

Recreational Trails Program funded 22 projects in 2019
RTP Funds totaled \$1,209,449.06, Other Funds totaled \$135,873.22

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 2019 and 2021.

Anchorage Area

Alaska Trails, South Fork Rim Trail:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$59,175.00, Other Funds (Match) \$6,588.00

This project will include a total reconstruction of the popular South Fork Rim Trail in Chugach State Park, a length of 2 miles. This trail is particularly important as it is one of the more popular multi-use trails in the entire Alaska State Park system. This trail also services as the transition from the urban environment of Anchorage to the wilderness of the Chugach Mountains. It is estimated that this trail sees as many as 50,000 users per year. The current trail is suffering from resource damage and failing infrastructure. This project seeks to fix those problems with sustainable design and construction accomplished by a combination of a professional trail builder and volunteers.

DNR DPOR Chugach, Eklutna Lakeside Trail Infrastructure:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$59,009.00, Other Funds (Match) \$7,968.00

Chugach State Park plans to provide the following improvements to the Eklutna Lakeside Trail: brush and clear the corridor along sections of trail with encroaching brush; construct 100' boardwalk to route the trail around a large pond in the middle of the trail; refurbish the interior of the Yuditna Public Use Cabin; and install bear resistant food storage lockers and replace picnic tables at the two backcountry campgrounds along the trail.

DNR DPOR Chugach, Hillside Trail Network Improvements:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$53,907.00, Other Funds (Match) \$6,008.00

Chugach State Park will work to improve the popular Hillside Trail Network. We will focus on two of the more popular trails in the network that are commonly used together. On Middle Fork of Campbell Creek Trail, we will complete a 1 mile reroute. This reroute will replace an unsustainable fall line section of the trail. The new trail will be built utilizing sustainable contour-linear full bench construction. The Williwaw Lakes Trail will see 0.5 miles of trail rebuilt at its junction with Middle Fork Trail. The current trail suffers from a flat alignment on the valley floor. This alignment travels directly through several muddy bogs. The new trail will be a combination of full bench construction where side hill is present (75% of the reroute) and boardwalk across unavoidable bogs.

Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc., Eagle River Nature Center Trail Signage:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$16,800.00, Other Funds (Match) \$1,680.00

The Eagle River Nature Center's trail system needs new replacement trail posts and signage at every intersection along 10 miles of trail. The signs and posts are either missing, inaccurate or damaged. Improved signage is needed to help visitors find their way and to aid rescuers by installing signs that include mileage and location designations.

Girdwood Trails Committee, Girdwood Iditarod National Historic Trail Phase I, Section II:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$74,871.00, Other Funds (Match) \$8,833.00

This 0.75 mile segment is Section II of a multi-phase project to bring the existing trail alignment up to USFS specifications for a National Historic Trail: 6' wide, 10-14" above existing grade, with hard-packed gravel surface and plastic culverts where needed to allow water to flow into drainages. Trail will follow alignment already designated by the USFS.

Matanuska-Susitna Valley

DNR DPOR Mat-Su, Reed Lakes Phase III:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$50,000.00, Other Funds (Match) \$5,824.00

This project will include the rework of and reroute of eroded, badly degraded, non-sustainable trail sections located in the upper Reed Lakes trail from approximately mile 2.25 to mile 5.25. Work will be completed to harden tread, reroute and sign non-sustainable sections, and complete rock installations at multiple points throughout this section to enhance trail stability. A total of four tent platforms will be installed in the Lower and Upper Reed Lakes area to reduce impacts to sensitive native vegetation.

Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District, Riverside Trail Repair:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$49,974.00, Other Funds (Match) \$5,552.67

The improved Riverside Trail tread near Talkeetna will stay within the existing trail footprint except for re-routing a 0.15-mile section that has been washed into the Susitna River. By repairing this trail, a popular walking trail close to the town, and deterring camping, campfires, and social trails, damage to the fragile riverbank and potential cultural resources will be mitigated.

Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers, Government Peak Recreation Area Phase III Downhill Trail:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$29,192.00, Other Funds (Match) \$3,244.00

Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers will develop a downhill-only mountain bike single track trail within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area. The new trail will have an advanced to expert level of difficulty and will be approximately ½ mile in length. The proposed trail will not cross any streams or ephemeral drainages and will not require any bridges or culverts. The new section of trail will be signed with flexible carbonite posts on both ends of the trail.

Interior Alaska

Delta Junction Trails Association, Bluff Cabin Trail Phase II:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$89,894.00, Other Funds (Match) \$9,985.00

Phase I, completed in 2016, successfully hardened the initial 1.3 miles. This phase proposes the construction of approximately 3 miles of multi-use, multi-season trail to a sustainable realignment along the side slope of Bluff Cabin Ridge and restore berms and drains along approximately one additional mile of trail. It will also install a kiosk and 15 signs. A trail assessment of the Bluff Cabin Trail, conducted in October 2016, found that the Slough and Cabin segments are extensively damaged and in an un-maintainable condition because of poor alignment.

DNR DPOR Northern, Compeau Trail Public Use Cabin:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$59,655.00, Other Funds (Match) \$6,628.00

Grant funds will purchase a 14'x16' log cabin package ordered from Delta Logging and Milling Associates LLC. Grant funds will also purchase the cabin materials such as foundation, floor, roof, furnishing, deck, insulations, outhouse, door, and windows. These will be purchased through bid abstracts from local vendors and pay park staff to deliver and construct at mile 2 Compeau Trail in Chena River State Recreation Area.

DNR DPOR Northern, Granite Tors Boardwalk Phase II:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$55,906.00, Other Funds (Match) \$6,211.00

This grant will finish replacing the 35-year old western section of the Granite Tors Boardwalk. There are 2,588 lineal feet of boardwalk needing replaced. (485) 2"x8"x16' all weather planks and (25) 6"x6"x16' treated timbers will be purchased along with two boxes of fasteners. Helicopter pads will be brushed out and lumber flown in via helicopter. Old boards will be removed the following winter by snow machine, loaded on a roll away connex and transported to the landfill.

DNR DPOR Northern, Mastodon Trail Cabin:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$48,412.00, Other Funds (Match) \$5,378.00

This grant will fund construction of a public use cabin at the end of Mastodon Trail in Chena River State Recreation Area. The scribe-fit log cabin will be designed and constructed by the Folk School of Fairbanks. The Mastodon Public Use Cabin will be located at mile 12 of the newly constructed Mastodon Trail. The new trail and trail head are located at mile 38.6 Chena Hot Springs Road in Chena River State Recreation Area.

DNR DPOR Northern, Olnes Pond ATV Trail:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$50,261.00, Other Funds (Match) \$5,585.00

Olnes Pond is located at milepost 11 off the Elliott Highway in Lower Chatanika State Recreation Area, 20 miles north of Fairbanks. The site is a popular ATV destination. The past two seasons trail crews hardened approximately two miles of trail and rehabbed old damaged sections. This will be the final phase of trail hardening at Olnes Pond. Grant funds will harden 3,622 lineal feet of trail to finish the project.

Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation, Isberg East-West Multi-Use Trail:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$99,356.06, Other Funds (Match) \$11,039.55

This project involves repairs to degraded sections of trail along a 1/2 -mile corridor in the Isberg Recreation Area. The Fairbanks North Star Borough will harden heavily damaged sections of trail by installing gravel fill on top geotextile fabric and adding plastic culverts in areas with significant cross tread flow. Project work will result in improved trail access for motorized and non-motorized users and decrease trail braiding and wetland degradation.

