail, but in Q12 only nine respondents answered that they had never visited the trail. This discrepancy of 3 people is minor.

Overall, over half of respondents (52%) often visit the trail, while 25% answered they sometimes do. That 77% is the same as the 87 respondents who had been to the trail per Q11. Most respondents (77%) are quite familiar with the trail.

|  |           | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|-----------|----------------|------------|
| 12.<br>In the last 12 months, how often would you say you visited the Fish Creek Trail to meet friends, relax, read, walk, or some other casual use? | Often     | 59             | 52%        |
|  | Sometimes | 28             | 25%        |
|  | Rarely    | 18             | 16%        |
|  | Never     | 9              | 8%         |
|  | Total     | 114            |            |

### Q13. Visit the trail for event

Most respondents have never (54%) or rarely (27%) visited Fish Creek Trail in the last 12 months for an organized event or activity. This reflects the fact that there are not many community events purposefully organized along the trail, perhaps 1-5 per year (e.g. clean-ups, trick or treat event, park celebrations).

|  |           | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|-----------|----------------|------------|
| 13.<br>In the last 12 months, how often would you say you visited the Fish Creek Trail for an organized event or activity? | Often     | 4              | 3%         |
|  | Sometimes | 18             | 15%        |
|  | Rarely    | 32             | 27%        |
|  | Never     | 63             | 54%        |
|  | Total     | 117            |            |

### Q14. Open-ended: Things liked most at the Trail

Many respondents value the Fish Creek Trail for its access to nature and wildlife, as a connection through the neighborhood, because it is close to their homes, and to use for recreation. Some respondents referred to homeless camps and activities that make them feel unsafe, and noted that when they were removed they felt more comfortable accessing the trail system.

|  | Themes  | Representative Quotes   |
|--|---|---|
| 14. What are one or two things you like most about | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Access to nature / Green space</li><li>Wildlife: birds, ducks, moose</li><li>New, lighted trail</li></ul> | "Convenient - it's our neighborhood trail. The kids love it." |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| being at the Fish Creek Trail?<br><br>97 responses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections through neighborhood and parks</li> <li>• Walking, dog walking, biking, running, commuting</li> <li>• Convenient</li> <li>• It is close by</li> <li>• Peaceful</li> <li>• Feels safe</li> </ul> | <p>"How it weaves through a number of neighborhoods in a serpentine fashion, tying together so many folks in our community."</p> <p>"Improved trail and lighting, tree pruning/cutting all make the trail feel safer."</p> <p>"It's a peaceful, beautiful place right in the middle of Spenard. I love the bridges and really appreciate the lights on the trail for walking in winter at night."</p> <p>"It's a safe way to get around the neighborhood and deal with less cars, especially since we don't have sidewalks."</p> |
| Negative comments                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless camps</li> <li>• Does not feel safe</li> <li>• Not sure where it is located</li> </ul>   | <p>"I've almost forgotten where it is."</p> <p>"I wish it felt safer to use by myself."</p>  |

### Q15. Benefits of the trail

Respondents were asked what benefits, if any, they personally experienced from the Fish Creek Trail over the last 12 months. Most respondents enjoyed being there (21%) and find it relaxing to reduce stress (17%). This is followed by: feeling part of the neighborhood (11%), meeting new people in the community (9%), and meeting people who are different from the (8%). Only 5 respondents (1%) believed there were no personal benefits to them.

| 15.<br>Thinking about how you have used the Fish Creek Trail over the last 12 months, what benefits, if any, have you personally experienced? <i>Check all that apply.</i> |                |            |
|--|----------------|------------|
|  | # of Responses | Percentage |
| I have met people in the community that I did not know before.   | 31             | 9%         |
| I have met people who share the same interests as me.  | 22             | 6%         |
| I have met people who are different from me (age, race, ethnicity, income, etc.).  | 28             | 8%         |
| There are activities there that my kids enjoy.   | 13             | 4%         |
| My kids have made new friends there.   | 4              | 1%         |
| I have become involved in community groups or projects through the people I meet there.  | 12             | 3%         |
| It makes me feel safe.   | 24             | 7%         |
| I enjoy being there.   | 72             | 21%        |
| Being there is relaxing – it helps me reduce stress.   | 60             | 17%        |
| It is full of energy.  | 19             | 5%         |
| It makes me feel a part of the neighborhood.   | 40             | 11%        |
| There are no benefits for me personally.   | 5              | 1%         |
| Some other reason  | 18             | 5%         |
| Total  | 348            |            |

