

Girdwood Trails Committee
Project Options List for 2024 Legislative Funding

Girdwood Iditarod National Historic Trail:

Girdwood INHT has been a priority project for many years and has received funding from several sources, which has resulted in upgraded Class 4 Trail from the trailhead off Alyeska Highway near the USFS station to Karolius Road. GTC and GVSA have submitted an RTP grant application to continue work as a Class 3 trail from the Girdwood K-8 trailhead 2.4 miles up Crow Creek Road to the USFS Boundary.

The status of that application will be known in the spring of 2024.

Funding from the State to add to this will allow us to do more to fix drainage and improve trail tread, and offset cost of match for the RTP grant, if the grant does come through.

Estimated Total project cost to repair parts of lower INHT and improve middle INHT: \$TBA

Beaver Pond Trail:

Beaver Pond Trail has also been significantly improved over the last 10 years, however the funding has been piecemeal and some sections remain very challenging to hike and bike. State funding could be used to improve widen trail that has eroded on the south end, add turnpikes to grade changes that are difficult to navigate as the trail climbs drainages, eliminate root wells in the wooded sections, fix drainage crossings on the upper end of the trail closer to junction with Abes/California Creek Trails. Goal would be to bring the entire trail up to Class 3 biking standard (GTMP page 34).

Estimated total project cost to bring Beaver Pond Trail to Class 3 standard \$TBA

Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway trail connector:

This project is a priority to get pedestrians safe and legal access from the neighborhoods off Timberline Road to the Pedestrian safety corridor (bike path) along Alyeska Highway. There is already a well-used social trail located here. Terrain features include wetland crossing, a steep hill that can be difficult in winter due to glaciation, and creek crossing that will require a small bridge to cross over. Permission will need to be granted from DOT to put the path under the Alyeska Highway bridge, which will allow pedestrians to avoid crossing Alyeska Highway.

Estimated total project cost to ceate a Class 3 biking trail from the end of Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway is \$TBA.



December 2023 Report Girdwood Trails Committee

Updates and other business:

Girdwood Valley Trails Management Plan. Current version is posted on the GBOS website. Management Plan meetings are on hold until Trails Master Plan is complete.

Girdwood Trails Master Plan. Plan was accepted at LUC and at GBOS at their FEB meetings and HLBAC in June and received approval by Planning and Zoning November 6. Final approval will be with Anchorage Assembly. This is scheduled for introduction on Jan 9 and hearing on Jan 23 2024.

Imagine! Girdwood. Imagine! Girdwood is seeking input on land use maps. Visit imaginegirdwood.org

Financial report: Pending Dec update

Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report

As of October 31, 2023

Account with Girdwood Inc. \$ 53,941.81

Last Report 9/30/2023

Dugan Grant Balance

Currently \$5,720

September 15, 2023 Donation

John Rense \$ 500.00 **belongs to Friends of GW Trails and must be moved

Account Balance \$ 54,441.81

Grants Status report:

State of Alaska, Capital Budget: Thank you to Alaska Trails for including the suspension bridge to replace the Hand Tram in their requests for funding of the State of Alaska. State has awarded \$1.2M for this project as part of Alaska Long Trail Funding. Construction goal is 2024/2025.

Rasmuson Tier II Grant: We will reapply once we're a little closer to construction.

KMTA 2023 Grant cycle: Reimbursement check is in the mail! Thank you Kate Sandberg, for working on the application and Friends of Girdwood Trails for helping with the match!

Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP): GVSA submitted RTP grant application for work on Middle INHT Oct 31.

Dugan Family donation for trails signs on Middle Iditarod Trail and bench at the 5K parking are nearing completion. Remaining is the trail sign that will be produced and placed.

Trail Map Project: Staff received a rough draft from the graphic designer and has a Map Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 12/12 at 3PM to review and provide input and guidance. Meeting will be formally posted Dec 5.