

CITY OF KACHEMAK
KACHEMAK, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2023-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KACHEMAK, ALASKA NAMING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2025.

WHEREAS, The City Council discussed capital improvement projects and legislative priorities at a public council meeting on October 11th, 2023 and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the City Council to provide the Governor, the State Legislature, State agencies, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, and other potential funding sources with adequate information regarding the City's capital project funding needs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KACHEMAK:

Section 1. That the Kachemak City Council's legislative priorities for 2025 are as follows:

1. Community Center renovation including: replacing the carpeting and tiling flooring in the main hall, conference room and kitchen; new blinds, wired thermostats to allow for remote control of the heating zones.
2. Secure additional funding for emergency roadwork and repairing deteriorating roads.
3. Work with AML and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to determine feasibility of a sustainable city water system for the City of Kachemak.
4. Work with AML and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) Alaska Broadband Project, to determine feasibility of making fiber optic broadband internet available to the residents of the City of Kachemak.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor, the Kenai Peninsula Borough and Assembly Members, and all Kenai Peninsula Borough Legislators.

PASSED and APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City of Kachemak this 13th day of December, 2023.

CITY OF KACHEMAK


Connie Isenhour, Mayor

ATTEST:


Laurie Wallace, City Clerk

Project Title: Kachemak - Kachemak Community Center Renovation

TPS Number: 68657

Priority: 1

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Kachemak

FY2025 State Funding Request: \$30,000

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

New Flooring, blinds, and thermostats in the Community Center

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$30,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	(\$30,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Kachemak Community Center was built in 1980 and the conference room addition was added in 1983. We still have the original carpet and tile flooring in place. We have upgraded the bathrooms thanks to a donation of waterproof vinyl plank flooring, and would like to continue to renovate the rest of the lower level with the same flooring. The windows throughout the building were replaced in 2022 and new blinds are needed to fit the windows. With our landscaping project last year, several trees and bushes were removed and the building is much more open to the road and the sun. User groups have requested the blinds for the comfort of their participants. New thermostats would allow for easier temperature control. Various groups use the community center on a regular basis such as quilters, the bridge club, yoga classes and church groups along with community events and the city council.

Project Timeline:

upon approval the work would commence and be completed by fall of 2024.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

City of Kachemak

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Connie Isenhour
Address:	59906 Bear Creek Dr Homer, AK 99603
Phone Number:	(907)235-8897
Email:	cityclerk@kachemak.city

This project has been through a public review process at the local level and it is a community priority.



**GIRDWOOD TRAILS
A L A S K A**

February 7, 2024

Senator Cathy Giessel; Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
Representative Laddie Shaw; Representative.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov
State Finance Committee; senate.finance@akleg.gov
House Finance Committee; house.finance@akleg.gov

Dear Alaska State Legislators and Finance Committee members,

The Girdwood Trails Committee seeks your support for the [Alaska Long Trail](#) (AKLT) projects submitted for inclusion in the FY2025 state capital budget. These 24 projects, totaling \$23 million, are shovel-ready or planning-ready. They are designed to fill gaps along the length of the planned route. One of the projects involves the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Girdwood.

ALASKA LONG TRAIL IN GIRDWOOD

Girdwood has submitted a request for funding of the Girdwood Middle Iditarod National Historic Trail. This trail is both part of the Alaska Long Trail Iditarod National Historic Trail Network and provides connectivity to and from the larger trail systems and the town itself. Our project is to rebuild bridges, improve trail tread and drainage to bring this section of trail to the USFS Class 3 level. It will restore an historic section of trail that is, in some locations, very tricky for many trail users to navigate currently.

This local project has broad support of the USFS Glacier Ranger District, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area, and from the community as expressed by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors and Girdwood Nordic Ski Club as well as from the Girdwood Trails Committee. We have authorization from the Heritage Land Bank, which is the land manager for these lands. The trail work is included in the Girdwood Trails Plan, which is awaiting adoption by the Anchorage Assembly and was included in the Girdwood Iditarod Trail Route Study, which was adopted by the Anchorage Assembly in 1995. In short, this is a well-studied, well-supported longstanding project for the community and visitors of Girdwood.

Girdwood has self-funded and fundraised for significant work on the Girdwood Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail, which was in similar disrepair when we began working on it in 2019. The lower section connects the old and new townsites and is now a well-used recreational and transportation corridor in the community. We are confident that restoration of the Middle section of trail will be similarly well utilized and appreciated.

BENEFITS OF THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL

The Alaska Long Trail, when complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from Seward to Fairbanks. It is designed to be a braided, four-season trail system for hikers, bikers, skiers, ATV's, snowmachines, for both day and multi-day use. Some segments may include the Alaska Railroad or, like in Nenana Canyon, with a local rafting guide company. Similar trails, such as the Pacific Crest Trail and the Appalachian Trail attract visitors from all over the world.

