

Recreational Trails Program funded 26 projects equaling \$1,409,590 in 2018

The following Recreational Trails Program projects have been approved by the Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and the USDOT, Federal Highway Administration. These are reimbursable, grant-funded projects, happening throughout the state of Alaska between 2018 and 2020.

Anchorage Area

DPOR, Chugach State Park, Rabbit Lake Trail Improvements: \$33,096.00

Chugach State Park is upgrading the Rabbit Lake Trail. The upgrades address chronic drainage issues and reopen a shrinking trail corridor. These improvements bring the trail to a sustainable alignment and make it more enjoyable for bikers, skiers, and hikers.

DPOR, Chugach State Park, Iditarod NHT (Crow Pass) Phase 1: \$49,781.00

During the summer of 2018 Chugach State Park worked to improve the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Crow Pass. Phase 1 constructed a new section of trail near "The Perch". This new section of trail replaced a rapidly deteriorating stretch of trail, making it much more sustainable.

Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance, Girdwood Mountain Bike Park Phase 1: \$50,000.00

The Girdwood Mountain Bike Alliance hired a design-build contractor for the construction of three, short, class #3 mountain bike trails in upper Girdwood Valley. The project site is bordering, and contained within, the existing 5K Nordic Ski Loop. One class #2/3 trail and two class #3/4 trails with clearing widths of 8, and 12, feet respectively, were built. These trails contain features including jumps, berms, rollers etc. appropriate for beginner and advanced riders, and have 5-10% grades with smooth, hardened, wearable surfaces, that contain purpose-built mountain bike features.

Alaska Trails, Mirror Lake Phase II: \$50,000.00

Alaska Trails and Chugach Mountain Bike Riders collaborated to design and build 1.75 miles of designed-use single track bike trails, building off the successful completion of Phase 1. The trails are located on the Mirror Lake and Edmonds Lake Municipal Park land in Chugiak. The single-track trails will be integrated with the current Nordic ski trails that are located adjacent to the Glenn Highway.

Federation of Community Councils, Govt. Hill West Bluff Trail Connection: \$31,920.00

This trail project re-establishes an historic trail along the west bluff of Government Hill in Anchorage that is shown on a 1921 map of the Ship Creek Area. On the south bluff, it connects to one of the original 1915 wagon roads from Ship Creek up to the residential area on Government Hill. The trail wraps around Brown's Point, at a point about mid-way between the port access road, and the level of the homes at the top of the bluff. It continues, approximately following the 1921 trail, and at the North bluff, it slopes up to connect to the Suzan Nightingale McKay Memorial Park. The trail connection fits entirely within the Government Hill Greenbelt, which is a Municipality of Anchorage Lease from the Alaska Railroad Corporation.

USFS Chugach National Forest, Winner Creek Trail: \$49,918.00

This project replaces an approximately 550' stretch of old step-and-run boardwalk that has lived past its useful life, with an extended gravel turnpike, as seen elsewhere on Winner Creek Trail. This is a very busy trail that can often be wet and difficult to travel. A gravel turnpike will be a longer lasting, more sustainable solution for getting users above the water table and out of the muck where there is

potential for resource damage. Additionally, gravel turnpikes will be a more accommodating and safer tread surface for the many users that this busy trail sees. As an added benefit the new turnpike will improve administrative and emergency access on the Winner Creek Trail, as it will be wide enough to allow ATVs and heavier trail construction equipment.

Matanuska-Susitna Valley

DPOR, Denali State Park, Curry Ridge Trail Phase IV: \$99,335.00

This project is Phase IV of a multi-phase trail project which ultimately seeks to build a trail connecting the Kesugi Ken Campground to the historic Curry Lookout and to the Kesugi Ridge Trail.

Phase IV will design, layout, and build approximately 2.5 miles of trail connecting "Rocky Knob" near Lake 1787 on the current Curry Ridge Trail to the alpine region near the historic Curry Lookout over two seasons.

