



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630

P.O. Box 196650

Anchorage, AK 99519



Date: May 4, 2026

To: Aaron Jongenelen, AMATS Executive Director/MPO Coordinator

From: Nicolette Dent, Park Planner, Anchorage Parks and Recreation

Subject: **2026 Recreational Trails Plan – Summary of Public Review Draft Comment Period**

Overview

The Public Review Draft of the Recreational Trails Plan was posted online on January 28, 2026 which kicked off a 60-day public comment period open through March 31, 2026. During this time, the project team hosted open houses in Russian Jack Springs Park and Beach Lake Park. An interactive map and project website provided an overview of the plan and a link to the plan draft. Hard copies were available at the open houses and at Anchorage City Hall.

The project team received 123 individual comments through the online form and 17 letters via e-mail with an additional 137 comments extracted. These comments were categorized into themes.

Comment Theme	Number of Comments
Document Edit	57
Project Support	39
New Proposed Project/Recommendation	38
Recommendation Support	30
Design Standards	29
Project Concern	28
Recommendation Concern	23
Project Prioritization	22
Landowner/Land Management	5
Maintenance	2

Based on comment review, the project team made the following notable changes to the draft.



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630

P.O. Box 196650

Anchorage, AK 99519



Trail Classifications and Design

- Trail tread and clearance widths were edited throughout Trail Classifications 1-6 for summer and winter to better align with accessibility guidance, trail character, and intent.
- 28 commenters requested a new trail classification that would describe parallel progressive singletrack trails alongside a multi-used paved path, such as those found on the Chester Creek Trail.
 - Parks is supportive of these types of trail developments (such as Project 07) as project-specific developments rather than standards. Added narrative in Chapter 5 under “Trail Classifications and Design.”
 - Added narrative to clarify that while Trail Classifications focus on multi-use trails, they do not prevent specialty trail development (i.e. mountain biking trails, cross-country ski trails, etc.).

Trail Project Recommendations

- **Modified Project 10, South Coastal Trail:** Rerouted the line outside of the boundary of the Conservation Easement on the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area. Revised project description to demonstrate that a route should prioritize park land, greenbelts, and low-traffic corridors to minimize impacts to private property and the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.
- **Modified Project 37, Muldoon Perimeter Trail:** JBER requested removal from plan, citing its “incompatibility with military mission. This section of the installation border is mostly unsecured, easily accessible by the public, and has a high incidence of trespassing resulting in delayed and cancelled training opportunities impacting Soldier readiness.” However, there was substantial public support for this project throughout this plan and in historic plans. JBER was removed from the recommended project title, and the route is now shown as a hatched line north-south in the region, reflecting the public priority to connect Far North Bicentennial Park/Chugach State Park with Northeast Anchorage neighborhoods.
- **Modified Project 68, Coastal Trail North Extension, Beach Lake Park to Mirror/Edmonds Lake:** This segment will be shown as a hatched fill instead of solid line to emphasize the need for more route planning to address trespass concerns from Eklutna, Inc. and other landowner concerns and to coordinate with the conservation easement in place through Great Land Trust.
- **New Project 73, Eagle River Greenbelt Mountain Bike Trail Development:** Develop mountain bike trails connecting Eagle River High School, Eagle River Campground and Briggs Bridge. Trail development should be consistent with and support the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan, specifically Trail Management Recommendation 223a. Eagle River Greenbelt Pathway – Glenn Hwy to Eagle River Nature Center.



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630

P.O. Box 196650

Anchorage, AK 99519



- **New Project 74, Carol Creek Trail:** Connect the McDonald Center to Chugach State Park at Mt. Baldy in accordance with adopted plans and through close coordination with landowners.

Trail Project Descriptions or Priority Level

- **Project 04, Earthquake Park Rehabilitation:** Priority moved to high due to many supportive comments. It also is the nearest Coastal Trail access for this neighborhood and contributes to better connectivity.
- **Project 12, Section 36 Master Plan:** Clarified that the project boundary includes the bounds of the Master Plan, which includes HLB parcels south of Clark Rd.
- **Project 24, Westchester Lagoon Master Plan:** Project description was expanded to clarify goals of the project to address trail congestion and safety concerns shared during the comment period by three community councils.

Project Recommendation Narrative Edits

- **Major Connectivity Projects:** New narrative section to describe intent and challenges of the “big dream” projects and to add information about the record of public support for many of these projects.
- **Connectivity Language:** The narrative in Chapter 5 under Project Recommendations was revised on land acquisition and how that relates to non-motorized and Chugach State Park connectivity.
 - While land acquisition was not explored in depth by this plan, multiple organizations and individuals requested a revision of the draft language because they felt that it did not reflect the public's support for land acquisition with the goal of connecting to Chugach State Park or connecting existing trails.
 - The intent is to clarify that the findings of this plan are both that 1) the public wants to prioritize taking care of existing resources over building new ones, and 2) connectivity of existing trail systems is a long-term public priority.

Non-Motorized Needs List

27 comments received during the comment period referenced projects along a street corridor (non-motorized transportation facilities rather than recreational facilities). Six new projects have been added to the Plan based on public comment:

- **New Non-Motorized Project (NMP) 22, Coastal Trail Extension South, Seward Hwy from Potters Marsh to Indian:** Provide a separated non-motorized pathway from Potters March to the existing pathway at Indian Road.



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630

P.O. Box 196650

Anchorage, AK 99519



- **New NMP 23, Huffman Road to Coast Connection along Furrow Creek:** Construct a non-motorized connection from Huffman Road and Old Seward Hwy west, across the railroad, along Furrow Creek or E Huffman Road ROW to improve neighborhood connectivity to Mariner Park, Johns Park and potential South Coastal Trail alignments.
- **New NMP 24, Government Hill to Ship Creek Connection:** Implement the Government Hill Parks & Trails Plan to improve non-motorized connectivity to Ship Creek
- **New NMP Project 25, Government Hill East to West Bluff Trail Connection:** Implement the *Government Hill Parks & Trails Plan* to provide a non-motorized connection from East Bluff Park to West Bluff Park with an improved crossing at E Loop Road.
- **New NMP 26, Barbara Street Improvements from Northern Lights to 32nd Avenue:** Improve non-motorized safety and connectivity along Barbara St. to connect the elevated crossing at Northern Lights to the Fish Creek Trail at 32nd Ave.
- **New NMP Project 27, Hyder Street Corridor Improvement:** Improve non-motorized connectivity and user experience along the Hyder Street Corridor to better connect the neighborhoods of Fairview and downtown to recreational assets including Chester Creek and Ship Creek trails.

Implementation

- The Chugach State Park Access Service Area (CASA) was *incorrectly* identified as an implementation tool for projects that fall within the Eagle River Chugiak Parks and Recreation Service Area (ERCPRSA). This has been corrected throughout.
- In Chapter 6, under “Legal Access: Trail Easements and Rights-of-Way,” narrative about trail easements, land acquisition, and land swaps as tools for implementation has been added.

Other Narrative Edits

- Chapter 2, Trail Management:
 - Voluntary membership model explained in Cooperative Use Agreement section.
 - Added narrative section called “State and Federal Regulatory Framework” that describes conservation easements, Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) protections within parks.
- Chapter 5, Recommendations:
 - Narrative added under new sub-headings: Trail Striping, Trail Counters, Snowmaking, and Trailside Facilities.
- Chapter 6, Implementation:
 - Added narrative under Funding Strategies describing historic project costs and survey respondents’ willingness to support for new forms of revenue for trail projects.