

State Parks Deferred Maintenance

FY2009 Request: \$5,228,000
Reference No: AMD 38878

AP/AL: Allocation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

Contact: Leta Simons

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact Phone: (907)465-2400

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2011

Appropriation: Department of Natural Resources Deferred Maintenance

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

State Parks has identified over \$52.0 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, and camping areas to keep them from becoming an urgent health and safety hazard.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
AK Cap Inc	\$5,228,000						\$5,228,000
Gen Fund		\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$35,000,000
Total:	\$5,228,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$40,228,000

<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 checked="" 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:

SLA2007/CH30	\$ 1,880,000	
- Deferred Maintenance	5% complete	
- Harding Lake Campground	5% complete	
- Nancy Lake Campground	5% complete	
SLA2006/CH82	\$ 2,281,600	80% complete
SLA2005/CH3	\$ 350,000	60% complete
SLA2004/CH159	\$ 300,000	Complete
SLA2003/CH82	\$ 120,000	Complete

Project Description/Justification:

This amendment changes the ASLC Bonds fund source to the Alaska Capital Income Fund since credit market concerns preclude the ASLC from returning capital to the state in FY09.

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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 gather a back log 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 finally stemmed 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 \$5,228,000 will not only repair the most pressing Park deferred maintenance problems but is the first step in checking the continual increase in deferred maintenance needs. 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 worse deferred maintenance problems and reduce the deferred maintenance repair demand on the proposed operating budget.

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 27th (up two from last year) in overnight camping visitation and 38th (up two from last year) in overall visitation in spite of our small population. However, it ranks 47th (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 six 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 of six is thinly spread over many facilities. Many of the state parks are old, broken, and present potential health and safety hazards to visitors. 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 and 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 visitors 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:

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Projects in priority order:

Settlers Cove Improvements and Rehab	\$360,000	Replace outhouses, increase day use parking and road repair	Ketchikan
Chena River State Recreation Area	\$380,000	Replace toilets, rehabilitate campsites and roads, replace signs and make ADA compliant	Fairbanks
Chugach State Park Thunderbird Falls	\$300,000	Replace Boardwalk, Repave parking lot, Replace toilet, replace signs, make ADA compliant	Anchorage
Mat-Su/Copper Basin Restroom Rehab	\$1,320,000	Replace 22 non-SST restrooms with CXTs at Little Coal Creek Trailhead, Upper Troublesome Creek, Montana Creek, Nancy Lake, Big Lake North, Big Lake South, Rocky Lake STS, Finger Lake SRS Long Lake, Canoe Lake, King Mountain Dry Creek, Squirrel Creek and Liberty Falls	Palmer/Wasilla
Upper Huffman Trailhead Enhancement	\$225,000	Plan and design trailhead/parking access expansion to improve circulation, restore drainage, and extend paving. Replace latrine and provide pavilion. Improve day use and picnic sites.	Anchorage
Totem Bight	\$225,000	Build cabin with water and septic system to house volunteers to provide better security of park resources	Ketchikan
Morgans Landing SRA Flood Repair	\$900,000	Replace the 1/2 mile of boardwalks and 12 fishing platforms destroyed in the 2007 Ice Flood.	Soldotna
East Hatcher Pass	\$283,000	Increase the overextended parking area, add a permanent restroom, develop a walking trail from parking area to independence mine. Improve parking and trails at Summit Lake SRS.	Palmer/Wasilla
Chugach State Park Visitor Contact Station	\$450,000	Replace the inadequate and primitive visitor contact station located at Eklutna Lake	Eklutna
Kachemak Bay State Park Trail Rehab	\$115,000	Repair Tram	Homer
Captain Cook SRA Latrines	\$300,000	Replace six very old latrines with ADA accessible latrines	Nikiski
Buskin River SRA	\$300,000	Campground and day use area renovation, replace day use pavilion, recondition site access roads, expend campsite parking spaces, replace bumper logs, replace three toilets and recondition loop road.	Kodiak
Slikok Creek Parking and Stairway Access	\$150,000	Repair parking area and replace two old wooden-croosote stairs leading to the water from with an elevated light penetrating stairway.	Soldotna

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If any of the above projects cannot be completed with the three-year period or if there are savings realized from any or all of the projects above the following projects will be worked on in priority order:

Funny River Campground Rehab	\$450,000	Provide designated camping sites for the only state park campground on the south side of the Kenai River. Recondition roads, campsites, parking area and repair the well.	Soldotna
Finger Lake SRS Rehab	\$300,000	Repair entrance road, replace two restroom and dill new well.	Wasilla
Chilkat Campground Rehab	\$250,000	Resurface campground loop, 32 campsites and park road, replace benches, parking bumpers, fire rings, bulletin boards, toilet, rotted out wooded guard rail and repair two failing water pumps.	Haines
Clam Gulch SRA Campground Rehab	\$300,000	Rehabilitation of the existing campground. Replace picnic tables, fire rings, benches and tenting areas.	Clam Gulch
Kepler-Bradley Lakes SRS	\$302,000	Repairs to access roads for Canoe Lake, Irene Lake and Long Lake, replace restrooms at Long lake and Canoe Lake, replace tables, fireplaces, benches and signs at Canoe Lake.	Palmer
Slidehole Fishing Access Trails	\$90,000	Provide ADA access and interpretation for angler sites on the Anchor River. Level and harden the trail from the parking area to the river.	Anchor Point

Line Item Detail:

<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DOLLAR AMOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION (text)</u>
Personal Services	\$ 720,000	State Park Design and Construction Engineers planning, designing and providing contract administration over the three year period of time.
Travel	\$ 20,000	State Park staff travel for project sites that require travel.
Services	\$ 4,388,000	Construction contracting using procurement procedures
Commodities	\$ 100,000	Supplies and Materials for design and interpretation.

Project Support:

Ketchikan Area State Parks Advisory Board, Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board, 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, Kachemak Bay State Park Citizens Advisory Board, Friends of Kachemak Bay, Homer Chamber of Commerce, Nikiski Chamber of Commerce, US Coast Guard, The Kodiak State Parks Citizens Advisory Board, Haines Borough, Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce, Mat-Su Visitors and Convention Bureau, Mat-Su Borough, Mat-Su Parks Citizens Advisory Board, Friends of Mat-Su

Project Opposition:

None.