



## November 2025 Report Girdwood Trails Committee

### Updates and other business:

Girdwood Parks Master Plan is now underway. Public workshop Sept 16 received input. Upcoming is an Advisory Committee meeting to review recommendations compiled after the workshop, stakeholders, survey and staff. Next public meeting is tentatively scheduled for Dec 16 [www.girdwoodparksplan.com](http://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. Review the amendments: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/operations/streets/Service/Trails/Girdwood%20Trails%20Management%20Plan%20REV%20DRAFT%20Intro%20thru%20Chapter%204.pdf>  
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.

### Trail Projects: Status of GVSA Trails projects slated for 2025:

- 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
- Tread work on Virgin Creek Falls Trail funded by private donation assisting with YEP crew. **COMPLETE!**
- 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 Grant **COMPLETE**; next steps are platting and reroute/construction of trail segment.
- Construction of a pavilion in Lions Club Park, co-funded by GVSA, Lions Club, private donations and LWCF grant. **PENDING**
- Study storm damage to the Beaver Pond Trail/make repairs. **COMPLETE**

### Grants Status report:

Alaska Community Foundation: Girdwood Parks and Rec applied for Trail Care grant and was awarded \$1000 for trail backpack and chainsaw for trail work. Funds received and given to Girdwood Inc for GTC Account.

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): RTP grant for 2026 has been announced. GTC did not apply. 2024 grant was awarded for the Middle INHT. Delays pushed it to 2025, wrapping up reimbursement.

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 reconstruction of 2 bridges on the Middle Iditarod Trail; PROJECT COMPLETE These bridges are complete!

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**: 2025 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](mailto:girdwoodpermits@anchorageak.gov) 907-343-8373. Report operators without permits to Kyle Kelley: [kyle.kelley@anchorageak.gov](mailto:kyle.kelley@anchorageak.gov) 907-343-8374.

### Summer Trails Projects

- Glacier Creek Bridge on Winner Creek Trail
- Middle Iditarod NHT  
Platting of Trail easement  
Reroute of trail at HH  
Upgrades complete to USFS Boundary
- Pedestrian Bridge on California Creek connecting town center to Crow Creek Road  
Privately funded re-build at 50% design currently.  
Securing permitting  
Construction 2026
- Virgin Creek Falls Trail tread work  
2025 successful work with YEP  
2026 Continue with adding gravel
- Beaver Pond Trail  
2025 successful tree clearing/drainage  
2026 more drainage and tread work
- Storm repair/Winter clean-up/Maintenance  
TBD
- Lower Virgin Creek Trail (from Virgin Creek Road)  
Install Trailhead post  
Clear blowdowns  
Establish route to the bench to deter meandering trail on the sidehill  
Work on getting an easement for the trail  
2026 initiate projects
- Installation of trail map sign at 5K parking

**From:** [Kate Sandberg](#)  
**To:** [Tyler, Margaret S.](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Request for Chugach State Park RTP grant project  
**Date:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 8:40:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-4y44201a.png](#)

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

WOW! Impressive.

Kate

On Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 3:35 PM Tyler, Margaret S. <[margaret.tyler@anchorageak.gov](mailto:margaret.tyler@anchorageak.gov)> wrote:

Please see response from Justin below -

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**From:** Dipaola-Allen, Justin A (DNR) <[justin.dipaola-allen@alaska.gov](mailto:justin.dipaola-allen@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 2:57 PM  
**To:** Tyler, Margaret S. <[margaret.tyler@anchorageak.gov](mailto:margaret.tyler@anchorageak.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wedeking, Matthew D (DNR) <[matthew.wedeking@alaska.gov](mailto:matthew.wedeking@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Chugach State Park RTP grant project

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]**

Hi Margaret,

Please share the note below with the GTC board.

Girdwood Trails Committee Board,

Thank you for the thoughtful letter and for the Girdwood Trails Committee's steady advocacy for the Bird-to-Gird. I share your concerns about safety, drainage, and sightlines.

Good news: Alaska DOT&PF has an active Seward Highway project, MP 90–99 (CFHWY00850), that includes repairs and upgrades to trail facilities in this corridor. The scope targets avalanche and water damage and is intended to extend the life of both the highway and the path. Because this work is already programmed with DOT&PF, Chugach State Park is not planning to pursue a 2026 RTP application for this need.

In the near term, Parks will continue routine brushing and drainage maintenance to support safety until DOT&PF completes its project. We're also acquiring additional mechanized vegetation-clearing capacity and have identified the Bird-to-Gird as a Summer 2026 top priority.

Thank you again for the offer of a GBOS resolution; I'll be sure to pass your perspective along to DOT&PF.

Best,

Justin

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**Justin DiPaola-Allen**

Superintendent

Chugach State Park

Alaska State Parks

907-444-3980



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**From:** Tyler, Margaret S. <[margaret.tyler@anchorageak.gov](mailto:margaret.tyler@anchorageak.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 4, 2025 9:28 AM

**To:** Dipaola-Allen, Justin A (DNR) <[justin.dipaola-allen@alaska.gov](mailto:justin.dipaola-allen@alaska.gov)>

**Cc:** Wedeking, Matthew D (DNR) <[matthew.wedeking@alaska.gov](mailto:matthew.wedeking@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** Request for Chugach State Park RTP grant project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see attached request from the Girdwood Trails Committee

## APPENDIX 5

# Trail Build Priority List, from Trails Plan

### 2 Years Out

- Trail T4: Ruane Road Trail Connection to Lower Iditarod
- Bridge B6: Glacier Creek Trail Bridge – Upper Valley
- Trail T10: Forest Loop Trail
- Trail T6: Barren Avenue to Alyeska Highway
- Trail 2.1: Timberline-Danich Connection (in conjunction with trail improvements to Lower Virgin Creek)

### 5 Years Out

- 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

## APPENDIX 6

# Adopted Planning Documents that Affect Girdwood Trails

*Alyeska Resort Master Plan, 2009 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 Trail Management Plan, 2016*

*Crow Creek Neighborhood Land Use Plan, 2006*

*Girdwood Commercial Areas and Transportation Master Plan, 2001*

*Girdwood Area Plan, 1995, currently under review*

*Girdwood Comprehensive Plan 2025*

*Girdwood Iditarod Trail Route Study, 1997*

*Girdwood Trails Plan, 2024*

*Girdwood South Townsite Master Plan, 2009, amended 2014*

*MOA Areawide Trails Plan, 1997*

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

## APPENDIX 7

# Interagency Agreements

Documents outlining the agreements for trail work such as Interagency Land Management Agreement, Memorandum 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:**

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

### **Grant Organizations:**

- Anchorage Park Foundation
- American Hiking Society
- Kenai Mountain–Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Recreational Trails Fund

### **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.