

Alaska Trails - Indian Valley Trail Reroute

FY2024 Request: \$1,100,000
Reference No: 65108

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.

The project will create a new alignment for the Indian Valley Trail in Chugach State Park according to sustainable trail principles, moving it to higher ground with better drainage and trail grades to restore year-round access to a large portion of the southern reaches of Chugach State Park.

Funding:	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,100,000						\$1,100,000
Total:	\$1,100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,100,000

<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:

The Indian Valley Trail (identified in the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan (TMP) as trail ID #509a) is a 5+ mile trail which begins at the Upper Indian Creek Trailhead at the end of Boretide Road in the community of Indian. This trail provides access to the alpine environment of Indian Pass, the upper Ship Creek drainage, can be used to connect to the Glen Alps and Prospect Heights trailheads via Ship Pass, and is a critical five miles of the popular 21-mile Arctic to Indian Traverse.

The current trail is poorly aligned, staying near the creek where the ground is wet and unstable, with dense brush and frequent creek crossings. The best solution is to re-align the trail according to sustainable trail principles, moving it to higher ground with better drainage and trail grades, resulting in a higher quality trail at a lower cost than "fixing" the existing trail.

The new trail will be approximately 7 miles long and climb approximately 2000 feet from Boretide Road to Indian Pass. At least 5 bridges will be required. The trail will be 4 ft wide with a clearing width of 8 ft high and 8 ft wide, adhering to Alaska State Parks Handbook standards for a Class III Trail.

BENEFITS AND NEED

-- This project will improve the experience of hikers, equestrians and skiers who utilize the Indian Valley Trail year-round. In addition to improvements to the Indian Valley Trail, this project will improve the gravel parking lot that serves the trail, the Upper Indian Creek Trailhead. In 2012 the Municipality of Anchorage's Chugach Access Plan recommended "Monitor[ing] use and expand[ing] parking if necessary in the future" at the Upper Indian Creek Trailhead. Since 2012, use has increased and conditions have deteriorated, justifying the improvements to the parking lot.

-- Rebuilding the Indian Valley Trail with a sustainable alignment also sets the stage for the next step in the development of the Arctic to Indian summer trail as identified in the TMP. Currently the Arctic to Indian corridor is largely impassable in summer due to numerous creek crossings, dense vegetation and challenging tread. A future iteration of the trail (identified in the TMP as trail number 304a) will connect the new Muktuk Marston Trail, which departs from Arctic Valley Ski Area to Indian Pass.

PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

The existing Indian Valley Trail is included in the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan and thus was a part of the public review process associated with the crafting of that document prior to its adoption.

BUDGET:

- Reconnaissance - \$30,000
- Design and Layout - \$30,000
- Project Management - \$40,000
- Construction costs (trail - \$100,000 per mile) - \$700,000
- Construction Costs (5 bridges) - \$700,000
- TOTAL - \$1,500,000**

Project Timeline:

This project will be completed in one to two field seasons (2023-2024), depending on design and construction contractor availability. Once funding is received, Alaska Trails, a statewide nonprofit based in Anchorage, in partnership with Chugach State Park, will begin initial reconnaissance and assessment of the trail corridor, followed by construction.