

## **Recreational Trails Program funded 31 projects equaling \$1,145,682 in 2015**

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 2015 and 2017.

### **Anchorage Area**

#### **Bird Valley Motorized Trail-Maintenance: \$26,082**

During the summer of 2015 trail crew members rehabilitated and improved access to the existing motorized trail, fixing potholes and repairing the trail with geoblock and French drains.

#### **Middle Fork of Campbell Creek Trail Improvement: \$33,092**

Twenty feet of boardwalk was installed to cross a chronically wet and soft area, 340 feet of existing trail was repaired; 1100 feet of eroding, fall-line trail was rerouted; 310 feet of old board walk was replaced, and 30 feet of broken small stream crossing was replaced.

#### **South Fork Overlook Trail Improvement: \$23,112**

Trail improvement work will take place on the "South Fork Overlook Trail", a 4,200 LF trail starting at the "Chair 2 Gully Trail" in Arctic Valley Ski Area and traversing southeasterly to, and ending at a pass between Rendezvous Peak and Mt. Gordon Lyon, overlooking the South Fork of Eagle River valley. The project is proposed to improve drainage, limit ongoing erosion, and route trail users around downhill ski area facilities.

### **Matanuska-Susitna Valley**

#### **Government Peak Singletrack Phase 2: \$39,563**

Two and a half miles of new single-track bike trail will be built as Phase II of a project taking place in the Government Peak Recreation Area.

#### **Jim Creek Motorized Recreation Trails: \$99,729**

The Mat-Su Borough will construct 3 miles of motorized trail in the Jim Creek Recreation Area to encourage trail-riding. The technical, controlled-speed trails will enhance and expand the existing trail network.

#### **Mid-Valley Motorized Trail Improvement: \$17,200**

The snowmobile and groomer purchased for this project will improve the effectiveness of Mid-Valley Trail Club's efforts to improve and repair recreational winter trails in the mid-Susitna Valley. In addition, MVTC has three specific projects for 2015-2016 that will be provided safer travel routes.

#### **Bonfire Lake to Happy River Trail Maintenance: \$49,990**

This grant purchases 4 snowmachines for trail work on the Historic Iditarod Trail. In the late fall of 2015 the Iditarod Trail Committee will brush overgrowth and deadfall from the Historic Iditarod Trail. Work will begin at the Bonfire Lake (west of Shell Lake) and continue 29.34 miles to the confluence of the Skwentna and Happy Rivers.

**ATV/Salmon Stream Crossing Training/Education: \$6,500**

This Safety and Education project will provide land managers, agency personnel, commercial recreation operators, volunteers, riders, trail users, students and the public with appropriate training and education regarding crossing salmon streams. Stream/salmon resources, etiquette, regulations, permits trail and stream crossing construction alternatives methods, and a report of an assessment project that offers current conditions of prioritized, impacted crossings will be presented. Various sessions will be created to accommodate different target audiences.

**Matanuska Valley Moose Range Trail Bridges Upgrade: \$49,760**

This project will construct 3 new timber bridges that accommodate side-by-side OHV traffic adjacent to existing crossings that have severely degraded the stream banks along the Wasilla Creek head waters. It will repair 3 existing ATV bridges, and remediate and upgrade tread surfaces on the associated approaches.

**Interior Alaska****Liewer Community Trail: \$40,122**

The Liewer Community Trail will be a sustainable non-motorized trail with 1.35 miles of stacked loops on approximately 10 acres of forested land near Delta Junction. It will be designed for classic cross country skiing yet attract walkers/runners and birders in the non-snow months. Trail easements are donated from a joint effort of Ronald Liewer and the Delta/Greely School District.

**Skyline Ridge Park Trail Restoration: \$50,000**

The project will focus on the use of sustainable trail construction methods to restore approximately 3,500 linear feet of the Skyline Ridge Trail. Improvements to repair damaged sections of trail will focus on the following: trail alignment modifications, surface tread repair, erosion control, and additional drainage features. Restoration will prevent trail braiding and resource degradation thereby allowing patrons to continue safely using the established trail network to travel in the park.

**Koponen Homestead Trail: \$35,428**

This project will construct a multi-use, multi-season, non-motorized trail, approximately 1.6 miles in length on the Koponen Homestead in Fairbanks, AK. The trail will be designed for Nordic X-C skiing (USFS Class 3), but will be suitable for mountain biking, pedestrians, snowshoeing, etc. The trail will be naturally surfaced and will adhere to modern sustainability requirements for alignment, grade, integrated water control, and durable tread.

**Northern Trail Rehabilitation: \$16,003**

This project rehabilitated 350 feet of braided and discontinued sections of trail by scarifying and reseeded, and an additional 4500 feet of trail on the Angel Creek Hillside and Compeau Trails.

**Stiles Creek Trail: \$24,838**

This project repaired 200 rolling grade dips to function correctly to provide positive drainage. It hardened a 1000 foot section of the trail, and cleared and repaired 15 miles of damaged and rutted trail.

**Northern Area Training and Assessment: \$17,120**

The State Parks' 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.

**Lower Chatanika ATV Trail Map and Brochure: \$50,000**

The existing ORV/ATV trails at Lower Chatanika River SRA were mapped. This map will be used to create a safety and orientation brochure for motorized riders. A side benefit of this project is that it will allow for condition assessments of the trails, which will help DPOR make management decisions to enhance public safety and will lay the groundwork for future upgrades.

**Angel Rocks Rehabilitation: \$22,906**

This project hardened and repaired 1000 feet of the Angel Rocks trail. A barrier made of native rock was constructed to increase safety for hikers and new signs were purchased and installed to guide people to the safer trail.

