

**State Parks Deferred Maintenance**

**FY2007 Request: \$360,000**  
**Reference No: 38878**

**AP/AL:** Allocation **Project Type:** Deferred Maintenance  
**Category:** Natural Resources  
**Location:** Statewide **Contact:** Nico Bus  
**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2406  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 03/15/2006 - 06/30/2008  
**Appropriation:** Agency Wide Deferred Maintenance

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

State Parks has identified over \$42 million in deferred maintenance needs. This project will promote the department's mission of providing outdoor recreational opportunities by funding deferred maintenance repairs to park units to protect visitor health and safety by providing safe, clean, and well maintained units. Projects will upgrade or replace basic facilities at parks including outhouses, drinking water systems, trails, fee stations, and camping to keep them from becoming an urgent health and safety hazard.

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>FY2009</b>	<b>FY2010</b>	<b>FY2011</b>	<b>FY2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gen Fund	\$360,000	\$400,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,760,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$360,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>\$2,760,000</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" 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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

FSSLA05/CH3 \$200,000  
 SLA2004/CH159 \$50,000  
 SLA2002/CH1 \$283,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

Alaska Statute 41.21.020 states that one of the duties of the Department of Natural Resources is to maintain state parks and recreation areas for the general health, welfare, education, and enjoyment of Alaskans and visitors to the state. While Parks is able to do minor repairs and painting to annually maintain Park facilities, these facilities have been steadily gathering a backlog of deferred maintenance work. Repairs for deferred maintenance require specific funding through the capital process. CIP funding for deferred maintenance for the past two years has started to stem the tide of the ever growing backlog. More funding is needed to repair deferred health and safety problems on roads, cabins, water systems and toilets. This year's request for \$360.0 will only repair the most pressing Park deferred maintenance problems. Currently over \$42 million in repairs is needed for deferred maintenance in the park system. There is no alternative to repairing existing park facilities other than closing park units for lack of adequate facilities. Partnering with the private sector to make these repairs is done wherever possible. Construction contracts for repairs will provide private sector jobs. Many repairs, such as to cabins, volunteer housing, and picnic shelters can and will be done with volunteer labor. One benefit of this project is that it will repair some of the worst deferred maintenance problems and reduce the deferred maintenance repair demand on the proposed operating budget.

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Alaska's state park system is the largest in America encompassing 24% of the nation's parkland. According to the yearly report from the National Association of State Park Directors, Alaska ranked 27<sup>th</sup> (up two from last year) in overnight camping visitation and 38<sup>th</sup> (up two from last year) in overall visitation in spite of our small population. However, it ranks 47<sup>th</sup> (down one from last year) in the number of employees and only two states (Hawaii and North Dakota) have smaller operating budgets. There are only 2 full time state park maintenance workers. Only one state (New Hampshire) has fewer. And while Alaska State Parks staff are well versed in the time-old Alaskan tradition of making repairs with little more than duct tape and bailing wire, over a decade's worth of declining maintenance funding has so deteriorated Alaska's parks that duct tape no longer works. In a park system where many water sources and outhouses are over 35 years old, the maintenance staff is thinly spread over many facilities. Many of the state parks are old, broken, and present potential health and safety hazards to visitors. Over \$42 million in deferred maintenance needs have been identified. This project will fund deferred maintenance repairs to park units to protect visitor health and safety. Projects will upgrade or replace the basic facilities at parks including outhouses, drinking water systems, safe access roads & trails, safe shelter from harsh weather, and safe camping sites. Facilities upgraded or replaced by this project will be easier and less expensive to operate and maintain, thereby allowing operating and maintenance efforts to be shifted to other facilities in need of upgrade and repair. The State Park infrastructure is broken. The longer we ignore the significant deferred maintenance needs of the state park system, the more expensive it will be to ultimately fix. In the meantime, the park system will lose visitors, and potential revenue for the state, as they are disgusted with the disrepair in many parks (outhouses and roads receive the most complaints). Also, the state runs the risk of paying for injuries or illness due to unsafe or unhealthy park facilities.

