

# Municipality of Anchorage



*P.O. Box 390  
Girdwood, Alaska 99587  
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>  
**David Bronson, Mayor***

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Briana Sullivan and Jennifer Wingard, Co-Chairs  
Mike Edgington, Amanda Sassi, Guy Wade*

Resolution 2023-15  
Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors  
**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR 35% PROPOSED DESIGN FOR A  
HANGING DECK SUSPENSION BRIDGE CROSSING OF GLACIER CREEK TO  
RECONNECT THE WINNER CREEK TRAIL**

WHEREAS, the Hand Tram was decommissioned after accidents made it clear that the hand tram was unable to safely accommodate the volume of hikers on the Winner Creek Trail; and

WHEREAS, the community has met and discussed solutions to the lack of connectivity to this integral part of the Girdwood trails network; and

WHEREAS, ultimately the Girdwood Trails Committee and Girdwood Land Use Committee recommended that the hand tram be replaced with a bridge, which would restore connectivity, provide year-round access, and improve accessibility to all trail users; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the USFS, 35% design for construction of a hanging deck suspension bridge has been presented to the community via the Girdwood Trails Committee and the Girdwood Land Use Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Trails Committee accepted the 35% design plan by unanimous consent at their September 5, 2023 Regular Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Land Use Committee accepted the 35% design plan by unanimous consent at their September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting;

THEREFORE, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors supports the 35% design plan as presented and looks forward to reviewing the project at a higher level of design with a goal of having the project out to bid and under construction as soon as possible.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a vote of 4 in favor and 0 opposed this 18th day of September 2023.

*Briana Sullivan*

Briana Sullivan  
GBOS Co-Chair

*Margaret Tyler*

Attest

Girdwood Trails Work Plan Outline 2023  
**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Deb's Way **ALL ACCOMPLISHED**

- Brush once during season
- Improve Drainage
- Add gravel as needed

Beaver Pond **ALL ACCOMPLISHED**

- Brushing: Twice during the season 2023
- Improve Trail tread on steep side slopes as needed
- Improve vegetation setbacks in the first mile of trail from Gird to Bird path
- Replace boardwalk with gravel as it can be done
- Secure and support existing board walk
- Add netting to mitigate slippery boardwalks
- Improve Drainage where needed

Abe's Trail **ALL ACCOMPLISHED**

- Improve trail in wet area in the beginning section
- Inspection/brushing to remove deadfall

California Creek **NOT ACCOMPLISHED**

- Inspection/brushing to remove deadfall
- Improve tread as needed
- Create alternate connector to Abe's Trail

Athabasca Trail, from Crow Creek road to Beaver pond bridge at school **NETTING ACCOMPLISHED**

- Add netting to mitigate slippery board walks
- Reroute away from pond to eliminate boardwalk

Lower Iditarod NHT between Alyeska highway and Ruane road **ALL ACCOMPLISHED**

- Brushing 2 times during 2023 season
- Inspect and repair trail tread as needed (esp bridge to south trailhead)

Lower Iditarod between Alyeska highway and trailhead: **ACCOMPLISHED**

- Brush trail along access road to trailhead.

Iditarod trail between School and Crow Creek Road: **ACCOMPLISHED, BUT NOT PART OF GRANT**

- Brush trail at least once during the 2023 season
- Improve drainage as needed
- Remove boardwalk as allowable
- Improve gravel tread as possible

- Root management
- Add middle Iditarod Trail maps and location signage
- Add netting to mitigate slippery board walks

Iditarod trail between Crow Creek Road Lower and Crow Creek Road higher (Norms Falls)

**SOME ACCOMPLISHED, BUT NOT PART OF GRANT**

- Brush trail at least once in 2023 season
- Improve trail tread as needed
- Root management
- Repair boardwalk as needed
- Add netting to mitigate slippery boardwalks
- Add middle Iditarod Trail maps and location signage

Virgin Creek **NOT ACCOMPLISHED**

- Continue trail work to the overlook area.
- Improve parking options and address neighborhood concerns

Shortcut from Alyeska bike path to Davos road: **SOME ACCOMPLISHED**

- Brush once during 2023 season
- Remove organic layer and expose gravel
- Improve drainage
- Install culvert at the base of the hill
- Add gravel as needed.