### Q16. Visitors to the trail

In the past 12 months, most respondents (64%) had not brought visitors from out of town to the Fish Creek Trail, while 30% did. This is a unique question because the past year had some months of quarantine or travel uncertainties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may influence these responses.

|  |                | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 16.<br>In the last 12 months, did you bring any visitors from out of town to the Fish Creek Trail? | Yes            | 27             | 30%        |
|  | No             | 57             | 64%        |
|  | Don't remember | 5              | 6%         |
|  | Total          | 89             |            |

### Q17. Reason to bring visitors

In Q16 only 27 respondents brought visitors to the trail, but 106 respondents selected reasons in Q17. Most respondents believed they would bring visitors to relax or play (29%), followed by giving a neighborhood tour (19%), showing the character of the neighborhood (17%) or that it is one of their favorite places in the neighborhood (14%).

|  |   | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|---|----------------|------------|
| 17.<br>What made you bring your visitors to the Fish Creek Trail? <i>Check all that apply.</i> | Relax or play                                 | 31             | 29%        |
|  | Give a tour of the neighborhood               | 20             | 19%        |
|  | One of my favorite places in the neighborhood | 15             | 14%        |
|  | Show the character of the neighborhood        | 18             | 17%        |
|  | Show how the neighborhood has changed         | 3              | 3%         |
|  | Attend an event                               | 6              | 6%         |
|  | Some other reason                             | 13             | 12%        |
|  | Total   | 106            |            |

### Q18. Open-ended reasons to bring visitors

Only 9 respondents shared the reasons they brought visitors to the trail, and 6 respondents replied for the Trick or Treat Fish Creek Halloween celebrations, and 3 others said to recreate or for a garbage pick-ups.

| 18.<br>If you bring visitors to the Fish Creek Trail to attend an event/s, tell us which event/s.   |                |            |
|---|----------------|------------|
|   | # of Responses | Percentage |
| Bike riding- garbage pick-up  | 1              | 7%         |
| Fish Creek Festival (pre-covid) and Trick or Treat on the Trail (Halloween). The only event I know about is the Halloween, but more festivals/events/parades would be terrific. | 6              | 40%        |
| Hashing, Walking, Running, Walking Dogs   | 1              | 7%         |
| N/A   | 6              | 40%        |

|                      |    |    |
|----------------------|----|----|
| Just to walk around. | 1  | 7% |
| Total                | 15 |    |

### Q19. Not visited the Trail

When asked why respondents have not visited the trail, only four said it was not convenient to get to, while nine had other reasons.

| 19.<br>We'd like to understand more about why you have not been to Fish Creek Trail.<br><i>Check all that apply.</i> |                |            |
|--|----------------|------------|
|  | # of Responses | Percentage |
| It is not convenient for me to get to.   | 4              | 31%        |
| The parks along the Fish Creek Trail do not appeal to me.  |                |            |
| The Fish Creek Trail does not feel safe to me.   |                |            |
| I do not feel welcome on the Fish Creek Trail.   |                |            |
| Other  | 9              | 69%        |
| Total  | 13             |            |

### Q20. Open-ended: Anything else

Many respondents found the recent trail improvements to improve their experiences of the Fish Creek Trail. Twenty respondents (25%) also brought up hopes to extend the trail to the Coastal Trail, which has been approved and funded by voters, and to daylight the creek, which is a current resident-led initiative for the community. Twelve respondents (15%) also referred to the homeless camp near Northwood Park. It was on private property and has since been removed since the survey was distributed, but lasted from June 2021-June 2022.

