

**National Recreational Trails Federal Grant Program**

**FY2018 Request: \$1,500,000**  
**Reference No: 6854**

**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:** Fabienne Peter-Contesse

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2017 - 06/30/2022

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**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The National Recreational Trails Federal Grant Program provides grants to government and community organizations for trail development and improvement projects statewide. This project is for the federal authorization required to administer the National Recreational Trails Federal Grant Program. A separate capital reappropriation project for state match authorization is included.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	Total
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,000,000
1003 G/F Match		\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$750,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,650,000</b>	<b>\$1,650,000</b>	<b>\$1,650,000</b>	<b>\$1,650,000</b>	<b>\$1,650,000</b>	<b>\$9,750,000</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>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

- Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P5 L31 SB138 \$1,700,000
- Sec1 Ch38 SLA2015 P5 L28 SB26 \$1,700,000
- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P58 L23 SB119 \$1,700,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P72 L12 SB18 \$2,600,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P125 L11 SB160 \$2,600,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

The project grants \$1.5 million in federal dollars to government and community organizations for trail development and improvement projects statewide. The National Recreational Trails Program (RTP) requires the split of the funding to be 30% non-motorized, 30% motorized, and 40% diversified trail projects. As more and more residents and visitors turn to Alaska's vast trail system for recreation, subsistence and basic transportation between communities, the need for a more extensive and better-maintained trail system continues to grow. Many existing trails are being lost as property is sold, subdivided, or developed without reserving trail easements.

This program identifies, maintains and expands the Alaska trail system for both summer and winter trails. Legal, safe, well-maintained, and easy to use trails are reducing trespass situations, search and rescue occurrences, and public safety concerns. Because these are matching grant programs,

grantees provide cash, labor, and equipment to match between 9% and 20% of grant funds, stretching existing funding. Public recreational trails contribute to Alaska's economy by providing construction and maintenance jobs, attracting tourists and visitors, stimulating the business of outfitters, guides and tour companies, and improving the mental and physical wellbeing of the work force. This program ensures that:

- Grantees obtain legal access
- Projects are consistent with federal, state, and local land use plans, and laws
- Social and economic impacts are analyzed
- Archeological and historical resources are protected
- The project is analyzed for any impact on threatened or endangered species
- The project is analyzed for any impact on fish and wildlife
- The project is analyzed for its effect on wetlands, flood plains, and bodies of water
- Water and air quality are checked and maintained
- Hazardous waste is checked for and identified
- The noise resulting from the project is analyzed
- There is public involvement

### **Accomplishments**

In FY2016 the RTP awarded 32 projects statewide equaling a total of \$1,282,737. The following Recreational Trails Program projects have been approved by the Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and the Federal Highways Administration. These are reimbursable, grant-funded projects happening throughout the state between 2016 and 2018.

### **Anchorage Area**

#### **Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), Chugach State Park, Trail Maintenance Equipment: \$23,140**

DPOR purchased a specialized, hydraulic brushing attachment to improve safety on, and conditions of, both motorized and non-motorized trails in Chugach State Park. This attachment (ETTRRA Raptor Boom Mower w/ 36" Flail Head) is highly specialized and will work with Chugach State Parks' existing Skid Steer.

#### **Anchorage Park Foundation, Rilke Schule Trail Connection to Meadow Park: \$33,782**

The Anchorage Park Foundation, in support of the Rilke Schule Trail Connection Project, has built 1,200 feet of soft-surface, five foot wide gravel trail, connecting the newly constructed school to adjacent Meadow Park municipal parkland.

#### **Anchorage Park Foundation, Improvements at Jodhpur Motocross Trail: \$51,105**

The Anchorage Park Foundation will make significant improvements to the Jodhpur Motocross trails and riding area in Anchorage. Improvements will include replacing old, and broken safety-fencing with updated, standardized fencing, adding rule and wayfinding/orientation signs, making access driveway repairs, and building earth ramps for loading and unloading riding equipment.

