

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



Andrew T. Mack
Commissioner

Elizabeth Bluemink 907.269.8434
Communications Coordinator elizabeth.bluemink@alaska.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2018

State park access projects underway soon in Fairbanks area

(Fairbanks, AK) – It's going to be a busy summer season for recreational access upgrades in the Chena River and Lower Chatanika state parks recreation areas.

Trailhead upgrades are planned in the Chena River State Recreation Area at the Compeau, Mastodon, and Upper Chena Dome trailheads. This work will improve hunter access, increase parking, and add restrooms. State Parks is also making a variety of upgrades at the Olnes Pond and Whitefish campgrounds at the Lower Chatanika State Recreation Area – adding culverts, re-grading the access road, and other maintenance.

Park users can expect temporary closures in June and July during construction. For current closures, call the Alaska State Parks Northern Region office at 451-2695.

The projects in Chena River State Recreation Area will continue throughout the summer. During construction, only one trailhead will close at a time and closures aren't expected until mid-July.

Construction at the Lower Chatanika State Recreation Area will begin on June 11. The Olnes Pond campground and day-use area at Mile 10.5 of Elliott Highway, will close to the public on June 11. The Whitefish campground and day-use area at Mile 11 of the Elliott Highway, will remain open during construction at Olnes Pond. Once Olnes Pond reopens, Whitefish will close for construction. Both campgrounds and day-use areas will briefly reopen from June 29 to July 9 to accommodate campers during the July 4th holiday.

The projects are being funded by a federal Pittman-Robertson Act grant at a cost of approximately \$2.4 million.

CONTACT: Brooks Ludwig, 451-2698, brooks.ludwig@alaska.gov

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