



Item Overview

Item Number: 5B

Date: 16 July 2026

To: AMATS Policy Committee

From: Emily Weiser, AMATS Non-Motorized Coordinator

Subject: Recreational Trails Plan Final Approval

Action Requested

AMATS staff recommends that the Policy Committee approve the Recreational Trails Plan.

TAC Action

The Technical Advisory Committee recommended postponing action on the Recreational Trails Plan to September in order to hold a TAC worksession for further feedback from departments.

Background

The Recreational Trails Plan (RTP) was funded in the 2023-2026 TIP, with MOA Parks & Recreation taking the lead on the project. A project update was provided to the TAC and PC in February 2026 when the public review draft was released. The RTP serves as an update to the 1997 Areawide Trails Plan and a companion to the 2021 Non-Motorized Plan, focusing on trails that are primarily used recreationally while the Non-Motorized Plan focused on transportation facilities. The RTP is intended to reflect modern trail needs of Anchorage and Eagle River/Chugiak residents and plan for the years ahead, and will also help government and partner organizations advocate for and prioritize funding and resources for trails.

Development of the plan involved public advisory groups, stakeholder meetings with agency landowners and user groups that manage trails, four public workshops, and multiple pop-ups at community events. An online survey received responses from 2,055 people, with hundreds of additional comments received online and through the interactive map posted in summer 2025. An additional 260 comments were received during the 60-day public comment period.

The public engagement process found that the community was most interested in improving trail safety, improving maintenance, and connecting existing trail systems. The RTP follows those priorities with:

- Recommendations for identifying and prioritizing improvements to existing trails, developing new trails, and improving connections among trails,
- Specific recommended trail projects as well as on-street projects that would complement the recreational trails system,
- A new classification system to describe trail design standards based on intended use, and
- Planning, funding, and access management tools for implementing the recommendations.

Following the public comment period and further discussion with partners, the project team has revised the draft for AMATS approval. The plan, appendices, a summary of changes in response to public comment, and line-by-line responses to public comments are attached.



Attached

Recreational Trails Plan (final draft)
RTP Appendix A. Trail Classifications
RTP Appendix B. Public Involvement Summary
RTP Appendix C. Plans and Policies Review
Summary of Public Comment Period
Public Comments and Responses