Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023 – 2027







What is a SCORP?

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor **Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as a** guide for all public outdoor recreation in urban and rural neighborhoods, cities, and regions. Provides direction for \$37.5 million in LWCF (\$25m) and RTP (\$12.5m) funding priorities over next five years.





Design features of this SCORP

Collaboration:

- \$400,000 planning grant through NPS LWCF
- Core Planning Team: DPOR, DCCED, NPS RTCA, AK Trails
- Statewide Advisory Group: 25 members, gov. agencies, industry, NGOs
- Regional Advisory Groups: 7 subregions, and rural areas, plans and templates
- Top-down and bottom-up planning effort

Generate Data:

- GIS maps outdoor recreation agencies, locations, features, scalable, baseline templates
- GIS data portal record and share information on outdoor recreation
- Visitor mobility data (2019 2021): heat maps, trends, resident / non-resident
- Surveys / feedback used Qualtrics platform to generate data through 3 surveys – public, land managers, tribal – and input on SCORP draft review in November





Design features of this SCORP

New Statewide Goals and Strategies

Goal 1: Support the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Way of Life
Goal 2: Make Outdoor Recreation a Cornerstone of Alaska's Economy
Goal 3: Grow the Outdoor Recreation Workforce; Use Outdoor Recreation to Attract and Retain Residents and Businesses
Goal 4: Empower and Enable Alaskans to Lead Active, Healthy Lives
Goal 5: Balance Outdoor Recreation Growth and Stewardship
Goal 6: Grow Stable and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Funding
Goal 7: Strengthen Partnerships to Improve Outdoor Recreation Management

Suite of Advocacy, Education, and Planning Tools

- Tools shape recommendations in SCORP
- Use to support data-driven decisions on outdoor recreation investments
 and land management policies
- Makes the case to keep these data up-to-date and relevant
- Ensure information and data is available and used by decision makers and the public to guide Alaska's outdoor recreation future





Robust Public Engagement – Driven by Alaskan Input

Statewide Advisory Group (SWAG)

Regional working groups

Public Survey

Land Manager Survey

Tribal Government Survey

Public Comment on SCORP – Nov. 1-28



What is the SCORP?

No, it's not a new snack mix.

The SCORP (Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) is written every five years and guides all public outdoor recreation on public lands and in urban and rural neighborhoods statewide.

Get in the mix—The SCORP is currently under development and your input is needed.





National Park Service is in final review and approval of the SCORP. DPOR will publish when accepted.



Past SCORP projects: 1966-2019

+300 Funded Projects +50 different Cities & Villages \$40M in LWCF Awards

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- Facility Improvements in Fairbanks
 Playgrounds in Wrangell
 Athletic Fields in Ketchikan
 Campgrounds in Palmer
 Trails in Juneau
 Greenbelt in Anchorage
 Parking in Chugach State Park
 Restrooms in Homer
 Park Maintenance in Dillingham
 Public Use Cabins across the state

Land acquisition in the Aleutians

LWCF Awards by District / Area 1966-2017

Total: \$40M







Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Past Funded Projects by Region 1966-2019



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2022 \$) Haines Borough

Campbell Creek Greenbelt 02-00180 Project Amount \$1,870,000 \$11,166,897 (Inflation adjusted to 2022 \$) Anchorage Municipality

Nancy Lake Recreation Area 02-00043 Project Amount \$760,740

Total LWCF Projects \$39.2M

(Unadjusted)

\$157.8M

(Inflation Adjusted to 2022 \$)





• 0 - 100,000



LWCF Funding By Year and Region







Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Past Funded Projects by Region 1966-2019

LWCF Projects (Click to Zoom) Q Filter... Campbell Creek Greenbelt 02-00180 Project Amount \$1,870,000 gion \$11,166,897 (Inflation adjusted to 2022 \$) Western Talkeetna Anchorage Municipality lacks Nancy Lake Recreation Area 02-00043 Arctic Project Amount \$760,740 \$6,705,442 (Inflation adjusted to 2022 Interior \$) Matanuska-Susitna Borough Southcentral Captain Cook Recreation Area 02-00062 Southeast **Total LWCF Projects** \$23.8M 0 Select all Reset (Unadjusted) \$101.8M (Inflation Adjusted to 2022 \$) Esri, USGS | State of Alaska, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA | State of Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska Map Company, LLC Powered by Esri LWCF Funding By Year and Region LWCF Map Legend > 5,000,000 - 12,000,000 30M 20M > 1,000,000 - 5,000,000 10M Southcentral > 500,000 - 1,000,000 0 > 100,000 - 500,000 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 • 0 - 100,000 (Adjusted for Inflation to 2022 \$)

ALASKA 2023-2027 | Statewide

SCORP





Data

OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY

• GIS data – identifying designated parks, refuges, and active OR use areas

OUTDOOR RECREATION DEMAND

Trends in amounts, locations, types of use, based on:

- Mobile Anonymized Aggregated Cell Data
- Public Survey (Qualtrics platform)
- Land Manager Survey
- Tribal Government Survey



Recreational Supply GIS Goals

- Develop a lasting resource that goes beyond the report
 GIS is more than MAP
- 2. Develop consistent statewide datasets to support the mobility demand analysis
- 3. Develop process for maintaining and improving the statewide GIS supply (Rising tide lifts all boats)
- 4. Create centralized public access HUB for data and dashboards and useful statewide digital products
- 5. Share templates to guide standards and help small communities to develop data





The Underutilization of GIS and How to Cure It: An ArcGIS Hub Webinar https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzltxwHgopg

GIS is more Than MAP

- 1. Spatial Analysis Cell Phone Analysis
- 2. Apps Dashboards and Story Map
- 3. Data Management Data Management Process
- 4. Content Development Iterative Geodatabase design
- 5. Community Engagement Build HUB user base 12. Mapping and Visualization







SCORP GIS Hub Site - The purpose of this hub site is to centralize the management of Statewide GIS Assets related to Outdoor Recreation.