Goals and outcomes of building the trail include:

Economic Development: Long trails are proven attractions that will increase the time and money travelers spend in Alaska, growing jobs for residents, spawning business opportunities, and invigorating the economies of communities along the route and statewide. In 2022, the Outdoor Recreation industry in Alaska generated \$2.6 billion in economic output, supported more than 20,000 jobs and accounted for 4 percent of the state's economy.

- Growth in Alaska's outdoor recreation economy between 2021 and 2022 was second fastest in the U.S. (after Hawaii) and outpaced the rate of growth of both the state and national economies.
- Total visits to some Alaska State Parks increased 50% from 2019 to 2022.
- Hiking is the fastest growing activity for both air and cruise visitors to Alaska.
- Visitors would spend an additional \$250 million in Alaska if they stayed "One More Day".
- Three million visitors a year hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail - a huge potential market for Alaska.

Access to Public Lands: "On/off-ramps" to the Alaska Long Trail will help Alaska residents access public lands for a variety of uses. Existing access opportunities are insufficient to satisfy the growing demand in outdoor recreation, whether it is motorized and nonmotorized.

Reducing the Backlog of Maintenance: Alaska State Parks has a large and growing backlog of maintenance. Funding for Alaska Long Trail projects has focused on improving existing trails first - reducing this backlog.

We thank the State Legislature for securing funding for [10 Alaska Long Trail projects in FY2023 and FY2024 state capital budgets](#), totaling \$5.6 Million, including funding to assist with construction of a suspension bridge in Girdwood to reconnect the Winner Creek Trail.

We ask that you support the inclusion of the Alaska Long Trail projects, submitted into CAPSIS, in the FY2025 state capital budget.

Please call or write if you have questions. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Barbara Crews

Barbara Crews, Chair
Girdwood Trails Committee

Cc: Alaska Trails; steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org

Doniece Gott

From: Beverly <jamnchan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 3:47 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 187 Y25 Capital Budget (GOV) Public Testimony Projects 67994 and 68770

Hello, my name is Beverly Luedke-Chan. I'm a lifelong Alaskan, a volunteer with the Anchorage Ski Club, and a big supporter of Arctic Valley. Thank you for allowing me to give testimony in support of two projects within Chugach State Park, that are included in the Alaska Long Trail projects submitted for inclusion in the state capital budget.

As you know, Chugach State Park has a small operating budget, and depends upon capital funding and outside funds as well as community support to make the upgrades necessary to keep up with ever expanding public use.

Project #67994, Preliminary Design/Feasibility Study - Arctic Valley Trailhead Parking Expansion, Chugach State Park.

This project funds State DNR study and design work to modernize and expand the Arctic Valley Trailhead in Chugach State Park, and will determine suitable expansion areas, access road improvements, circulation patterns, and additional trailhead facilities. Expansion in this non-residential area can help take pressure off of neighborhood trailheads, like Glen Alps and South Fork Eagle River.

The existing trailhead, road, and parking lots were built by the Anchorage Ski Club in the 1950s and were recently transferred to Alaska State Park's ownership. They do not conform to any modern State Parks standards, and suffer from many issues. During peak seasons the current unpaved parking lots are full, with vehicles parked along the road, creating hazards and impeding traffic flow.

Project #68770, Alaska Trails – Alaska Long Trail – Ship Creek Trail “Arctic to Indian”.

This trail will connect two others to complete a 25-mile section of the Alaska Long Trail from Turnagain Arm to north Anchorage, and will allow more users to access the heart of Chugach State Park.

Together, these projects will improve multi-use access to Chugach State Park and ensure quality access for residents and visitors alike for generations to come. Thank you for your time and allowing me to testify on behalf of these two projects within Chugach State Park.

Sincerely,

Beverly Luedke-Chan

Interior Alaska Trails Newsletter

A Newsletter about Trails in Interior Alaska

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Re: Alaska Long Trail projects for FY2025 state capital budget

Dear Senator Bishop,

Please support all 21 Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) projects, submitted into CAPSIS for the FY2025 state capital budget. These will fill shovel- and planning-ready gaps along the planned route.

While none of these projects is in the Interior, we will still benefit from them. The Alaska Long Trail, once complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting Seward and Fairbanks. It will include both motorized and non-motorized modes of travel. It will draw users from around the state, nation, and world. That Fairbanks is at one end of the trail is significant. People will start or end their treks here, which means business for our hotels, grocery stores, and outdoor recreation stores. But the trail will only become complete when all the gaps are filled.

Many sections of the multi-braided system already exist as trails or are currently planned. The multi-braided aspect is important, as it will allow a variety of different experiences and transportation modes. And the route is almost entirely on public lands, enormously reducing the complexity and cost.