DPOR, Mat-Su, Denali State Park, Kesugi Ken to Byers Lake Snowmachine Trail: \$240,765.00

This trail is designed for winter- only, motorized, two-way, snowmachine use and will be designated as a "Multiuse" trail system. The trail design includes 15.5 miles of brushed trail extending from Kesugi Ken campground to the Byers Lake trail system.

DPOR, Mat-Su, Hatcher Pass: \$62,834.00

This project has two parts. The first part was installation of approximately 50 feet of boardwalk on the Mile 16 bike trail. This remedies where the trail was undercut from erosion due to hillside collapse. The second project was replacement of a damaged bridge at the Gold Cord Lake trailhead where it had become damaged and unstable.

Interior Alaska

Fairbanks Northstar Borough, Tanana Lakes phase IV: \$41,975.00

This trail project will finish construction of 1,700ft of trail on the east end of Eagle trail near Fairbanks, using 6" of compacted Recycled Asphalt Product to make an 8ft-wide trail for walking, jogging, biking, fishing access, and skiing.

DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Mastodon Construction: \$91,426.00

This final phase of construction will build the last 3 1/2 miles of Mastodon trail to the Nugget Creek Public Use Cabin in Chena River State Recreation Area, and finish the 12-mile single track trail, over two seasons.

DPOR, Chena River SRA, Angel Rocks Trail: \$17,455.00

This project repaired 300 ft. of severely-degraded existing trail tread and blocked short-cutting along an additional 300 ft. of the Angel Rocks Trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area. Three hundred feet of trail was landscaped with rock to provide a durable tread and 300' of braided trail mitigated using native materials to prevent cutting switchbacks as well as restricting use to a single trail.

DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Mastodon Hardening II: \$23,899.00

During the past five years of trail construction many passes have been made by ATVs working on the trail. This has caused severe rutting and has compromised the tread surface. This project works to restore tread integrity and smooth rutting, to complete the 12-mile trail.

DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Northern Area Training and Assessment: \$13,313

The DPOR Northern area trail crew was hired, the training was set up and prepared, and trail projects were prioritized. The training included ATV and chain saw training, policy and procedures training, and training on best management practices for trail construction.

Southeast Alaska

DPOR, Southeast, Haines: Seduction Point Trail Rehabilitation: \$39,293

This project rehabilitates Seduction Point trail in Haines from the trailhead to the beach side meadow known as Moose Meadow, at trail mile 1.5. The project prioritizes repair and replacement of failing stairs, bridges, and boardwalks. The secondary focus addresses severely muddy, eroded, and rooted areas by improving drainage, constructing a causeway, and general tread improvement.

DPOR, Southeast, Settlers Cove Trail Access Improvements (Ketchikan): \$47,808.00

This project focuses on the repair and improvement of existing trails within the Settlers Cove State Recreational Area. The project also includes building two walk-in campsites with tent platforms and a 250' trail connecting to an existing trail to access those campsites and the creation of two designated parking spots for those walk-in sites in an existing parking area.

DPOR, Southeast, Mt. Riley Trail Restoration (Haines): \$19,272.00

This project rehabilitates the Mt. Riley trail in Chilkat State Park. The work focuses on brushing, logging, drainage, trail marking, and erosion abatement on the three-mile trail from its beginning on the Battery Point Trail, to the summit of Mt. Riley. Additionally, the project purchased two trail counters to assess usage of the main Battery Point Trail and Mt. Riley Spur.

Kenai Peninsula/ Valdez

DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Saddle Trail Re-Route Phase IV: \$50,000.00

This project continues from Phase III re-aligning the trail/tread and corridor of the Saddle Trail from its present location. This phase of the project includes clearing new trail alignment, removing root wads, and building new tread to correct drainage and erosion problems, providing improved access, reducing grades and improving views. Phase I and II, clearing the corridor and removing vegetation to mineral soil are complete.

DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Lagoon Trail Repair: \$50,000.00

This project re-established the existing Lagoon trail corridor by removing downed trees and brush. It reconstructed damaged tread that had sloughed and/or disappeared. It re-routed fall-line portions of the trail with a more sustainable grade and tread surface, and moved the trail from out of a bog.

Tsalteshi Trails Association, Kenai Peninsula: Slikok Trail Expansion: \$100,000

A contracted trail builder will construct 2 miles of purpose-built single-track trails on the property designated as the "Central Peninsula Landfill Buffer Area" referred to now as "Slikok Expansion" that connects with the Tsalteshi Trails across Isaak road. Tsalteshi Trails will also continue the construction and repair of existing multi use ski, skijor, bike trails that began on this property during the summer of 2017.

DPOR, Kenai Peninsula, Eshamy Bay PUC: \$50,570

The money awarded from this grant will pay for the labor to prepare the building site and construct one 16' x 16' Public Use Cabin and latrine in Eshamy Bay in Prince William Sound, leveraging additional project funds for building materials granted from a third party. This new cabin will offer a new destination and access for recreational boaters.

DPOR, Kenai Peninsula, Morgan's Landing Day Use Trail Improvements: \$38,389.00

This project improved a 500-foot stretch of the Morgan's Landing Day Use Trail, which parallels the Kenai River. Improvements included the installation of approximately 500 feet of elevated light penetrating boardwalk constructed of 4-foot-wide fiberglass grating and supported by pressure treated dimensional lumber.

Ground Truth Trekking, Kachemak Bay State Park, Tutka Backdoor Access and Continuity: \$18,100.00

In Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park: this project will extend the new Tutka Backdoor trail at the head of Tutka Bay to allow better water access. Reroute steep bear-trail sections to prevent erosion and improve accessibility. Build an easy to follow "garden path" over the pass with cairns. Install a trailhead register and other trail markers and cairns. Purchase and install automated trail counters to document trail usage. Bring in an expert in trail building rock work to lead volunteers in creating rock staircases and structures where terrain constrains the trail to steep passages.

Kodiak

DPOR, Kodiak, Fort Abercrombie Trails:13,935.00

This grant fixed short lengths of three trails within Abercrombie State Historical Park on Kodiak Island.

Piedmont Point Trail was repaired utilizing a trail crew to improve .2 miles of tread by removing duff, improving drainage with hand tools, blocking social trails with natural materials, and then applying 25 yards of gravel using wheel barrows and hand tools.

Parkside Trail was repaired utilizing a trail crew to improve .1 miles of tread by removing duff, improving drainage with hand tools, applying 5 yards of gravel using wheel barrows and hand tools, and removing loose planks from 5 puncheon-style boardwalks, clearing the debris and reattaching the planks.

Lake Gertrude Loop Trail was repaired utilizing a trail crew to improve .1 miles of tread by removing duff, improving drainage with hand tools, applying 10 yards of gravel using wheel barrows and hand tools, and replacing deteriorating planks from 4 small bridge/boardwalks along the trail.

DPOR, Kodiak, Afognak Trail: \$9,512.00

This project repaired 1.8 miles of trail on a popular route from Pillar Lake public use cabin to Edge Mountain alpine trail and also repaired 1.7 miles of trail on a popular, but rudimentary route, from Laura Lake public use cabin to Paul's Lake both utilizing a trail crew to clear brush, repair and level tread, install boardwalk and signs. The public will benefit from this project because currently the trails used to get to these areas are under-developed and not well-maintained. Log books indicate people getting lost on the way to both cabins.

Statewide

DPOR, Alaska Trails Program Administrative Allowance: \$106,955

This grant covers expenditures for administering the RTP. These costs include paying the wages of administrative and accounting staff for billings, reimbursements, and accounting needs. This grant also pays for expenses associated with the federally-required Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board to attend their annual meeting in Anchorage.