|   | Themes   | Representative Quotes  |
|---|--|--|
| 20. If there is anything else you would like to tell us about the Fish Creek Trail, please use the space below.<br><br>81 responses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend and connect it to other trails (especially Coastal Trail)</li> <li>Praise trail improvements (lighting, bridges, resurfacing)</li> <li>Would like more community activities</li> <li>Excited for daylighting Fish Creek to the east</li> <li>Needs invasive plant removal</li> <li>Too much drug use and crimes</li> <li>Too many homeless camps</li> <li>Too much trash</li> <li>Need traffic calming near connections (especially Barbara Street)</li> </ul> | <p>"As a long-time resident of West Anchorage/Spenard, I remember when there was no trail and it was unsafe to walk along the MaCrae, Turnagain Street, Barabara, etc. It will be even better when the trail joins the Coastal Trail and Fish Creek is daylighted all across town."</p> <p>"I wish it was longer and I hope to see salmon in it some day!"</p> <p>"It's very valuable to me as a quality of life amenity. Easy access to the non-motorized commuter trail network is an important reason that I choose to live where I do."</p> <p>"We need Fish creek for the character of the neighborhood!"</p> |

### Q21. Positive Difference

Most respondents believe they can make a positive difference in their community (52%), with 20% believing they can make a great deal of difference and 32% believe they can make a fair amount. Only 12% believed they could make little to no difference.

|   |                  | # of Responses | Percentage |
|---|------------------|----------------|------------|
| 21.<br>How much of a positive difference do you feel that you, yourself, can make in the community? | A great deal     | 24             | 20%        |
|   | A fair amount    | 39             | 32%        |
|   | Some             | 44             | 36%        |
|   | A little or none | 14             | 12%        |
|   | Total            | 121            |            |

## Q22. Owners or Renters

Most respondents (77%) own their home, while 21% rent, and 2% had other living arrangements.

|  |                 | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 22.<br>Do you currently rent your home or do you own it? | I rent my home. | 24             | 21%        |
|  | I own my home.  | 87             | 77%        |
|  | Other           | 2              | 2%         |
|  | Total           | 113            |            |

## Q23. Adults in household

Over half of respondents live in a household with 2 other adults (53%), and 34% with just one other.

|   |       | # of Responses | Percentage |
|---|-------|----------------|------------|
| 23.<br><br>Including yourself, how many adults 18 years of age or older live in your household? |       |                |            |
|   | 1     | 36             | 34%        |
|   | 2     | 56             | 53%        |
|   | 3     | 10             | 9%         |
|   | 4     | 3              | 3%         |
|   | 7     | 1              | 1%         |
|   | Total | 106            |            |

## Q24. Seniors in household

Most respondents did not live in households with seniors 65 years or older (67%), while 17% had one and 15% had two senior residents.

|   |       | # of Responses | Percentage |
|---|-------|----------------|------------|
| 24.<br><br>How many of the adults 18 years of age or older are 65 or older? | 0     | 67             | 67%        |
|   | 1     | 18             | 17%        |
|   | 2     | 15             | 15%        |
|   | 4     | 1              | 1%         |
|   | Total | 103            |            |



### Q25. Children in Household

Most respondent did not have children in their households (77%), while 23% had 1-3 children.

|  |       | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|-------|----------------|------------|
| 25.<br><br>How many children under 18 years of age live in your household? | 0     | 73             | 77%        |
|  | 1     | 9              | 9%         |
|  | 2     | 10             | 11%        |
|  | 3     | 3              | 3%         |
|  | Total | 95             |            |

### Q26. Language spoken at Home

All respondents speak English as the primary language at home. It should be noted, this survey was only available in English.

|  |         | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|---------|----------------|------------|
| 26.<br><br>What language is most often spoken in your household? | English | 100            | 100%       |
|  | Hmong   |                |            |
|  | Tagalog |                |            |
|  | Samoan  |                |            |
|  | Spanish |                |            |
|  | Other   |                |            |
|  | Total   | 100            |            |

