

National Recreational Trails Federal Grant Program

FY2019 Request: \$1,700,000

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)

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2023

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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.

Funding:	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	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
1005 GF/Prgm	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$1,200,000
Total:	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$10,200,000

<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 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:

Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P6 L20 SB23 \$1,500,000
 Sec19 Ch1 SLA2017 P22 L15 SB23 \$150,000
 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

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 10% 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 well-being 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

In FY2017, the RTP awarded 22 projects statewide equaling a total of \$1,290,805. 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 2017 and 2019.

Anchorage Area

Anchorage Park Foundation, Russian Jack Springs Park, Single Track Bike Trail: \$49,962

The Anchorage Park Foundation is sponsoring a project designing and building new, and improving existing trails within Russian Jack Springs Park as single-track mountain bike trails. The single-track trails will be appropriate for all levels of experience and will be open year-round for all types of use.

Anchorage Park Foundation, Improvements at Jodhpur Motocross Trail: \$96,002

The Anchorage Park Foundation will make significant improvements to the Jodhpur Motocross trails and riding area in Anchorage. Improvements to the riding area include sifting rocks from the track and sifting the existing trail surface. This project also proposes capping the trail with a new layer of clean pre-sifted material (without rocks) all the way around the one mile riding trail. This new layer will give trail users a steadier, rock-free base for riding. This project utilizes the Anchorage Racing Lions' volunteers to provide in-kind labor and donated materials for this project.

Matanuska-Susitna Valley

Curry Ridge Riders, South Denali Trail Signs: \$83,226

The Curry Ridge Riders Snowmachine club will replace old and damaged trail and wayfinding signs attached to trees replacing them with new signage mounted permanently on signs with a telespar break-away system. This will be done for 125 miles of snowmachine trail.

DPOR, Denali State Park, Curry Ridge Trail Phase 3: \$77,505

This project is Phase 3 of a multi-phase trail project which seeks to layout, brush, and initiate construction of approximately 3.5 miles of trail near Lake 1787 on the lower bench of Curry Ridge. Phase 3 began where Phase 2 (2016 RTP) terminates. The project provides access to new camping

and hunting opportunities and eventually will include a link to the historic Curry Lookout. This part of the project seeks to accomplish Phase 3 which includes professional layout of 2.5 - 3 miles of trail, funding for the labor of brushing and clearing the trail corridor, and approximately 0.5 -1.0 miles of finished trail.

DPOR, Hatcher Pass Trail: \$47,488

This project employs a 5-person trail crew and supplies materials for trail repair and improvement within the East Hatcher Pass Management Area. The project focus includes the construction of a new ~0.50-mile section of trail in Independence Mine State Historical Park creating a loop that both connects existing trails and limits visitor trespass onto adjacent private property. In addition to the new trail, this project also repairs erosional damage and impacts of heavy use on the existing trail system including: Gold Cord Lake Trail, Mill Loop Trail, and Mile 16 Bike Trail. Efforts have included opening access to overgrown trail corridors, re-vegetation of areas that have been impacted by excessive foot traffic and subsequent erosion, tread improvement, addition of water control measures, and improved signage. This project is intended to improve safety, protect resources, and reverse detrimental human impact due to increased use.

Upper Susitna Soil & Water Conservation District, Susitna Valley High School Trails, Talkeetna: \$48,661

The Susitna Valley High School ski/cross country running trails, built in 1986, have needed repair and improvement. This project improves the trails so students can continue to use them and make this beautiful public trail system more accessible and attractive to local citizens. The improvements, all done with hand tools, will include everything from falling dangerous trees, to repairing and regrading the trails, to making the trail tread more sustainable and erosion resistant.

Willow Trails Committee, Willow Park Trail: \$38,382

The Willow Park Trail project constructs a new 1.2-mile recreational trail. The trail will be a year around, multi-use trail designed to Class 3 ATV standards. Construction includes clearing, importing and spreading gravel 9 inches deep and 5-6 feet in width for approximately 6,000 feet followed by grading and compacting to create a solid and sustainable trail tread.

