

Trail Plan Priorities
Barbara Crews 10/2023

1. T6: Barren Avenue to Alyeska Highway

It is important to remove pedestrian highway crossings wherever possible. This is an easy fix that also removed pedestrian traffic from busy Timberline Drive.

I would also like to improve the trail underpass on the opposite side of the bridge: add riprap and remove the big rock, lower the trail for head clearance, paving the first couple of feet to entice Forest Fair traffic onto the trail....

2. T1: The connection from the Depot TH area to the Lower Iditarod, by way of the RR underpass.

By providing a fenced off trail cutoff, GTC will be actually helping the ARR with its goal of removing pedestrians from the RR right of way.

3. T14: Snow Cat Road summerized from Arlberg Lot to Winner Creek trail (the section from Winner Creek to the Powder Cache is a separate, much more complicated, improvement).

This means creating a minimum class 2 hardened surface that is routed out of the wetlands. Eventually, the trail is to be brought up to class 4 bike standards, but I think the most important thing is to get the trail out of the wetlands first.

4. T11: Arlberg TH to Winner Creek Trail

Access to Winner Creek Trail now involves crossing Alyeska Resort property. I think it is important to have access directly from a public TH, in this case the Arlberg TH. Access from the Arlberg TH to Winner Creek Trail currently is via the Nordic 5K. During the winter, this access is limited to skier traffic only. Walkers and dogs could walk the Snow Cat trail back to Alyeska and then access Winner Creek Trail, but it is not intuitive and I don't think anyone does this. Eventually, we need a trail that solves both winter and summer issues. I think we should start by grooming a trail in winter and using this process to find the best alignment for a summer trail.

5. T5: Beaver Pond Trail to Bike Path

We have invested a lot of time and money into the BPT. T5 would be an additional improvement by providing more access and improving winter safety. T5 would provide a cutoff to join up with BPT about midway, so people could access the trail more easily and it would provide for more possible short loop walks. In addition, in the winter, the lower part of BPT crosses potential avalanche paths. This cutoff would allow people to avoid that section of BPT.

6. TH1: Depot trailhead improvements

7. TH9: School dirt lot parking improvements

8. TH11: Expand Arlberg parking lot

9. TH7: Moose Meadows parking improvements

10. Middle Iditarod parking improvements

Prior discussion:

Connector from Barren Ave to Alyeska Highway

Arlberg bike path rehabilitation

Connections to complete Girdwood Trail Marathon Loop



November 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. Planning and Zoning hearing is November 6. Final approval will be with Anchorage Assembly, date TBA.

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

Financial report: Updated

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.

Hammel Family donation for a bench in memory of Rob Hammel: bench is in place. Plaque is complete. Bench has been removed for the season but will return in spring with the plaque!