



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
Division of Boards and Commissions

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TO: Bryce. J. Ward, Mayor

CC: Donnie Hayes, Director, Parks & Recreation Department

FROM: Leslie Kitchin, Acting Chair, Trails Advisory Commission

DATE: September 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Letter supporting the Parks and Recreation Department's nominations of trails projects for the FNSB FY 2021-30 Capital Improvement Program

Dear Mayor Ward,

The Trails Advisory Commission wishes to express their support for the trail projects nominated by the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Parks and Recreation Department for inclusion in the 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). We recommend that you support the addition of these projects to the CIP. They include:

- Trail-a-Year Program: Develop public access for the Borough trail system
- Equinox Marathon Trail completion
- Skyline Ridge trail system development
- Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan implementation
- Peede Road open space tract access development

For years, the Trails Advisory Commission has consistently advocated for the FNSB to fund and address elements of these projects. These projects are aligned with the Trails Advisory Commission's priorities for the trail program to develop public access to trails, improve and maintain trail conditions, and to promote trail use through outreach. The projects also take critical steps toward implementing the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan (Plan) by addressing primary trail issues in the Plan such as right-of-way acquisition, trail program implementation procedures, and specific trail recommendations. Also, because of recent interest in preserving access to trails in the North Pole area, specifically on Borough-owned land on Peede Road, the TAC is also supportive of a project to develop the Peede Road tract as a recreational trail park.



It is the Trail Advisory Commission's belief that having access to a local trail system woven throughout the Borough makes our community happier, healthier, more cohesive, and all around more attractive to live in and visit. Trails are popular with all kinds of outdoor enthusiasts and across all demographics, they are relatively low cost to develop compared to other recreational facilities and provide a high return on investment. Please consider recommending these capital improvement projects to the Borough Assembly so they may be added to the Capital Improvement Program.

Sincerely,

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