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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Bird to Gird trail maintenance continues through grant and volunteers

(Anchorage, AK) – Hikers and bicyclists who enjoy Chugach State Park’s popular “Bird to Gird” trail will be pleased to know that the trail will be in great shape soon after the Memorial Day weekend.

Alaska State Parks awarded Alaska Trails \$42,339 through a Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant from the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Federal Highway Administration in 2020 to clear brush, make the trail more accessible, fill in cracks and paint the center line. Snowline Alaska was able to complete the work of sealing cracks and repainting in 2020.

However, concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the brushing work last year, recent increases in vaccination rates and lessening of COVID concerns is opening the way for the work to get done this spring, said Ricky Gease, director of the parks division.

“We know many Alaskans are eager to get back on the trail after the long winter and social distancing of the pandemic,” Gease said. “The Bird to Gird trail is very attractive to hikers and bikers, and we are glad to cooperate with Alaska Trails and their dedicated volunteers to return this recreational pathway to a safe and welcoming condition.”

While the grant will pay for a contractor to use mechanical brushing equipment to do most of the work, the machines cannot reach all of the hard-to-reach segments, Gease said.

“Alaska Trails is excited to make this amazing trail safer and more fun,” said Steve Cleary, executive director of Alaska Trails. “We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Chugach State Park on this project and we hope to make it annual occurrence to keep this trail in great shape.”

With the trail restored to good condition following the pandemic, Alaska State Parks will resume the responsibility for continued maintenance, Gease said.

For more information about hiking, camping and other outdoor recreation opportunities through Alaska State Parks, go to: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/>

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