Alaska's State Parks are a source of pride for Alaskans and provide for road accessible fishing, camping, hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife viewing, cultural and historic site visitation, and other outdoor recreational pursuits. Alaskans and our visitors participate in outdoor activities at a much higher level than the national average. Because most State Park facilities are on the road system, and therefore more accessible than the national park system, enormous demands are placed on the State Park facilities. State Parks receive over three times the visitation of the national park system, with most visitation coming from Alaskans. Poorly maintained park facilities not only reflect poorly on the state and its effort to increase tourism, but they can be a health and safety hazard to park users. Whether park users are from Alaska or Outside, local communities benefit greatly from the economic impact of these people buying groceries, gas, fishing tackle, souvenirs, restaurant meals, showers, guidebooks, fishing guides, and sightseeing tours. To continue attracting these visitors, facilities must be repaired and maintained and meet basic health and safety requirements. In addition, each project provides funding for local suppliers of materials needed for these repairs.

**Why is this Project Needed Now:** Park facilities are getting older, requiring higher levels of annual maintenance and repair. Over the years as the state budget has tightened, projects for the replacement and rehabilitation of park facilities have not been funded, resulting in an ever increasing list of deferred maintenance repairs. Every year, more and more park facilities slide into a state of disrepair that results in increased hazards to the health and safety of the visiting public. In truth, much more is needed than is being requested. However, we do our best with whatever funds are provided and address those broken facilities that pose the largest threat to the public. If this project isn't funded, we just fall further behind on keeping our parks safe.

**Specific Spending Detail:** This project will begin to address the deferred maintenance needs in Alaska State parks in the following ways:

**FY06 Deferred Maintenance Needs for Alaska State Parks Inventory:**

Item	Description	Cost	Location
Ketchikan Ranger Station Repairs	Upgrade water, plumbing and septic system	\$50.0	Ketchikan
Hanson Ranger Station Heating System Replacement	Weatherize, insulate, heating and plumbing system repairs	\$24.3	Wasilla
Bird Creek Bridge Replacement,	Replace old/destroyed bridge	\$25.0	Indian
Halibut Point Picnic Area Rehab	Replace picnic tables, fire pits, modify for ADA access	\$38.0	Sitka
Totem Bight-Totem Pole On The Point	Stabilize foundation, mount to metal pole to prevent deterioration	\$71.4	Ketchikan
Totem Bight-Blackfish Totem Pole	Stabilize foundation, mount to metal pole to prevent deterioration		Ketchikan
Totem Bight-Sea Monster Totem Pole	Stabilize foundation, mount to metal pole to prevent deterioration		Ketchikan
Kodiak Volunteer Housing Upgrade	Replace substandard electrical service and heating system	\$18.0	Kodiak
Shuyak Island Crew Housing Repairs	Renovate substandard crew housing	\$32.0	Shuyak Island
Buskin River SRS Picnic Shelter Repairs	Replace 2 shelter roofs with metal roofing, anchor tables, and install 1 shelter concrete pad	\$25.0	Kodiak
Mat-Su Area Office Electrical System Replacement	Replace 35 year old electrical system bringing it to code	\$25.0	Wasilla
Colorado Creek PUC - Rebuild Foundation	Rebuild cabin and replace toilet	\$43.0	Chena
Big Delta ADA Access	Modify park facilities for ADA Compliance	\$8.3	Delta JCT

Park deferred maintenance repairs will be accomplished by force account using State Park maintenance staff and procured materials (\$250.0 +/-), and by construction contracting (\$1,750.0 +/-). Force account work is typically 50 percent labor and 50 percent materials. Construction contracting is typical 20 percent design, procurement, and contract administration and 80 percent contractual cost.

Line Item Expenditures:

Personal Services	\$ 60.0	State Park maintenance staff performing force account work and State Park development staff performing design and contract administration.
Travel	\$ 6.0	State Park staff travel for project sites that require travel.
Services	\$ 278.0	Construction contracting using small procurement procedures
Commodities	\$ 16.0	Materials for force account work.
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.0	None
	\$ 360.0	

**Project Support:** State Park visitors, Alaska Travel Industry Alliance, Alaska Wilderness Recreation Tourism Association, State Park Advisory Boards, local Chambers of Commerce, recreational user groups, and highway travelers, 78.7% of the individuals surveyed statewide for the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.