### Q27. Age

Most respondents were between the ages 45-54 (22%), followed by 65-74 (21%), 35-44 (18%), 25-34 (16%), 55-64 (15%), which overall is a somewhat even spread between 25-74 years of age.

|                              |              | # of Responses | Percentage |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| 27.<br><br>What is your age? | 18-24        | 3              | 3%         |
|                              | 25-34        | 15             | 16%        |
|                              | 35-44        | 17             | 18%        |
|                              | 45-54        | 20             | 22%        |
|                              | 55-64        | 14             | 15%        |
|                              | 65-74        | 19             | 21%        |
|                              | 75 and older | 4              | 4%         |
|                              | Total        | 92             |            |

### Q28. Gender identity

Most respondents identify as female (57%), followed by male (36%), then gender nonconforming (2%).

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

|  |                      | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| 28.<br><br>How do you define your gender? <i>Check all that apply.</i> | Male                 | 32             | 36%        |
|  | Female               | 51             | 57%        |
|  | Gender nonconforming | 2              | 2%         |
|  | Prefer not to say    | 5              | 6%         |
|  | Total                | 90             |            |

### Q29. Hispanic or Latinx

Most respondents are not Hispanic or Latinx (97%).

|  |   | # of Responses | Percentage |
|--|---|----------------|------------|
| 29.<br><br>Do you consider yourself as Hispanic, Latino, Latina, or of Spanish origin? | Yes, Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Spanish origin    | 3              | 3%         |
|  | No, not Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Spanish origin | 88             | 97%        |
|  | Total   | 91             |            |

### Q30. Race

Most respondents identified as white (85%), followed by Alaska Native (6%), mixed race (3%), Asian (2%), then Black, Pacific Islander, and some other race (1% each).

|                               |  | # of Responses | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------|------------|
| 30.<br><br>What is your race? | Black/African American                     | 1              | 1%         |
|                               | Caucasian/White                            | 76             | 85%        |
|                               | American Indian/Aleut/Eskimo/Alaska Native | 5              | 6%         |
|                               | Asian                                      | 2              | 2%         |
|                               | Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander           | 1              | 1%         |
|                               | Mixed race                                 | 3              | 3%         |
|                               | Some other race                            | 1              | 1%         |
|                               | Total                                      | 89             |            |



# Fish Creek Trail Survey

1. Do you live in the Spenard neighborhood?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No **Go to question 10.**

2. How long have you lived in Spenard?

|                                  | Years | Months |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Length of time living in Spenard |       |        |

3. Right now, if you had the choice, would you continue to live in Spenard or would you move somewhere else?

- ☐ Definitely continue to live in Spenard
- ☐ Probably continue to live in Spenard
- ☐ Probably move somewhere else
- ☐ Definitely move somewhere else

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I feel that I really belong in Spenard – it feels like home to me."

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know **Go to question 6.**

5. Please describe in a few words why you responded as you did to that statement.

6. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I am proud to tell others that I live in Spenard"?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know **Go to question 8.**

7. Please describe in a few words why you responded the way you did to the question above.

8. Do you feel that arts and cultural activities have influenced your sense of belonging in Spenard?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

**The next questions talk about creative activities. Examples of creative activities include:**

- **Visual** – painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, printmaking
- **Performing** – music, dance, theater, storytelling, poetry slam, comedy
- **Writing** – creative writing, public readings
- **Crafts** – pottery, jewelry, fiber arts, quilting, woodworking, metalcraft, bookmaking
- **Media** – electronic media, filmmaking, other use of technology

9. How would you rate Spenard on the following?

|   | Very good             | Good                  | Fair                  | Poor                  | Don't know            |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Opportunities for people of all ages to be creative or experience creative activities                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Opportunities for people to participate in activities that express their cultural history and traditions      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Opportunities for people to participate in activities about cultures that are different from their own        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Creative expression (examples: murals, sculpture, performances, temporary art installations) in public places | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Support for artists and creative businesses   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| A welcoming environment for all people to participate   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