The trail will benefit locals in other ways. Once complete, we will be able to connect Fairbanks and Nenana on a year-round trail system. In summer, people could travel between the towns using a variety of travel modes, including ATV, mountain bike, and foot. In winter, people could use the Alaska Long Trail by itself or use it in conjunction with the Tanana River to make a loop.

The State Legislature has already secured funding for 10 Alaska Long Trail projects in FY2023 and FY2024 state capital budgets, totaling \$5.6 Million. The project is well on its way. I hope you will support the new set of the Long Trail projects, totaling \$18.8 Million.

Outdoor recreation is a key industry in Alaska and has much more potential. Besides improving our economy, many projects, such as the Alaska Long Trail, help Alaskans to get outside and use our natural resources. This is good for our mental and physical health. It also helps strengthen our ties to the outdoors.

Interior Alaska Trails Newsletter
2051 Pine Cone Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone: (907) 455-6641 Email: fbxtrails@gmail.com

Please support the Alaska Long Trail projects, submitted into CAPSIS, in the FY2025 state capital budget.

Sincerely,

Eric Troyer
Editor and Publisher

cc:
Senate.Finance.Committee@akleg.gov
House.Finance@akleg.gov
Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov
Senator.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov
Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov
Senator.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov
Senator.David.Wilson@akleg.gov

Doniece Gott

From: Sarah Bean [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 2:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Please Fund the Alaska Long Trail

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in support the 21 Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) projects submitted into CAPSIS for inclusion in the FY2025 state capital budget. I am SO excited about this effort to make Alaska trails even more useful to an even wider demographic. In my 40 years of Alaskan residency, I have watched some incredible trails get built, but this project has the potential of pulling all of those efforts into one cohesive and exceptionally practical trial system, not to mention the legacy it will create for generations to come. I am thrilled by the idea of being able to cycle safely in my area between Mat-Su and Anchorage, and from Palmer over Hatcher Pass. There is something for everybody along the Alaska Long Trail! I am also very supportive of the inherent benefits to making it more feasible to get outside in our beautiful state: physical and mental health, jobs, tourism, just to name a few. We deserve a world class long trail to match our spectacular and unique corner of the world!

I look forward to using the trail!

Thank you,

Sarah Bean
[REDACTED]
Palmer AK 99645
[REDACTED]



February 21, 2024

Dear Jesse Bjorkman

We seek your support for the 21 [Alaska Long Trail](#) (AKLT) projects, submitted into CAPSIS for inclusion in the FY2025 state capital budget, totaling \$18.8 Million to fill key shovel-ready and planning-ready gaps along the length of the planned route.

These projects are part of the planned Seward-to-Fairbanks Alaska Long Trail. The Alaska Long Trail, when complete, will become a world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from Seward to Fairbanks, embracing the many ways (motorized and non-motorized) Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolstering the Alaska economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.

We want to thank the State Legislature for securing funding for [10 Alaska Long Trail projects in FY2023 and FY2024 state capital budgets](#), totaling \$5.6 Million. We hope that this legislative session you will support the new set of the Long Trail projects, including the four that didn't make it through the vetoes last year.

BENEFITS OF THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL

With some of the world's most stunning wild places, Alaska is overdue in creating a world-class, long trail system of its own. Goals and outcomes of building the trail include:

Economic Development: Outdoor recreation infrastructure is *essential* infrastructure, building on Alaska's global competitive advantage, and supporting local jobs, business opportunities, and a stronger, more durable AK economy. Long trails are potent, proven attractions that will increase the time and money travelers spend in Alaska, growing jobs for residents, spawning business opportunities, and invigorating the economies of trail towns and communities along the route and statewide. If a typical year's out-of-state travelers had reasons to spend one more day in Alaska, the result would be an additional \$250M in annual spending in our state.

Access to Public Lands: "On/off-ramps" to the Alaska Long Trail will help Alaska residents access public lands for a variety of uses. Existing access opportunities are insufficient to satisfy the growing demand for outdoor recreation, whether it is motorized, nonmotorized, hunting, trapping, etc.

Reducing the Backlog of Maintenance: Alaska State Parks has a large and growing backlog of maintenance. Funding for Alaska Long Trail projects has focused on improving existing trails first - reducing this backlog, followed by filling small gaps before taking on large construction projects.

USE & USERS: The goal is a network of routes accommodating a variety of uses, including some braids open to motorized use, and others for non-motorized hiking, biking, and skiing. Some segments may include the Alaska Railroad or, like in Nenana Canyon, with a local rafting guide company. The Long Trail will be an Alaska long trail; a braided, four-season trail system designed for hikers, bikers, skiers, ATV's, snowmachines and Equestrians for both day and multi-day use.