Interior Alaska**Delta Junction Trails Association, Liewer Trail Lighting: \$49,928**

This project installs above-ground electrical fixtures, electrical service, distribution, and lighting control system to the Liewer Community Trail in Delta Junction. This will include actual light fixtures and arms for 40 trail light poles. Arms will vary with twin tenon mounting, single tenon mounting, and up-sweep arms being used depending on the final on-the-ground trail light location. The trail will be lit with low-watt, low-light, electrical fixtures. Lighting fixtures are on 12-16 inch poles, enabling access with ladders for maintenance. The lights will turn on and off with lighting contractor photo and timing controls to ensure planned power usage. At start and finish loop area, three wide area fixtures, Cobra Head Style, will be installed on the tall poles. These improvements will allow for safe, year-round, trail activities and sporting events.

Fairbanks Northstar Borough, Skyline Ridge Park Trail Restoration Phase II: \$50,000

This project focuses on rutted and ponding sections of trail near the west trailhead. This section will be repaired by adding new surface tread and several grade reversals for erosion control. The rutted

sections have allowed large ponds of water to form making the area difficult to pass through. There are currently several sections of trail holding up to 18 inches of standing water. The pond areas now fill the entire corridor for long sections of trail up to 150 feet in length. This project will focus on restoring the tread by lifting, hardening, and draining the trail.

DPOR, Chena River SRA, Olnes Pond ATV Trail Hardening / Clearing: \$140,359

The Olnes Pond ATV Trail Hardening / Clearing project creates a continuous 1.5 miles of maintained trail that will encourage users to stay on one path and prevent erosion and degradation of the land and resources around Olnes Pond. This project hardens existing trail and will focus on rutted and ponding sections of trail near the west trailhead. This section will be repaired by adding new surface tread and several grade reversals for erosion control.

DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Northern Area Training and Assessment: \$13,313

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

DPOR, Chena River SRA, Fairbanks: Granite Tors: \$75,103

The Granite Tors Trail is a popular recreation area located in Chena River State Recreation Area at 39 mile Chena Hot Springs Road. The full trail is a 15-mile loop; the boardwalk extends for three miles across the lowlands before climbing above tree line, visiting many giant granite tors, and circling Rock Creek Valley. The boardwalk was constructed in 1982, and since 2008 has had 550 unsafe boards replaced. Currently, the boardwalk is severely degraded; if the most hazardous boards are not replaced the trail will have to be closed to the public. This project replaces 4,266 lineal feet of trail using all weather planks and treated timbers.

Southeast Alaska**DPOR, Southeast, Haines: Seduction Point Trail Rehabilitation: \$39,293**

This project rehabilitates Seduction Point trail in Haines from the trailhead to the beach side meadow known as Moose Meadow, at trail mile 1.5. The project prioritizes repair and replacement of failing stairs, bridges, and boardwalks. The secondary focus addresses severely muddy, eroded, or rooted areas by improving drainage, constructing a causeway, and general tread improvement.

Sitka Trail Works, Mosquito Cove Trail Repair Phase 2: \$43,937

This project completes 2015 storm damage repairs on the Mosquito Cove Trail. Repairs were made to the trail tread and to improve drainage creating a more sustainable trail surface.

Kenai Peninsula/ Valdez**DPOR, Kachemak Bay State Park: Saddle Trail Re-Route Phase 3: \$63,958**

This project continues from Phase 2 re-aligning the trail/tread and corridor of the Saddle Trail from its present location. This phase of the project includes clearing new trail alignment, removing root wads, and building new tread to correct drainage and erosion problems, providing improved access, reducing grades and improving views. Phase 1 and 2, clearing the corridor and removing vegetation to mineral soil are complete.