Southeast Alaska

DNR DPOR Ketchikan, Settlers Cove PUC ADA Access Improvements:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$46,227.00, Other Funds (Match) \$5,199.00

This project will increase outdoor recreational opportunities for persons with mobility issues, physical disabilities and allow access to Ketchikan's only drive up public use cabin to a wider range of people. The Public Use Cabin at Settlers Cove SRS is extremely popular, it is currently being occupied over 260 days a year. Ketchikan's wet and mild climate help to spur year-round use. The project will include improving trail access from the cabin to the Hollow Cedar Trail which already allows for wheelchair access with assistance to the beach day-use area.

Takshanuk Watershed Council, Take in the Sights-Recreation Enhancement:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$33,960.00, Other Funds (Match) \$4,086.00

The Takshanuk Watershed Council will improve recreation on its 50-acre conservation property located in Haines, AK along the Chilkat River. This will be accomplished through construction of a 16x24 foot picnic shelter overlooking the Chilkat River, two picnic tables, two benches, a trail counter, fire ring and donation box at the trailhead. The addition of these recreational elements will greatly improve the recreation experience on the property, increase use by those with disabilities, and allow for sustainable management of the property into the future.

Kenai Peninsula/Valdez

DNR DPOR Kenai, China Poot Lake Trail Repair:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$75,000.00, Other Funds (Match) \$8,333.00

The China Poot Lake Trail Repair goals are: trail corridor brushing; removal of stumps and roots from the treadway; tread repair; replacement/construction of log foot bridges and puncheons; erosion control in selective areas to include construction/reconstruction of drainage-ditches, outflow ditches, and rolling drain dips; and short realignment and trail construction around seasonal flooded section of trail.

HoWL, Inc., HoWL Trails Days:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$34,412.00, Other Funds (Match) \$3,823.00

HoWL will be conducting a series of outings during the 2019 and 2020 summer months involving 8 youth participants and 3 instructors. These 5-day remote work trips will focus on trail improvements and repairs to trails in Kachemak Bay State Park. The trails included are Emerald Lake Trail and Campground and Alpine Ridge Trail. One 5-day trip per site will be completed per summer for both the 2019 and 2020 seasons. Similarly, a series of 3-day trips will be taken to Calvin and Coyle Trail in Homer per summer for both the 2019 and 2020 seasons. These day trips will focus on removing downed trees, placing additional signage, and repairing damaged boardwalk.

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, Poopdeck Platt Community Trail:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$45,921.00, Other Funds (Match) \$5,102.00

The Poopdeck Platt Community Trail Project will construct approximately 1,515 feet (0.29 miles) of Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Accessible trail in downtown Homer, Alaska across property owned by Kachemak Heritage Land Trust and the adjacent property owned by the City of Homer. The construction of the trail is scheduled to take place from mid-June 2019 to mid-July to 2019.

Tsalteshi Trails Association, Tsalteshi Trails Lighting Extension:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$58,798.00, Other Funds (Match) \$6,867.00

The signage at Tsalteshi needs to be updated and repaired. Tsalteshi Trails Association (TTA) will add a circuit of LED lighting on the Rabbit Loop. TTA will also add lights to the inadequately lighted areas on the Wolf, Weasel, Moose, and Sprint Course circuits. This project will require a total of 35 new lights. TTA will replace outdated maps and signs at intersections and kiosks with aluminum panel photo maps and reflective aluminum trail signs.

Kodiak

DNR DPOR Kodiak, Shuyak Trail System Improvements:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$11,764.00, Other Funds (Match) \$1,322.00

This project will install trail signs with mileage, distance, and direction arrows at key locations along the 15-mile trail system on Shuyak Island. This project will also rehabilitate the trail system's 4 public use cabins and accompanying structures because their integrity is compromised by coastal rainforest conditions and heavy use. This will include scrubbing down then staining and sealing the cabins, porches, outhouses, and woodsheds, as well as sealing all the doors, re-painting the wood stoves, and re-painting the interiors of the outhouses.

Statewide

DNR DPOR, Alaska Trails Program Administrative Allowance:

RTP Funds (Federal Award) \$106,955.00, Other Funds (Match) \$10,617.00

This grant covers expenditures for administering the Recreational Trails Program. 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.