



# Fairbanks North Star Borough

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY  
Division of Boards and Commissions

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TO: Grants Coordinator  
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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: The Trails Advisory Commission recommends supporting the Interior Alaska Trails & Parks Foundation's application for a Recreational Trails Program Grant to build multi-use trails linking existing Tanana Valley State Forest roads.**

This letter is to demonstrate the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Commission's support for the Interior Alaska Trails & Parks Foundation's (Foundation) application for a Recreational Trails Program grant through the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, to build four miles of durable trail connections linking existing forestry roads in the Tanana Valley State Forest. The project will create an all-season multiple-use trail corridor, linking the existing 35 miles of Rosie Creek forestry roads with more than 18 more miles of forestry roads in adjacent complexes. The project also adds a trailhead map kiosk and signage along the trails and roads to assist with navigation. This project will be entirely on State Forest lands.

The Trails Advisory Commission supports constructing new routes proposed by this project to increase the quantity of high-quality, multi-use recreational trail opportunities within the Borough. There is a need for sustainably designed trails that can accommodate multiple uses during summer months. The terrain and routes identified in this project through the Tanana Valley State Forest system afford this opportunity. The routes will also facilitate the greater "Alaska Long Trail" concept, offering all-season connections between Nenana and Fairbanks. These new routes can be connected via other trails to the popular Rosie Creek-Cripple Creek trail, a winter-only trail that runs south of the proposed project, through Borough, State Forest, and other state land. This trail is identified in the Borough's Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan. Connections to trails in this plan are a priority.



The Trails Advisory Commission is pleased that the Foundation is working to continue momentum and development of recreational opportunities in the State Forest. We support the Foundation's grant proposal to increase recreational opportunities for Fairbanks' residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

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