OUTDOOR RECREATION IN ALASKA

The Alaska Long Trail project is set against the backdrop of the robust Outdoor Recreation economy. In 2022, the Outdoor Recreation industry in Alaska generated \$2.6 billion in economic output, supported more than 20,000 jobs and accounted for 4 percent of the state's economy.

- Growth in Alaska's outdoor recreation economy between 2021 and 2022 was second fastest in the U.S. (after Hawaii) and outpaced the rate of growth of both the state and national economies.
- Total visits to some Alaska State Parks increased 50% from 2019 to 2022.
- Hiking is the fastest growing activity for both air and cruise visitors to Alaska.
- Visitors would spend an additional \$250 million in Alaska if they stayed for "One More Day".
- Three million visitors a year hike a portion of the Appalachian Trail - a huge potential market for Alaska.

We ask that you support the inclusion of the Alaska Long Trail projects, submitted into CAPSIS, in the FY2025 state capital budget.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Mary L Green

Mary L Green
907-398-1600
KENAI PENINSULA BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

Doniece Gott

From: John Koltun [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 7:53 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Public Written Testimony: CAPSIS Project # 67994

Committee Members,

I am writing in support of the "Preliminary Design/Feasibility Study--Arctic Valley Trailhead Parking Expansion, Chugach State Park." As described, this project funds the design work to modernize and expand the parking and access facilities at Arctic Valley. Access to Chugach State Park is an ongoing challenge with existing public access points overcrowded and seasonally limited despite their popularity. Arctic Valley provides rare access directly to the alpine environment and has seen a significant increase in year-round use including extensive winter use. The current parking and access facilities are graded gravel and dirt and difficult to maintain. In addition, parking is frequently overcrowded, resulting in parking along the access road and into neighboring military lands.

Respectfully,

John Koltun

Anchorage, Alaska

Doniece Gott

From: Megan Justus <generalmanager@skeetawk.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 12:57 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Skeetawk support of AK Long Trail

To whom it may concern

Skeetawk is in complete support of the AK Long Trail's request for CAPSIS funding under SB187 FY25 Capital Budget. The long trail will be mutually beneficial to Skeetawk and the residents of the Mat-Su Borough.

Thanks

Megan Justus | General Manager

www.skeetawk.com

907-519-8110 (cell)

907-746-7875 (office)



Support Skeetawk Ski Area with a recurring donation!

Skeetawk is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

Doniece Gott

From: Ben Siwiec [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 10:12 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Voicing support for projects

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

I want to voice my support for two projects you are considering today:

Project #67994: Preliminary Design/Feasibility Study- Arctic Valley Trailhead Parking Expansion, Chugach State Park, and

Project #68770: Alaska trails- Alaska Long Trail- Ship Creek Trail "Arctic to Indian".

Thank you,

Ben Siwiec

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99517
[REDACTED]

Doniece Gott

From: erik gabrielson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 9:28 AM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Email in support of two projects that affect Arctic Valley

Hi-

I am a resident of Eagle River and a frequent user of the Arctic Valley ski area and surrounding trails. I want to make sure you consider my strong support of the following two projects that are up for approval in the CAPSYS funding package:

Project # 67994 - Preliminary Design/Feasibility Study— Arctic Valley Trailhead Parking Expansion, Chugach State Park.

https://www.alaska-trails.org/files/ugd/76c42e_05c63e1614fc4a4fae86af96379d77f7.pdf?index=true

Project # 68770 - Alaska Trails - Alaska Long Trail - Ship Creek Trail "Arctic to Indian".

https://www.alaska-trails.org/files/ugd/76c42e_2360bd14a41b4f0581bee8607e2cf7af.pdf?index=true

Thanks-

Erik Gabrielson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
20975 Upper Lowland Ave.

Eagle River, AK

99577

Sent from my iPhone

Doniece Gott

From: Crisi Matthews <crisi@homer-shores.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2024 1:49 PM
To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: SB 186/187 Public Comment for inclusion

Please in review of the State Budget, continue to include Homer Port & Harbor's Capital Projects for funding. Specifically, additional State match funds for the Homer Harbor Expansion GI, and for inclusion of the Municipal Harbor Grant Program hoping to benefit our Harbor. Working on the AK waterfront is not only integral to the Arctic Mission but fortifies all boundaries to the North. In addition, it is critical to the supply chain here and abroad that we have robust and modern ports to service much of the industry that returns and remains south due to our limited services offerings. Strong ports = Stone economies. Thank you for understanding the seriousness of these measures.

--

Crisi Matthews
Homer Shores Boardwalk
[Homer Shores Boardwalk](#)
Off Shore Store
Homer, AK 99603
[907-299-8700](tel:907-299-8700)

Check us out on Facebook! [HomerShores](#)
[Let's go fishing!](#) [bighalibut](#)
Stay @ www.seafarersuites.com