DPOR, Caines Head SRA, Public Use Cabin: \$45,545

This project provides a 16 ft x 16 ft Public Use Cabin (PUC), purchased from Superior Log Products. This PUC will serve as a desired gateway cabin, connecting users to the rest of the Caines Head State Recreation Area (CHSRA) along the established Resurrection Bay Marine and Coastal Trails. AVTEC's Construction Technology students and two Alaska State Park employees will provide all labor for this project.

DPOR, Caines Head SRA: Caines Head Trail Improvements: \$63,319

This project upgrades sections of trail in Caines Head State Recreation Area. Most work takes place on the overland section of the coastal trail that links Derby Cove to North Beach. Work consists of making improvements to the existing trail tread, improving drainage, and adding puncheon and fill where appropriate. Damaged vegetation due to excessive foot traffic will be restored. The project will also include repair of a damaged section of trail used to access Derby Cove public use cabin, repairs to the Fort Trail, and opening access to overgrown areas of the Alpine Trail. The goal of the project is to maintain sustainable long-term access for park users accessing recreational facilities at Caines Head State Recreation Area.

USFS Chugach National Forest, Bartlett Glacier Trail: \$49,945

As part of the Alaska Whistle Stop project, a unique project developed through a partnership between the Alaska Railroad and the Chugach National Forest which provides public access to an entirely new trail network and associated recreation facilities only accessible via the Alaska Railroad, this project will construct a trail to access the base of Bartlett Glacier. The project encompasses trail layout and design, as well as using the U.S. Forest Service trail crew to construct a new trail from a junction point on the Glacier Discovery Trail to the toe of Bartlett Glacier. The approximately 1 mile trail will start as a multi-use, non-motorized, Class 2 trail, transitioning into a more primitive Class 1 trail as it gets closer to the glacier.

Levitation 49, Shoup Trail Re-Opening: \$39,573

In the summer of 2016, Levitation 49 was awarded a permit to take over management and maintenance of the Shoup Bay Trail and the Shoup Bay Cabins from the Alaska State Division of Parks and Recreation. As the new facility managers, one of the first priorities was to re-open and rebuild the Shoup Bay Trail, an overgrown 10-mile trail from the city of Valdez to Shoup Bay State Marine Park. Levitation 49 will also maintain two campsites and three recreation cabins (all in good condition and located in Shoup Bay), two of which can be accessed by this trail. In the trail's current state, they are only reachable by boat. With volunteer labor, the first 3 miles have already been re-opened; this project opens the remaining 7 miles to safe public access.

Ground Truth Trekking, Taylor Bay Trail, Kachemak Bay State Park: \$7,475

A crew of volunteers have been scouting, surveying, and cutting seven miles of primitive trail in Kachemak Bay State Park in summer 2017. A spike camp will be established in Taylor Bay, on the remote outer coast of the park. From there, a foot trail will be cut to meet an existing route in Tutka Valley, establishing a complete, coast-to-coast linkage between Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Fjords. Tread work will be minimal, and no structures will be built. Members of the public experienced in backcountry travel will be able to follow the route.

Statewide

DPOR, Interpretation and Education Section, Alaska State Park Trail Guide Videos: \$60,876

This project creates video guides for two state trail systems, one in Caines Head State Recreation Area leading viewers from Lowell Point to North Beach, Fort McGilvray, and South Beach, and the second will be on the Reed Lakes Trail in Hatcher Pass East Management Area. 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 covers 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.

Line Item	Amount
1000 – Personal Services	\$195,000
2000 - Travel	\$5,000
3000 - Contractual	
4000 - Commodities	
5000 – Capital Outlay	
7000 - Grants	\$1,500,000
Total Request	\$1,700,000

Partial funding for existing positions in Anchorage
 (10-5021) PFT, Natural Resource Specialist III,
 (10-5215) PFT, Grant Administrator II
 (10-5004) PFT, Accounting Technician II