

MSB RECREATIONAL TRAIL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The overall goal of the MSB Recreational Trail Plan is to provide trail recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The plan:

- Identifies trails that are considered 'regionally significant'
- Sets priorities for trail development and easement acquisition
- Focuses on 'primitive' trails vs. paved paths
- Sets goals and objectives
- Provides guidance for borough and agency staff on trail issues
- Identifies a process to acquire right of way for recreational trails
- Allows for amendments to include more trails
- Encompasses or includes trails within community comprehensive plans

The plan:

- Does not fund trail projects
- Does not automatically legalize trails for public use

The plan will succeed with:

- Community support and volunteer commitment
- Funding for trail easement acquisition, trail development and education
- Continued communication and cooperation between government agencies and communities and trail advocacy groups

The implementation process:

An on-going process that establishes and maintains communication between community trail groups and the borough for information gathering and action planning.

- A borough staff member and, whenever possible, a MSB Parks, Recreation & Trails Advisory Board (PRTAB) member, will meet with active trail groups, community councils and committees throughout the borough, and throughout the year. The meeting(s) will be used to exchange information, set goals and assign tasks. The meetings will allow a wide range of interest groups to work through the issues related to trail development.
- The borough's role is to inform the trail groups of the implementation process, provide updates on trail projects in their community, point out funding sources, and enlist community volunteers for trail improvements or projects.
- The community trail groups' role is to identify and prioritize trail projects in their community, point out problems and offer solutions, and identify trails to be added or deleted from the plan.

MSB RECREATIONAL TRAIL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS continued

Process for trail project funding:

A list of projects identified by trail groups and staff members will be introduced to the PRTAB once a year (August). Proposals will have at a minimum, a scope of work, budget, funding source, trail location, trail status, trail use, trail length, land ownership and assembly district.

- Categories of trail projects that are eligible to receive funding:
 - research (or verification) of public right-of-way
 - acquisition of public right of way
 - surveying and mapping of trail routes
 - construction or re-route of trails
 - grooming and other maintenance of trails
 - signing and marking of trails
 - construction of trailheads

Funding sources:

- Borough's tourism infrastructure (bed tax) funds
- State TRAAK grants
- State Recreational Trail grants
- State SnoTrac grants
- Borough Parks and Recreation Bond funds
- Borough Capital Improvement Program

Project assistance:

- AmeriCorp
- Student Conservation Association
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- International Mountain Bike Association