

Alaska Trails - Eklutna Lakeside Trail Improvements

FY2024 Request: \$234,000
Reference No: 65107

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Economic Assistance
Category: Development **Recipient:** Alaska Trails
Location: Eagle River (Chugach State Park) **House District:** Eagle River Valley (HD 23)
Impact House District: Eagle River Valley (HD 23) **Contact:** Catherine Reardon
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2023 - 06/30/2028 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-2506

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

SFLR Add 5/16/2023.

Portions of the popular Eklutna Lakeside Trail have collapsed and eroded into the waters of Eklutna Lake. This project will realign and repair the trail along this popular, family-friendly multi-use corridor.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$234,000						\$234,000
Total:	\$234,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$234,000

<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"/> Ongoing
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:

Project Description/Justification:

Portions of the trail were washed away by waves beating against the shore during storms that coincided with high lake water levels in autumn 2012 and 2013. The state approved \$360,000 in federal disaster relief funds to repair the worst-hit sections of the trail. However, only the portions of the trail damaged in 2012 were eligible for emergency repairs. The park's inability to use the funds on the segments damaged in 2013 left large segments unrepaired.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Work is needed to improve this popular, four-season mixed use trail system, including a) improving the eroding, four-season, motorized trail; b) improving the adjoining pedestrian/biking trail.

This trail is a high priority for the Chugach State Park due to high use both for nonmotorized and motorized recreation. Erosion is a critical issue for parts of the trail, as well as blocked ditches and culverts. Improved drainage is necessary to keep the trail accessible.

Total trail length: 18 miles

Motorized segment: 12 miles

Nonmotorized segment: 6 miles

The Eklutna Lakeside Trail is one of the most popular trails in Chugach State Park. Hundreds of people can be counted hiking, biking, and four-wheeling on the trail on any sunny weekend day in summer, and the trail is also popular for skiing and snowmachining in winter.

The lakeside trail accommodates motorized recreational vehicles (ATVs) as well as bicycles. In some sections, both user groups share the same roadbed. In other segments, bikes are diverted onto a narrower, more overgrown roadbed that is closer to the lake. ATVs are not allowed on the bike portions of the trail. ATVs may only operate on the lakeside trail Sundays through Wednesdays.

The Eklutna Lakeside Trail improvement project will realign and rebuild sections of the Eklutna Lakeside Trail where the trail has collapsed and eroded into Eklutna Lake. In some locations the bike trail may be moved higher to avoid erosion along the lakeshore. In other locations, drainage needs will be addressed through culverts and/or rocky swales.

BENEFITS AND NEED

-- The project will repair sections of the trail that have collapsed and created dangerous and unpassable situations for trail users.

-- Some sections of the trail will be moved to a higher ground, creating a sustainable solution to combat trail erosion.

-- Completion of this project will lead to a safer, more enjoyable Eklutna Lakeside Trail for all users - ATVs, snowmachines, skiers, bikes, and hikers.

PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

The existing Eklutna Lakeside Trail is included in the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan (as trail ID #111a and #111b) and thus was a part of the public review process associated with the crafting of that document prior to its adoption.

Project Timeline:

Trail work could commence and be completed in summer 2023. A single field season should be sufficient to repair and rebuild the damaged section of trail.

Expenditures are expected to be as follows:

Layout and design = \$18,600

Repairs to 6 miles of single-track trail (biker and hiker) @ \$8,000/mile = \$48,000

Repairs to 12 miles of multi-use trail (ATV and snowmachine) @ \$12,000 = \$144,000

Project management = 23,400

Total cost estimate= \$234,000