

Trail and Trailhead Access in Alaska State Parks**FY2014 Request: \$750,000****Reference No: 56920****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Parks / Recreation**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact:** Jean Davis**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2018**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

In order to provide for safe and memorable outdoor experiences for Alaskans and visitors, it is imperative that Alaska State Parks create and maintain a system of trails and trail heads that are managed to enhance recreational opportunities and access for a diverse population, provide greater resource protection, and require minimal maintenance. We have chosen five rehabilitation and maintenance projects on existing trails that have been prioritized by the Park Area Superintendents. Three of the five chosen projects have components that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Funding:	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$750,000						\$750,000
Total:	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$750,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

No prior funding history

Project Description/Justification:

AS 41.21.020 directs the Department of Natural Resources to maintain state park areas for the general health, welfare, education, and enjoyment of Alaskans and visitors to the state. The Alaska State Park system is an essential asset for the state's tourism industry, providing outdoor recreation opportunities for over five million visits annually. The importance of maintaining trails and trailheads so that they are safe, accessible, and meet the needs of a variety of park users, is paramount to the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's mission, core services, and the 2007-2017 Strategic Plan.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED?

While the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's staff performs limited repairs annually to maintain the trails and trailheads throughout the state park system, the overall condition of those trails and trail heads has declined so that they are not consistently meeting the needs of the public. Trail rehabilitation to meet sustainable guidelines will be required, in some cases, to reduce or eliminate annual funding needs.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED?

We have chosen the top five trail and trailhead projects throughout the state as identified by our regional area superintendents and the top administration leaders. These projects have been identified as essential to fulfill our public responsibility to AS 41.21.020.

WHAT RESULTS WILL BE ACHIEVED AND/OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED?

Alaska State Parks trails and trailheads provide residents and visitors with consistent, safe access to some of Alaska's greatest treasures. These trails play an important role in the economy of the tourism industry, and the health and well being of our population, adding to the quality of life for people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED NOW – WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF REMAINING STATUS QUO?

These trail projects have been selected as priorities because they include a variety of safety and access concerns that preclude or inhibit Alaska State Parks from fulfilling its responsibility to the public.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE CONSIDERED TO SOLVE THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM, AND WHY WERE THEY NOT SELECTED?

The magnitude of required trail maintenance and repair is far and above what is available from federal sources, such as the Recreational Trails Grant Program.

SPECIFIC SPENDING DETAIL:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Personal Services	\$ 0	
Travel	\$ 25,000	Travel to Field Locations
Services	\$ 25,000	Hire Professionals/Consultants
Commodities	\$ 25,000	Field Supplies
Capital Outlay	\$ 675,000	Construction and Work Related to Trails and Trailheads
Grants	\$ 0	
PROJECT TOTAL	\$ 750,000	

Location	Site/Area	Description	FY14 Request
Chugach	Eklutna Lake Campground	Trails /pathways grading and surfacing improvements. Lakeside trail pathway. Culvert and Bridge Safety	100.0
Chugach	Indian to Girdwood Bike Path	Repair 2012 wash-out, maintain and restore ADA accessibility and safety.	175.0
Kenai	Lowell Point State Recreation Site	Reconstruct drainage and install 2 18" CMPs for cross drainage, recondition surface with 4" base course for .25 miles of trail head access roadway and trailhead parking areas.	140.0
Mat-Su	Hatcher Pass Special Management Area	Rebuild Archangel Road winter trailhead. This trailhead will be ADA accessible.	135.0
Northern	Compeau Trailhead	Upgrade trailhead parking lot to meet ADA accessibility standards; move parking area off DOT ROW. Fill, level & grade parking area.	200.0

Project Support:

Alaska State Parks:

Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Anchorage Ski Club, Municipality of Anchorage, Chugach Access, Coalition, Great Land Trust, Anchorage Snowmobile Club, Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska Mountain Rescue Group, Mountaineering Club of Alaska, Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park, Homer Chamber of Commerce, Nikiski Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Coast Guard, Haines Borough, Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce, Mat-Su Visitors and Convention Bureau, Mat-Su Borough, Friends of Mat-Su Area State Parks

State Park Advisory boards in the following areas, parks or communities:

Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Chugach State Park, Mat-Su/Copper Basin, Kodiak, Kachemak Bay State Park, Southern Kenai Peninsula, Valdez, Northern (Fairbanks area)