#### **Alaska Trails Inc., Mirror Lake Singletrack Phase I: \$50,000**

Alaska Trails Inc. and the Chugach Mountain Bike Riders are collaborating to design and build three miles of designed use, single-track mountain biking trails. The trails will be located on the Mirror Lake and Edmonds Lake municipal park land in Chugiak. This project will be complete fall 2017.

### **Matanuska-Susitna Valley**

#### **DPOR, Denali State Park, Curry Ridge Trail Phase II: \$49,920**

This project is Phase II of a multi-phase trail project and constructed approximately 1.5 miles of new trail as part of the South Denali Visitor Center Complex project. The new trail alignment began at the terminus of the recently constructed Phase I trail near the Curry Ridge tree line.

#### **Mat-Su Ski Club, Ski Trail Grooming Equipment: \$49,641**

The Mat-Su Ski Club purchased an Argo Centaur 954DT, all-terrain vehicle with modifications for winter ski-trail grooming that will be used by the Ski Club's trained volunteers to groom ski trails for cross-country skiing and non-motorized trail users at Independence Mine, Archangel Road, and Government Peak Recreation Area.

#### **Willow Trails Committee, Windsock Trail Upgrade: \$14,560**

This project developed a durable trail tread, to ATV standards for multi-use recreational trail activities, on the existing Windsock trail.

#### **Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District, Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) Denali State Park: \$6,851**

The Upper Susitna Soil & Water Conservation District's (USSWCD) YCC, in partnership with Denali State Park worked four days hardening the trail on the Little Coal Creek trail. This project served as work and skill-building experience for the YCC participants and helped fix a trail in need of tread repair.

#### **Great Land Trust, Wasilla Creek Wetlands, Refuge Trail: \$36,623**

This project will complete the Wasilla Creek Wetlands- Palmer Hay Flats Refuge access project. Capital improvements to be completed using this funding include, interpretive signs and a kiosk, a gravel parking area to fit 5-10 cars at the Swan Lake Trailhead, two 6'x8' pull-outs along the Wasilla Creek boardwalk so that people in wheelchairs or families with strollers can turn around or let people pass with ease, finishing work will include a bull rail for walking stability on two elevated boardwalks that were built last season, and a bench at each of the viewing platforms.

### **Interior Alaska**

#### **Delta Junction Trails Association, Bluff Cabin Trail Restoration Phase I: \$100,000**

Phase I consists of beginning the DNR process to amend the recreational trail easement to exclude vehicles greater than 1,500 pounds and to correct easement alignment on Bluff Cabin Trail in Delta Junction. This step will ensure sustainability of trail work accomplished. The contractor will apply a crowned cap of pit-run/D1 gravels, over geo-fabric, to the damaged sections in the first 1.34 miles (using the existing alignment this provides a long-term, sustainable fix), perform a trail assessment and prescription on the Bluff Cabin Lake (2.0 miles) and Bluff Cabin Slough (1.6 miles) sections of the trail.

**Fairbanks Northstar Borough, Trail Systems Enhancement Equipment: \$37,043**

The Fairbanks North Star Borough purchased a power-arm, brush-mowing attachment (boom mower) for the FNSB-owned Holder C270 Narrow Track Articulating Utility Tractor. The boom mower will be coupled with the specialized utility tractor to improve trail access and conditions on public, multi-use trail systems, pedestrian walkways, and bike paths within Chena Lake Recreation Area, Tanana Lakes Recreation Area, Birch Hill Recreation Area, Isberg Recreation Area, and Skyline Ridge Park.

**DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Mastodon Trail Construction: \$50,000**

This project constructed three miles of new trail at 38.6 mile Chena Hot Springs Road (Mastodon Trailhead) using best management practices including full bench construction, sustainable grade, curvilinear alignment, grade reversals, and outslope.

**DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Mastodon Trail Hardening/Clearing: \$47,278**

This project hardened and repaired sections of the first six miles of Mastodon Trail in Fairbanks, and improved and stabilized the remaining six miles to the public use cabin so that equipment can be used in those repair efforts.

**DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Stiles Creek Trail Extension and Construction: \$50,000**

This project repaired 200 rolling grade dips to function correctly to provide positive drainage on Stiles Creek Trail in Fairbanks. The project hardened a 1,000-foot section of the trail, and cleared and repaired 15 miles of damaged and rutted trail.

**DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Northern Area Training and Assessment: \$13,310**

The DPOR Northern area trail crew was hired, the training was set up and prepared, and trail projects were prioritized. The training included ATV training, chain saw training, policy and procedures training, and best management practices for trail construction training.

**DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Angel Creek Hillside Bridge Repairs: \$24,190**

This project replaced ramps and installed handrails for three bridge approaches on the Angel Creek Trail in Fairbanks to make them safe (prevent accidental falls) and meet building code standards. The ramps were replaced on existing footings and embankments and improved trail surfaces.

**DPOR, Eagle Trail, Tok Region: \$35,471**

The Eagle Trail project removed and replaced an existing wooden boardwalk and 20' x 3' staircase, and 18 numbered wayfinding posts along the Eagle Trail located within Eagle Trail State Recreation Site south of the Tok Highway cut off.

**Southeast Alaska****DPOR, Southeast, Haines: Battery Point Trail Hardening Phase II: \$28,678**

This project involves continued trail hardening and a new trail alignment along mile 0.4 to 0.9 mile of the Battery Point Trail located in the Chilkat State Park. Trail hardening techniques include causeway and turnpike installation with the use of imported gravel. The gravel will be dispersed along the trail by mechanized wheelbarrows providing a sustainable tread.

**DPOR, Southeast, Juneau: Point Bridget Trail Restoration Phase II: \$49,983**

Phase II continued the work from Phase I. DPOR built lumber and gravel staircases, with long run and minimal and consistent rise, to ensure steep grade stretches are safe and comfortable for hikers and safe and passable for all winter use.

**DPOR, Southeast, Juneau, Granite Creek Trail Improvements: \$50,067**

DPOR will improve and restore several sections of the Granite Creek Trail using lumber and rock to restore trail grade and slope, address sloughing and erosion issues, and facilitate better drainage.

**Sitka Trail Works, Mosquito Cove Trail Repair: \$39,771**

The project repairs storm damage from water erosion on the Mosquito Cove hiking trail using labor provided by a Trail Works crew, Student Conservation Association, Alaska State Park Juneau office staff, and U.S.F.S. trail crew members. Repairs will be made to trail tread using gravel and trees cleared to create a more sustainable trail.

**USFS Chugach National Forest, Eyak River Trail Reconstruction Project: \$37,007**

This project is in the process of repairing 0.5 miles of existing Eyak River Trail in Cordova. The first 0.3 miles require the repair of trail structures to control and span water flowing over and down the trail tread which is causing soil movement and sedimentation into Eyak River. Another 0.2 miles of trail from mile post 1.3 to 1.5 requires reconstructing an existing Step and Run boardwalk, split log (native sawn trees on site) corduroy through wetlands (muskeg).

**Takshanuk Watershed Council, Jones Point Trail Upgrade: \$15,125**

The Takshanuk Watershed Council is improving its 50-acre conservation property located in Haines along the Chilkat River. They are upgrading 0.12 miles of trail, reconstructing 0.1 miles of existing and damaged trail, reconstructing 0.17 acres of trailhead, and installing an interpretive sign at the existing trailhead. The Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan identifies a path through this property designated as a nature trail. These enhancements greatly improve recreation opportunities on the property and will improve access to the over 2.7 miles of inter-connecting trails along the Chilkat River.

**Kenai Peninsula****DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Saddle Trail Re-Route Phase II: \$50,000**

This project will continue from Phase I re-aligning the trail/tread and corridor of the Saddle Trail from its present location. The trail alignment will be cleared, root wads removed, and new tread created to correct drainage and erosion problems. The project will also provide improved access, reduce grades and improve views.

**DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park, Moose Valley /Poot Peak: \$49,991**

The Moose Valley/Poot Peak Trail Restoration project will restore portions of the Moose Valley and Poot Peak Trails in Kachemak Bay, near Homer. The project will clear and brush exiting corridors to improve blocked access, reshape existing tread, re-align and install trail markers to improve access, safety, and correct drainage problems.

**DPOR, Caines Head SRA: Tonsina Section: \$48,305**

This project focused on rehabilitating and upgrading the first 2.3-mile section of the Caines Head Trail at Tonsina point, near Seward, that connects park users to two public-use cabins. Work consisted of building several new sections of boardwalk, as well as rehabilitating some existing boardwalk sections

that have settled and were sloping downhill. Tread work improved drainage along the trail, and gravel fill was brought in to harden one section of trail near a popular day use area and campground. This project was complete fall 2016.

**DPOR, Interpretation and Education Section, Kachemak Bay State Park Orientation Panels: \$12,721**

Two outdated interpretive panels located at the top of Ramp 2 at the Homer small boat harbor will be replaced with two new panels that highlight the trails and amenities of Kachemak Bay State Park. This project will effectively promote safety and orient visitors to the park's trails system and overnight options that are open to the public such as campsites and public use cabins.

**Kachemak Nordic Ski Club, Trail Grooming Equipment: \$15,244**

The Kachemak Nordic Ski Club bought a new, tracked, ATV and mower for winter grooming and summer repair of the McNeil - Eveline Ski Trail system. The Eveline State Recreation Site is managed by KNSC through a Memorandum of Understanding with the DPOR.

**Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Interpretive Trails Improvement: \$16,068**

This project replaces a 20' deteriorating bridge that crosses a small tributary to Bridge Creek at the end of the Moose Meander Trail on the Carl E. Wynn Nature Center trail system in Homer. A stronger, safer 30' bridge will be installed and will include a total of 38 feet of trail right-of-way clearing and brushing on either side of the bridge to make the approach and crossing safer and easier for hikers of all abilities. The project includes the design and installation of a 24" X 36" interpretive sign informing users of the importance of the Bridge Creek Watershed and the role that watersheds play in the health of the ecosystem and local communities.

**Tsalteshi Trails, Single-Track Mountain Bike Trail Soldotna: Project: \$50,000**

The Tsalteshi Trails Association constructed a single-track "flow" bike trail extending from Skyview Middle School on the south to Kalifornsky Beach road on the north, near Soldotna. The 2.5-mile trail generally follows the existing, cleared, snow-shoe trail corridor and utilizes terrain contours for an exciting, sustainable bike trail averaging an 8% grade on all steep sections. All crossings of ski trails are at uphill or flat sections of main trails and are well marked and highly visible.

**Statewide**

**DPOR, Interpretation and Education Section, Alaska State Park Trail Guide Videos: \$39,905**

This project is in the process of creating video guides for three different trails: Angel Rocks Trail and Granite Tors Trail in Chena River State Recreation Area, and Kesugi Ridge Trail in Denali State Park. The guides include safety information (including proper planning and preparation, and gear), trail etiquette, trail-specific tips, and brief interpretive messages. The video guides are being created in digital format to facilitate distribution and will be available to the public at no cost.

**DPOR, Alaska Trails Program Administrative Allowance: \$106,955**

This grant will cover expenditures for administering the RTP. These costs include paying the wages of administrative and accounting staff for billings, reimbursements, and accounting needs. This grant also pays for expenses associated with the federally-required Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board to attend their annual meeting in Anchorage.

**Budget Detail:**

Line Item	Amount
1000 - Personal Services	\$150,000
2000 - Travel	\$0.0
3000 - Services	\$0.0
4000 - Commodities	\$0.0
5000 - Capital Outlay	\$0.0
7000 - Grants	\$1,500,000
<b>Total Project</b>	<b>\$1,650,000</b>

**PCNs:**

Partial funding for existing positions in Anchorage

(10-5021) PFT, Natural Resource Specialist III,

(10-5215) PFT, Grant Administrator II

(10-5004) PFT, Administrative Assistant II