

which means less fish for your cooler. Sediment stirred up by tires is bad for fry, Do not ride your ATV in the river. you head out. information about local fisheries, before www.adfg.alaska.gov for regulations and openings for spearfishing in fall. Check take note: Chatanika River has limited Campground. Fans of fishing the oldway Chatanika River is available at Whitefish and whitefish. A boat launch onto the chub, longnose sucker, rainbow trout, Pond has burbot, Arctic grayling, lake pike, sheefish, and slimy sculpins. Olnes least cisco, longnose sucker, northern salmon, humpback whitefish, king salmon, grayling, Arctic lamprey, burbot, chum river fishing. The Chatanika River has Arctic This area is a local hot-spot for lake and Fishing the Chatanika

Olnes Dond Campground.

In the heart of the park Olnes York of and the park Olnes York of and the park Olnes York of the park of the park

Olnes Pond Campground.
Whitefish Campground, in the northern part of the park, can be accessed from the Elliott Highway and offers camping and a boat launch onto the Chatanika River.

Ouiet hours are from 11 p.m.-6 a.m., so no midnight rides.

Campsites are equipped with fire rings, picnic tables, and nearby water and toilets. These campgrounds have no RV size limit.

Whitefish Campground has eight campsites adjacent to the Chatanika River. If you'd like to camp near Olnes Pond, there are 12 sites around its edge.

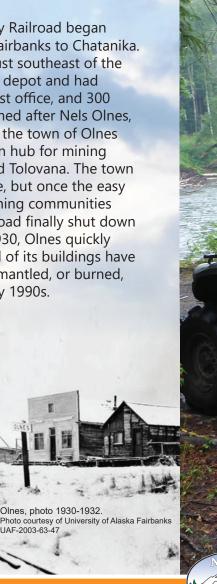
Wildlife Viewing

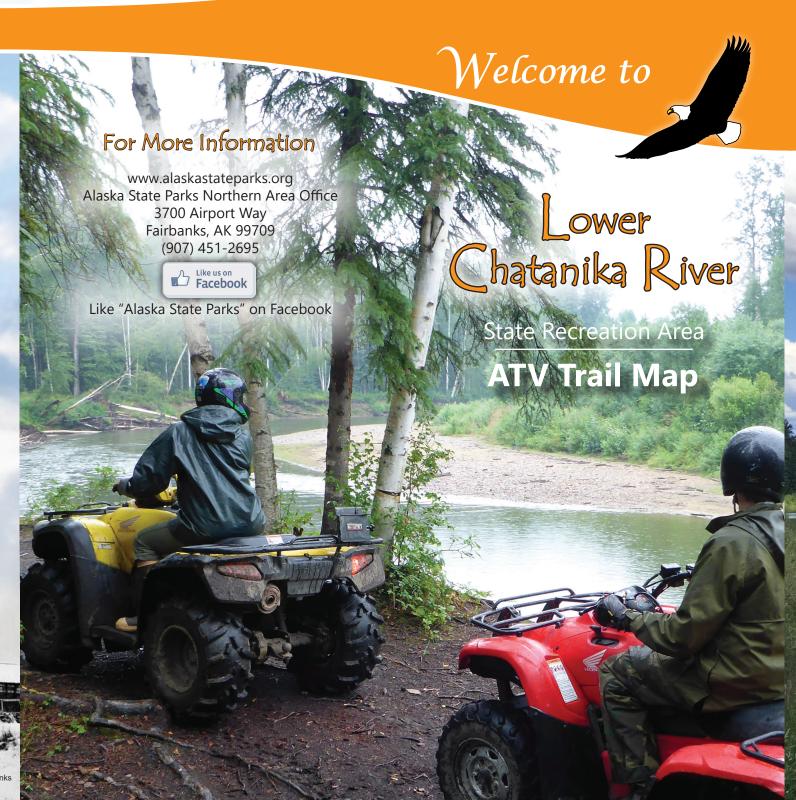
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Area History

The name Chatanika is derived from the Lower Tanana Athabascan name *Dradlaya Nik'a*, meaning "whitefish river." Native placenames record the geographic significance of this landscape to the Tanana Athabascans.

In 1907, the Tanana Valley Railroad began operating a route from Fairbanks to Chatanika. The town site of Olnes, just southeast of the park, served as a railroad depot and had a general store, hotel, post office, and 300 residents at its peak. Named after Nels Olnes, a Norwegian prospector, the town of Olnes served as a transportation hub for mining areas near Livengood and Tolovana. The town bustled for over a decade, but once the easy gold had been taken, mining communities dwindled. When the railroad finally shut down the Chatanika route in 1930, Olnes quickly became a ghost town. All of its buildings have since been scrapped, dismantled, or burned, the last falling in the early 1990s.





Welcome

Set between the winding banks of the Chatanika River, Lower Chatanika River State Recreation Area (SRA) gives riders a chance to travel a network of trails that explore the forest and riverside. With a mostly flat profile, and only the occasional steep grade, Lower Chatanika River SRA's trails are a great place for beginners to get riding.

Riding

Relaxing

Canoeing

Camping

Fishing

Spearfishing

Hunting

Background photo: Olnes Pond

Alaska State Parks

Access

The Olnes Pond access road is located at milepost 11 of the Elliott Highway. Access to Whitefish Campground is about a quarter mile north at mile 11.2.

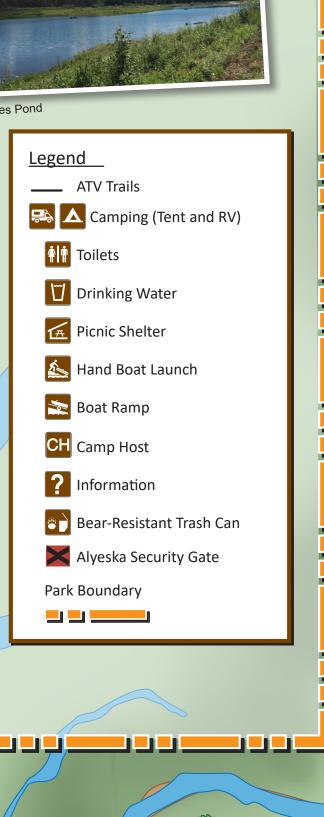
A Web of Trails

Lower Chatanika River SRA is a great place for ATVs, bikers, and hikers to choose a route and explore the northern boreal forest and the banks of the Chatanika River. The trails extend from Olnes Pond in nearly every direction, toward the meandering Chatanika River. You can make a half-loop from the northern to the southern ends of the pond on the western trails that stick close to the river. Or, you can just explore the trails and see what you find.

Hazardous areas are marked on the map, so choose a route that matches your skill level. Keep in mind that conditions change seasonally and that all hazards may not be noted.



Olnes Pond





Staying on the marked and flagged trail can help prevent

Elliott Highway

Whitefish

Campground

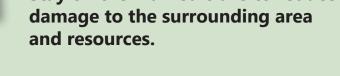
You may encounter muddy, rutted trails in highly trafficked areas.

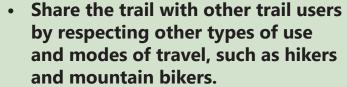


Many trail routes parallel the Chatanika River



Get a Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right-of way Use Guidelines, or RUG, from Alyeska Pipeline Security before traveling along the pipeline.





 Respect private property by staying on the trail easement when crossing private lands.