Lion's Club Park: **NOT ACCOMPLISHED**

- Select location and brush/construct trail to Glacier Creek overlook

Danich Trail, Wagon Trail and social connector trails up to neighborhoods: **NOT ACCOMPLISHED**

- Inspect trails, remove deadfall and brush as needed at least once

Arlberg Parking Lot **ACCOMPLISHED**

- Add park bench and prepare for trail map sign at kiosk

# Public Notice

Girdwood Trails Committee is applying for Recreational Trails Program Grant funds.  
Project Title: Restoration of the Girdwood Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Description: Restoration of the existing trail, including brushing, trail clearing, addition of culverts and gravel, and restoration of water crossings to bring the trail to Class 3 Hiking parameters. Consideration of re-route of approximately 500' of trail as recommended by the USFS. Project is approximately 2 miles from the entry at the Girdwood School to the USFS Boundary.

Project start: June 2024

Project end: June 2026

Contact: Girdwood Trails Committee, Barb Crews, Chair

Phone: 907-382-1901

Email: [barbaracrews907@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracrews907@gmail.com)

Mailing address: Girdwood Trails Committee  
C/O Girdwood Inc  
PO Box 1102  
Girdwood, AK 99587

Public Comment or Opposition can be submitted via methods listed below:

Phone number: 907-343-8373, 907-343-8374

Email: [tylerms@muni.org](mailto:tylerms@muni.org); [kellykt@muni.org](mailto:kellykt@muni.org)

Mailing Address: Girdwood Trails Committee  
C/O Girdwood Parks and Recreation  
PO Box 390  
Girdwood, AK 99587

Deadline for public Comment: October 30, 2023



The Alaska Recreational Trails Program is the possible funding agency for this proposed project. For information regarding the Alaska Recreational Trails Program, please visit the state website:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

Posted: September 15 2023



# GIRDWOOD BIKE PARK

## PHASE 2



5K NORDIC LOOP

EARN AGAIN

2 CENTS

SMALLHOUSE

5K NORDIC LOOP

**BikeWood**  
.org

### TRAIL LEGEND

 EXISTING TRAILS

 PROPOSED NEW TRAILS

MULTI-USE TRAIL = 6'-8' TREAD, 14' CLEARANCE

SINGLE-USE BIKE TRAIL = 4'-6' TREAD, 12' CLEARANCE

# Municipality of Anchorage

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**Planning Department  
Current Planning Division**



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**Phone: 907-343-7931  
Fax: 907-343-7927**

**Mayor Dave Bronson**

September 18, 2023

Municipality of Anchorage-Girdwood Valley Service Area  
Attn: Kyle Kelley  
P.O. Box 390  
Girdwood, AK 99587

RE: 2023-0119 Comp Plan Amendment-Girdwood Trails Plan

Dear Applicant:

Your case 2023-0119 is tentatively scheduled to be heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission on 11/06/2023. The meeting dates are sometimes delayed by Planning Department staff for administrative reasons. If the meeting date changes you will be notified.

The meeting begins at 06:30 PM and will be held in Loussac Library Assembly Chambers, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska. You or your representative should attend to present your proposal and to answer any questions related to your request.

The department's recommendation will be available at the Planning Department's office at 4700 Elmore Road after 1:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the public hearing.

Don't forget the site must be posted at least 21 days before the meeting date and the affidavit of posting returned to the department prior to the public hearing.

If you have any questions, please call the Current Planning Department at 907-343-7931.

Sincerely,

Planning Department  
Current Planning Division

cc: Huddle AK  
Attn: Holly Spoth-Torres



## October 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. Plan goes forward to Planning and Zoning in November. Final approval will be with Anchorage Assembly, date TBA.

Imagine! Girdwood. Imagine! Girdwood is focused on technical analysis and next steps. Funding received through MOA ARPA fund distribution. Visit [imaginegirdwood.org](http://imaginegirdwood.org)

### Updated financial report:

#### Girdwood Trails Committee Financial Report

As of August 31, 2023

Account with Girdwood Inc.

\$54,541.81

Last Report 07/25/2023

Dugan Grant Balance Currently \$5720.00

August 15, 2023 Adkins Donation Via Alaska Community Foundation

\$300.00

August 24, 2023 Paid Hehnlin Trail Supplies

(\$900.00)

Account Balance August 31, 2023

\$53,941.81

No reported reserves at this time

### 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: GTC was awarded 2023 grant for trail work. We plan to file for reimbursement at the beginning of October. Thank you Kate Sandberg, for working on the application and Friends of Girdwood Trails for helping with the match!

Recreational Trails Program Grant (RTP): RTP grant application for work on Middle INHT is due 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. Family is considering text for the plaque.

### Upcoming Events:

**Girdwood Trails Marathon** is SAT Oct 7. Information and registration available here: [Girdwood Marathon 2023 \(runsignup.com\)](http://GirdwoodMarathon2023.runsignup.com)

Land Use and Girdwood Board of Supervisors: Information available at: [www.muni.org/gbos](http://www.muni.org/gbos).