

The current language:

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Trails Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

How about:

The Girdwood Trails Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct and follows the guidelines of the Alaska Open Meetings Act.



File Code: 1560
Date:

Rebecca Windt Pearson
Municipality of Anchorage City Manager
PO Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99587-6650

Ms. Pearson,

The Chugach National Forest is pleased to continue the partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the planned Glacier Creek bridge on Winner Creek Trail. This project expands upon and deepens our longstanding partnership for trail stewardship in the Girdwood Valley, as documented in the Girdwood Valley Trails Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (USFS Agreement #23-MU-11100400-001).

Winner Creek Trail is a federally managed trail that crosses Municipality lands (following conveyances from the US Forest Service and State of Alaska). For years a community driven project under the MOA managed a hand tram to facilitate a creek crossing over disconnected segments of the trail, until the tram was closed in 2019. Given this history, it was practical that the Municipality and Forest would continue to work together to ensure the trail is managed for world-class recreation experiences, while providing trail connectivity important to the shared public. We are very pleased with the leadership Municipal partners have displayed in developing the plan to construct a new Glacier Creek bridge, which will provide a permanent pedestrian connection connecting the Winner Creek Trail.

The Chugach understands the Municipality is positioned to solicit the bridge construction contract. This is excellent news, and it is recognized that trail users and residents will be equally pleased to see the bridge constructed soon. The Chugach National Forest is committed to managing operations, maintenance, and inspection responsibilities for this complex trail structure per Forest Service Manual (FSM) 7730 for the bridge once completed. It will be added to the Forest inventory of federal assets as we begin the process of taking ownership of the real property as prescribed in FSM 5400.

Over the coming months the Chugach National Forest will continue to coordinate with the Municipality's team to formalize this arrangement. For further coordination needed please contact Chugach National Forest Technical Services Staff Officer Griff Berg and Trail Program Manager Will Brennan.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER K. YOUNGBLOOD
Forest Supervisor



APPENDIX 5

Trail Project Priority List, 2025-2035

2025-2030

- Reroute of Middle Iditarod near Phase 1 of Holtan Hills
- Continued improvements to Middle Iditarod Trail between the Girdwood School, Crow Creek Road and the boundary of the USFS portion of the trail.
- Easement secured for Middle Iditarod Trail
- Trail T4: Ruane Road Trail Connection to Lower Iditarod. There is a low spot that gets flooded near the trailhead by the AWWU plant. Either the drainage needs to be improved to drain the water away or the trail raised to get the tread above water level.
- Bridge B6: Glacier Creek Trail Bridge – Upper Valley and Interpretive kiosk
- Trail T6: Barren Avenue to Alyeska Highway
- Improvements to Lower Virgin Creek Trail (TH post, establish route to the bench from the TH)
- Easement secured for Lower Virgin Creek Trail
- Improve tread and drainage on the Shortcut Trail from Alyeska Hwy to Davos

2025-2035

- Trail T10: Forest Loop Trail
- Trail Head 11: Arlberg Trailhead Expansion
- Trail T11: Arlberg Connection to Winner Creek Trail
- Trail T14: Snowcat Trail Improvements
- Trail Head 5: Karolius Trailhead
- Trail T12: Canyon Rim Trail

Trail numbers correspond to proposed trails in the 2024 Trails Master Plan.

APPENDIX 6

Adopted Planning Documents that Affect Girdwood Trails

Alyeska Resort Master Plan, 2025

Anchorage Park, Greenbelt and Facility Recreation Plan, Vol. 3: Turnagain Arm, 1987

Assessment of Ecological & Socio-Economic Conditions and Trends for the Chugach National Forest, 2014

Chugach National Forest: Land Management Plan, 2020

Chugach State Park Access Plan, 2010

Chugach State Park Management Plan, 2016

Chugach State Park Trails Management Plan, 2016

Crow Creek Neighborhood Land Use Plan, 2006

Girdwood Commercial Areas and Transportation Master Plan, 2001

Girdwood Comprehensive Plan, 2025

Girdwood Iditarod Trail Route Study, 1997

Girdwood South Townsite Master Plan, 2009, amended 2014

Girdwood Trails Plan, 2024

MOA Area-wide Trails Plan, 1997

MOA Title 21, Chapter 9 Girdwood Land Use Plan, 2005, amended with MOA Assembly approval on an ongoing basis

Winner Creek Trails Feasibility Study, 2007

APPENDIX 7

Trail Partnerships

Documents outlining partnership agreements for trail work, such as interagency land management agreements, memoranda of understanding, and contracts made through Alaska Trail Volunteers and other organizations are available at the Girdwood Parks and Recreation Office.

