

Chena Pump Road Boat Launch River Access Purchase**FY2002 Request:****\$150,000****Reference No:****33979****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Transportation**Location:** Fairbanks Areawide**Contact:** Jim Stratton**House District:** Fairbanks Areawide (HD 29-34)**Contact Phone:** (907)269-8700**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2002**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Direct public access to the Tanana River near Fairbanks is limited to one site on Chena Pump road. This site is a five acre DOTPF easement on a larger 17 acre Mental Health Land Trust (MHLT) parcel. MHLT is seeking to develop its acreage and move the DOTPF easement. Under the terms of DOTPF's easement, there is NO GUARANTEE for a continued boat launch. The easement is for a highway rest area only. Parks proposes to purchase the 17 acres from MHLT and improve the existing boat launch, parking and, picnic facilities. Parks' presence through its volunteer host program will improve security at the area for vehicles left overnight.

Funding:	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Gen Fund	\$150,000						\$150,000
Total:	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000

<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

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Even if MHLT agreed to continue the boat launch, every other site on the parcel is inferior for both boat launch and picnicking. Both DOTPF and ADF&G have committed to assisting with the necessary construction at this site.

This is a new project request.

Project Description/Justification:

Public access to the Tanana River is critical for the many power boaters that rely on the Tanana River for recreation, subsistence, and livelihood. With the parcel now in private hands, proposed development of the site would reduce or possibly eliminate this site's ability to provide for safe boat launching, picnicking, and safe overnight storage of vehicles left by boaters. To protect this site for boating, it needs to remain in public ownership so all of the public can have access to the boat launch and related upland facilities. If this site were to be developed and public boat launching constricted or reduced, public access to a major interior river would be negatively impacted. There is NO OTHER AVAILABLE SITE near Fairbanks for this access.

Specific Spending Detail:

Parks has pledged half the purchase price of the 17 acre property through its federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. But the LWCF program requires a 50% match from state funds. It is anticipated that \$150.0 will be needed to provide the state's 50% match to purchase this valuable public boat access. Parks is waiting for an appraised price from MHLT.

Project Benefits:

Boating access is very important to Alaskans. In the Fairbanks area, this is the only public access to the Tanana River. By securing this property as a unit of the state park system, it will be forever dedicated to public boating access as its number one purpose. This will allow generations of Alaskans continued access directly to the Tanana River for a variety of uses such as fishing, hunting, subsistence, transportation to remote cabins and villages, wildlife viewing, and recreational boating. A healthy boating public spends its wages on the many costs associated with boating. This is good for local retailers. Guides and Outfitters that utilize this site are contributing to the local economy. Parks anticipates hiring a local summer seasonal staff person to assist in the operation of this facility.

Projected Revenue to the State:

It is anticipated that fees would be charged to help pay for the maintenance and operation of this site. Parks anticipates boat launching revenue could approach \$15.0. When a campground is developed at the site, additional revenues would be generated to assist in operations and maintenance of the facility.

Project Support:

Local boaters

Project Opposition: None known.

Does this project leverage other funding for the state?

Half of the cost of the land purchase is provided by the federal government. Development of the site would also be done with federal sportfish and highway transportation dollars.

Project History: No history.

Alternative Approaches/Financing Considered:

Having the Mental Health Land Trust operate the site was considered, but their priority is maximizing revenue from a highly commercialized operation at the site. To accommodate that level of development, the existing boat launch would have to be moved to an inferior launch site at the west end of the property and the available picnicking and parking would be reduced or MHLT could eliminate public boat launching all together. Because of the realization that the priority use of the parcel was changing from a public boat launch to a commercial recreation development, it was determined that purchasing the property to ensure boating priority was the only option.

Annual Operating and Maintenance Costs:

Cost of facility operation will be covered through an RSA from ADF&G at no impact to the Park operating budget. We anticipate it will cost about \$25.0 to operate this site with a volunteer host, seasonal employee, vehicles, garbage service, and maintaining and servicing the toilets.