**Southeast Alaska****Battery Point Trail Hardening: \$47,540**

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 by helicopter support. The gravel will be dispersed along the trail by mechanized wheelbarrows providing a sustainable tread for its intended use.

**Eaglecrest Mountain Bike Flow Trail: \$50,000**

The Eaglecrest mountain bike flow trail project is creating the first trail in Juneau and Southeast Alaska specifically designed for mountain bikers. The trail has been designed for a broad range of rider skill and experience levels, including those age 8 and older. The trail was designed to the sustainable trail standards adopted by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).

**Herring Cove, Sitka Storm Damage: \$31,304**

This project repaired storm damage from water erosion and landslides on the Herring Cove - Beaver Lake hiking trail using labor provided by Trail Works and USFS Trail crews. A new 300 foot section of the trail was built and relocated to a more sustainable area. Three rock slide areas were cleared, and trail tread was restored across a small slide area.

**Petersburg, Hungry Point Trail Extension: \$41,390**

Petersburg Parks and Recreation with the partnership of the Petersburg Indian Association will construct 2100 linear feet by 4 foot wide elevated boardwalk trail allowing for ease of use and maintenance. This trail will be built on muskeg and so pilings and sills will be used to build the elevated boardwalk.

**Kenai Peninsula****Kachemak Bay State Park: Saddle Trail Re-Route: \$49,997**

This project will begin a three to five year project of re-aligning the trail/tread and corridor of the Saddle Trail from its present location. Clearing new trail alignment, removing root wads, and new tread to correct drainage and erosion problems, provide improved access, reducing grades and improving views.

**HoWL Trail Days across the Bay!: \$50,000**

HoWL will complete projects in 5 priority areas of Kachemak Bay State Park in 2015 and 2016 including the Glacier Lake Trail, Emerald Lake Trail, Alpine Ridge Trail, Grace Ridge Trail, and Moose Valley Trail. Trail work will include re-establishing trail corridors that have become impassible due to overgrown vegetation, repairing tread on areas that have degraded due to high use and hydrology, re-establishing the campsite at Emerald Lake, and installing signage and navigational aids along existing trails. All work will be completed by youth volunteers under the direct supervision of professional adult crew leaders.

**Restoring KBay's Interpretive Trails-Phase 2: \$25,020**

This project will restore 450 feet of heavily used trail at the Peterson Bay Field Station by using Wood Step Construction, Cut-Out Stringer Construction with landings and picket rails, and Plank Boardwalk to remove steep grades and protect the trail slope in two main sections of the Lost and Found Lake Trail. This is a continuation of trail upgrades that began in 2014. It includes some trail brushing for maintenance and removal of trees and stumps of large brush within the corridor. In addition, 10 interpretive signs that educate the public about bear and moose safety and natural history features will be installed at the PBFS and at the Wynn Nature Center trails.

**Tsalteshi Trailhead Improvement Project: \$33,500**

TTA will construct a permanent two seat toilet structure at the Kalifornsky/Wolverine trailhead/parking area. The toilets will meet Kenai Borough and DEC requirements and utilize two Romtec containment vaults. The upper structure will be built on a concrete pad adjacent to the parking area perimeter and be constructed with the help of volunteer labor. TTA will renovate and harden the Moose, Wolf and Bear trails by scraping off the clay surface and mixing with the sand and gravel subsoils. The trail surface will be raised where required.

**Tsalteshi Trails Groomer purchase: \$14,000** TTA will purchase a new snow grooming snowmobile to replace a 10 year old machine, which will be used to groom the 25 km of ski trails.

**Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers- Snow Cat: \$100,000**

CHCH will purchase a new Pisten Bully 150 or 400, or a Tucker Snow Cat. The price range for a new groomer is from \$200,000 to \$240,000 including shipping, and the club will provide the remaining funds. This new machine will replace a 1991 Pisten Bully 200, with well over 10,000 hours. The benefits to the club include reliability, safety, efficiency, and less maintenance.

**Watermelon Trail Remediation:\$37,891**

Improvements to Watermelon Trail need to address both legal and environmental concerns. This project will correct these issues by rerouting the trail onto public lands, and by improving trail conditions near an ATV bridge that crosses Beaver Creek, an anadromous stream and an important tributary to the Anchor River. Trail reroutes will be brushed along surveyed lines without disturbing surface soil using a trail crew with brush cutters. Porous pavement panels will be installed in the bridge approaches following installation.

**Kodiak****Reclamation of Miller Point Lower Access Trail: \$36,495**

This project created a trail on an old overgrown WWII-era military road section that has become unrecognizable and totally unusable, even for foot traffic. It now provides public access trail with ADA

accessibility to an area previously inaccessible in the Miller Point section of Ft. Abercrombie State Historical Park.

**Piedmont Point Historic Bunker Trail Re-Route: \$8,000**

New trail was constructed parallel to an existing trail to re-establish access to an historic WWII bunker. The trail was designed for foot traffic only access, with a gravel tread width of two to three feet and approximately 100 feet in length on relatively level ground.

**17b Easement Trail Tread Repairs: \$19,100**

Island Trails Network will repair trail tread on two public easement trails crossing Ouzinkie Native Corporation lands. Both trails were hardened with geoblock within the last five years, but have suffered tread failures in some areas. Tread repairs will involve infilling geoblock cells, re-seeding to reduce surface erosion and back-slope failure, and grading of the tread surface to integrate drainage features where surface hydrology has changed.