



# Fairbanks North Star Borough

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY  
Division of Boards and Commissions

clerks@fnsb.gov  
Main: (907) 459-1401  
Fax: (907) 459-1224

TO: Grants Coordinator  
Alaska State Trails Program  
550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1380  
Anchorage, AK 99501

CC: Donnie Hayes, Director, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation  
Department

FROM: Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair, Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory  
Commission

DATE: September 27, 2021

**SUBJECT: Letter of support for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation Department's grant request for Recreational Trails Program funds to develop a trailhead and parking area for the Skyline Ridge trail system.**

Dear Grant Coordinator,

At its September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) passed a motion to support the Parks & Recreation Department's grant request for funds to develop a trailhead with dedicated parking for the Skyline Ridge trail system, part of the FNSB's Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. This trail system is one of the most popular in the FNSB's trail inventory during summer and winter seasons. It has only been made more popular in recent years due to improvements to the main ridge trail (thanks to two previous RTP-funded projects), community investment in volunteer events, and the outreach through the department's Trails Challenge program. With popularity has come issues and conflicts related to parking at the trailhead. There is currently no dedicated parking at the trailhead, located on the corner of a neighborhood road intersection. Weekend days regularly see 5-10 cars parked in the corner or along the road. Group events and pleasant weather can bring even more. Neighbors have experienced driveway blockages and roadway congestion due to parallel parking. Cars parked at the corner turn enter and exit the intersection with little to no visibility and no traffic signs. The slope at the makeshift trailhead floods in the spring. The FNSB has procured an engineered design and estimate for a dedicated parking area to address these issues. The Trails Advisory Commission is pleased to support this important project and requests your consideration.

Sincerely,



Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair  
Trails Advisory Commission  
Fairbanks North Star Borough