



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
Division of Boards and Commissions

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TO: Grants Coordinator
Alaska State Trails Program
550 W 7th 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 Interior Alaska Land Trust's
Recreational Trails Program Grant Application for Construction of
the Chinook Conservation Park ATV Trail.**

Dear Grant Coordinator,

At its September 27, 2021, meeting the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Trails Advisory Commission passed a motion to support the Interior Alaska Land Trust's (IALT) grant request for funds to reconstruct a motorized trail in the Chinook Conservation Park.

The IALT proposes reconstruction of approximately 1 mile of existing ATV trail in Chinook Conservation Park in Fairbanks, Alaska. Rebuilding this trail is an integral part of developing the park, which will offer all-season outdoor recreation to people of all ages, abilities, skill levels, and backgrounds. The Trails Advisory Commission believes these trails will especially benefit underserved neighborhoods nearby, with particular benefits for kids.

The Chena River is the second-most-important spawning area for king salmon in the entire Yukon River watershed, and Cripple Creek, which meanders through the park, is the tributary with the most-impacted downstream area. Restoration is underway, offering a unique educational opportunity to watch the full process of stream restoration. Once the stream is restored, the park will continue to offer educational and recreational benefits to the community, with the creek being an important piece of the winter trail network and helping to create a loop with the restored ATV trail.



The Trails Advisory Commission believes this trail is an important addition to Fairbanks and the foundation of the new Chinook Park. We urge your support of this application.

Sincerely,

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