10. How important are the following to you personally?

|   | Very important        | Somewhat important    | Not very important    | Not important at all  | Don't know            |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Opportunities for people of all ages to experience art and cultural traditions                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Opportunities for people to participate in activities that express their cultural history and traditions      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Opportunities for people to participate in activities about cultures that are different from their own        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Creative expression (examples: murals, sculpture, performances, temporary art installations) in public places | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Support for artists and creative businesses   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**The following questions are about the Fish Creek Trail in your community.**

11. In the last 12 months, have you been to Fish Creek Trail for any reason?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No **Go to question 19.**

12. In the last 12 months, how often would you say you visited the Fish Creek Trail to meet friends, relax, read, walk, or some other casual use?

- ☐ Often  
☐ Sometimes  
☐ Rarely  
☐ Never

13. In the last 12 months, how often would you say you visited the Fish Creek Trail for an organized event or activity?

- ☐ Often  
☐ Sometimes  
☐ Rarely  
☐ Never

14. What are the one or two things you like most about being at the Fish Creek Trail?
15. Thinking about how you have used the Fish Creek Trail over the last 12 months, what benefits, if any, have you personally experienced? **Check all that apply.**

- ☐ I have met people in the community that I did not know before.
- ☐ I have met people who share the same interests as me.
- ☐ I have met people who are different from me (age, race, ethnicity, income, etc.).
- ☐ There are activities there that my kids enjoy.
- ☐ My kids have made new friends there.
- ☐ I have become involved in community groups or projects through the people I meet there.
- ☐ It makes me feel safe.
- ☐ I enjoy being there.
- ☐ Being there is relaxing – it helps me reduce stress.
- ☐ It is full of energy.
- ☐ It makes me feel a part of the neighborhood.
- ☐ There are no benefits for me personally.
- ☐ Some other reason: \_\_\_\_\_

16. In the last 12 months, did you bring any visitors from out of town to the Fish Creek Trail?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No **Go to question 20.**
- ☐ Don't remember **Go to question 20.**

17. What made you bring your visitors to the Fish Creek Trail? **Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Relax or play
- ☐ Give a tour of the neighborhood
- ☐ One of my favorite places in the neighborhood
- ☐ Show the character of the neighborhood
- ☐ Show how the neighborhood has changed
- ☐ Attend an event
- ☐ Some other reason: \_\_\_\_\_

18. If you bring visitors to the Fish Creek Trail to attend an event/s, tell us which event/s.

**Go to question 20.**

19. We'd like to understand more about why you have not been to Fish Creek Trail. *Check all that apply.*

- ☐ It is not convenient for me to get to.
- ☐ The parks along the Fish Creek Trail do not appeal to me.
- ☐ The Fish Creek Trail does not feel safe to me.
- ☐ I do not feel welcome on the Fish Creek Trail.
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

20. If there is anything else you would like to tell us about the Fish Creek Trail, please use the space below.

**We'd like to know your thoughts about living in your community.**

21. How much of a positive difference do you feel that you, yourself, can make in the community?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ A fair amount
- ☐ Some
- ☐ A little or none

**Finally, we'd like to finish up with a few quick questions.**

22. Do you currently rent your home or do you own it?

- ☐ I rent my home.
- ☐ I own my home.
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

23. Including yourself, how many adults 18 years of age or older live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

24. How many of the adults 18 years of age or older are 65 or older? \_\_\_\_\_

25. How many children under 18 years of age live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

26. What language is most often spoken in your household?

- ☐ English
- ☐ Hmong
- ☐ Tagalog
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



27. What is your age?

- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75 and older

28. How do you define your gender? *Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Gender nonconforming
- ☐ Prefer not to say

29. Do you consider yourself as Hispanic, Latino, Latina, or of Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes, Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Spanish origin
- ☐ No, not Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Spanish origin

30. What is your race?

- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Caucasian/White
- ☐ American Indian/Aleut/Eskimo/Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ Mixed race
- ☐ Some other race

**Thank you for completing this survey.**