Established Partnerships with Government Organizations:

- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Alaska State Parks, Chugach State Park
- Girdwood Board of Supervisors
- Municipality of Anchorage, Heritage Land Bank
- US Forest Service, Glacier Ranger District

Grant Organizations:

- Alaska Community Foundation: ACF Trail Care Fund and private donations
- Alaska Trails
- American Hiking Society
- Anchorage Park Foundation
- Kenai Mountain–Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- National Forest Foundation
- Rasmuson Foundation
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Volunteer Organizations:

- Student Conservation Association (SCA)
- Youth Employment in Parks (YEP)
- Alaska Trails Volunteers (Adopt-A-Trail)
- Bikewood
- Girdwood Nordic Ski Club

Other:

- Various service organizations assist with work on Girdwood Trails under the supervision of the Girdwood Parks and Recreation office.
- Private donations through Girdwood, Inc.

Key Dates

- ⚠ **November 2025:** Application period opens for Round 1 2026 projects
- ⚠ **December 4, 2025:** Informational Webinar on MAP
- ⚠ **January 22, 2026:** Deadline for Round 1 2026 MAP Applications
- ⚠ **Spring 2026:** Application period opens for Round 2 2026 projects (specific date TBD)
- ⚠ **Summer 2026:** Deadline for Round 2 2026 MAP Applications (specific date TBD)

Summary of MAP Program Requirements

- ⚠ **Geographic Scope:** National, must take place on U.S. National Forests and Grasslands or adjacent public lands, and demonstrate benefit to National Forest System lands
- ⚠ **Funding Source:** Federal funds via the U.S. Forest Service
- ⚠ **Eligible Applicants:** Nonprofit organizations, Tribal governments and organizations, and colleges and universities. Organizations that do not meet these eligibility types may be able to apply using a fiscal sponsor.
- ⚠ **Match Requirements:** 1:1 nonfederal cash match
- ⚠ **Program Areas:** All MAP applications must include three elements: community engagement, hands-on stewardship activities completed by members of the engaged community, and a direct benefit to the National Forest System
- ⚠ **Project Timing:** Eligible projects are no more than 18 months in duration, and start approximately three months after the application deadline
- ⚠ **U.S. Forest Service Acknowledgement:** All MAP projects selected for funding will be required to secure written acknowledgement from the U.S. Forest Service line officer with jurisdiction over the project location(s), indicating their knowledge of the project and that they have no concerns with its implementation



Jan 2026 Report Girdwood Trails Committee

Updates and other business:

Girdwood Parks Master Plan is now underway. www.girdwoodparksplan.com.

Girdwood Valley Trails Management Plan. Current version is posted on the GTC page. Barb Crews has initiated review of this document with the goal of updating it to match the Girdwood Trails Master Plan.

Girdwood Trails Master Plan. Adopted version is posted on the GTC page. GirdwoodTrailsPlan_February2024.pdf

Girdwood Comprehensive Plan. Final version was formally adopted in early April 2025.

Financial report: \$26,507.81. RTP reimbursement #1 of \$42,935 received Oct 31.

Updated report pending.

GTC received end of the year donations!

\$10,000 for special dog-friendly walking strip for the new bridge

\$250 unrestricted funds from Forest Fair

\$1000 unrestricted funds from Girdwood Nordic Ski Club

\$5250 from Sherry and Bob Dugan for tread work/improvements on MINHT

Trail Projects: Status of GVSA Trails projects:

- Bridge replacement over California Creek adjacent to Town Square Park/Crow Creek Road funded by private donation. [IN PROGRESS. Delay with permitting, project construction 2026](#)
- Trail work and trailhead signage on the Lower Virgin Creek Trail (a social trail that connects Virgin Creek Road to Danich Trail). [PENDING](#)
- Bidding for Suspension bridge to replace the Hand Tram funded by a variety of sources. Build expected in 2026 to provide time for material acquisition. [PENDING](#)
- Tread and drainage work on the Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail between the school and USFS Boundary co-funded by GVSA and RTP and possible MAP Grant

Grants Status report:

National Forest Foundation MAP Grant: GPR is working on GTC application for YEP and AK trails Crews to work on Middle INHT. 1:1 Matching grant. Application due Jan 22 2026.

Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant: expect grant cycle to be announced in spring 2026. APF grants open every two years.

Alaska Community Foundation: Girdwood Parks and Rec applied for Trail Care grant and was awarded \$1000 for chainsaw and tools in 2025. Completed reporting and closed grant Dec 2025.

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.

Rasmuson Tier II Grant: GVSA has been awarded funding for this project.

Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP): GTC did not apply for RTP in 2025. 2024 grant was awarded for the Middle INHT. Delays pushed it to 2025, wrapping up project in 2026, ongoing reimbursements.

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.

Dugan Family donation for work on MINHT starting in 2026.

Private funder has donated funds for new bridge to connect Crow Creek Road to town center behind ACS building.

Trail Map Project: Summer map project complete and printed. Winter map project is under way.

Trails Commercial Use Permits: 2026 permits are being issued by Girdwood Parks and Recreation. Any business operating commercially on Girdwood public land and trails should have a permit issued locally. Contact for requesting permits is girdwoodpermits@anchorageak.gov 907-343-8373. Report operators without permits to Kyle Kelley: kyle.kelley@anchorageak.gov 907-343-8374. 2025 permit user report and payments are due in Jan 2026.