

Implementation

By adoption of this Trails Plan the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly accepts the trails as MSB Recreational Trails and directs the administration to implement the plan. The following procedures will be used to legalize the public's right to use these trails and the means to maintain them.

Establishing rights of way.

Borough's first and main emphasis will be establishing legal rights of way for trails identified in this plan as regionally significant. Establishing the legal rights of way for public recreation use of these trails will be done by the Land Management Division under the direction of the Community Development Director. Priority will be given to trails that are being threatened by development, however the MSB Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board will be asked to aid in the prioritization of these projects on a year to year basis.

MSB Land Management policies and procedures will be followed in acquisition of public use easement for rights of way and trail dedications. The attached flow chart shows the necessary steps involved. Each trail right of way established by the borough will be dedicated with the trail name, exact location, width, and use defined. The trail dedication documents will be recorded.

Once the legal right-of-way for a trail has been established and documented, a record of the trail will be maintained in the Land Management Division's permanent land files. In addition it will become part of the borough's geographical information system.

Trail Maintenance and Construction

The MSB Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, under the direction of the Community Development Director, will be responsible for construction or maintenance within public use easements specifically dedicated for recreational use. Construction or maintenance of dedicated trails that lie within other types of easements, such as section line easements, utility easements, or roads, will be coordinated through the appropriate managing agency.

Every effort will be made to encourage maintenance of trails by user groups, community and civic organizations, cities, schools, or other organized groups.

To ensure that funding for trail maintenance is used efficiently, the MSB Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board will review an annual budget, and identify which trails will be maintained and constructed by the borough, and at what level. Other trails will have to be maintained by volunteers and civic groups.

Additions to the Trail Plan

It will be necessary to revisit the Trails Plan on an annual basis to ensure that the inventory of trails is up to date and appropriate for the current uses. This will be coordinated by the Land Management Division, Recreational Services Division, and the MSB Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board who will consider nominations for additional trails on an annual basis. User groups or other community organizations wanting a trail to be dedicated and/or reserved as part of the borough inventory will be asked to complete a nomination which will then be reviewed and prioritized by the board.

Funding for Trails

Acquisition, surveying, mapping and platting, maintenance and construction of trails will require a consistent funding source. Bed tax, sales tax, users fees, and grants are all possible sources that will be considered as a means to fund trails.