Data Contribution Survey

Allows GIS data managers to contribute data

Data Section

Allows GIS data managers to download data

Dashboard Section

Map Dashboards for data managers, park managers, park users and planners



Development Section

Template geodatabase to enable development of GIS data

Dataset Inform	ation
Upload your dat	a as a zip file
	Drop file here or select file (zip, 7z, tar)
Parks Layer URL	



- SCORPGeodatabaseTemplate.gdb
- ▲ 日 SCORP
 - SCORP_Facilities
 - SCORP_Parks
 - SCORP_Trails



Interactive SCORP Dashboards

We have created several dashboards to better understand the supply of outdoor recreational lands, trails and assets.



SCORP Recreation Supply Dashboard

Cities and Boroughs

SCORP Regional Dashboard







ALASKA 2023-2027

Local Government GIS Data Collection



ALASKA 2023-2027 SCORP

Data Dissemination



Borough and Census Area

Park Acres By Organization



Regional Park Dashboard – Support Mobility Analysis



Southwest

Southeast Region CHILKAT STATE PARK



https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/southeast/chilkatsp.htm





https://www.outerspatial.com/areas/chilkat-state-park





Chilkat State Park



This park offers a log cabin information center, 35-site campground, picnic area, boat launch and trails. The campground sits in a mixed forest of evergreens and deciduous trees at the edge of Chilkat Inlet. The boat launch provides access to the inlet and the run of king salmon in early June. The

Story Map for Park Users

Cell phone mobility data advises SCORP and future management database

Southcentral Region





SAMPLE SIZE USE BY AGENCY DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS Other 1.0M 1.1M State Lands Federal Lands 695. **TOP 5 LOCATIONS** BY DEVICE DAYS

2021

2020

Chugach State Park

Kenai River Special Management Area

Matanuska Vallev Palmer Hay Flats

5 Chugach National Forest, Glacier Ranger District

12%

DISTRIBUTION OF USE



VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR

In-State Out-of-State



VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR

50%

38%

	2019	2020	2021
Anchorage Municipality	52%	54%	53%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	18%	18%	17%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	11%	11%	10%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	3%	3%	2%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	1%	1%	1%
Other Alaska	2%	1%	1%
Out of State/International	13%	12%	16%

PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Trends in Use:

- Use spiked from 2019 to 2020 and 2021. The increase in use is driven likely by locals getting to their nearby parks during the pandemic
- Use increased across all seasons, but especially during the summer

Visitor Profile:

- The visitor profile did not change much at all over the past three years. Just over 50% of use is done by locals of Anchorage with Mat-Su and Kenai close behind
- Out-of-state use remained steady with a slight increase in 2021

Highest Demand:

- Chugach State Park is by far the most used site • with the Kenai River Special Management Area following in second
- Matanuska Valley and Palmer Hay Flats see high use in the region as well



Chugach State Park

Low Use

2021

98.6K

2020

98.1K

STATE OF ALASKA (DPOR) | STATE PARK

USE

RELATIVE TO STATEWIDE

LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

ADJUSTED DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR

SAMPLE SIZE

2019

67.0K



VISITOR ORIGINS PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR



VISITOR ORIGINS PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 10) AND YEAR

© 2022 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

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High Use

*Use is defined by cluster analysis

Chugach State Park encompasses 2 boroughs.

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH

Anchorage Municipality: 99%

Matanuska-Susitna Borough: 1%

	2019	2020	2021
Anchorage Municipality	71%	70%	64
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	7%	7%	6%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	4%	4%	3%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	1%	1%	1%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	0%	0%	0%
Juneau City and Borough	0%	0%	0%
Denali Borough	0%	0%	0%
Kodiak Island Borough	0%	0%	0%
Bethel Census Area	0%	0%	0%
outheast Fairbanks Census Area	0%	0%	0%
Other Alaska	0%	0%	0%
Out of State/International	16%	18%	25%

PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS





1 grid = .25 x .25 mile area

Detailed Mobility Data - Chugach State Park

SCORP Detailed Park Dashboard



Ξ



Detailed Park Information – Nancy Lake State Recreation Area



Compiling Statewide Trails

Collected Open Data

 State, Federal and Large Borough Sources have open data available to use for compiling statewide trails

Borough and City Data Survey

- Contacted 16 different organizations for Trails data only six were comfortable with the data they have and were able to provide it within the timeframe of the project
- Most respondents mentioned they didn't have the time or resources to dedicate to trails, but many were working on it

After data was collected a single trails data model was developed and data were standardized to this data model for creating maps and analysis

Fill in data request form. Data is raw, not hosted online. Painful to share information. (City of Valdez)

GIS being done in Public Works department. Their dataset is more complete. The planning department has a basic trail layer. Both departments can be contacted via a public records request. (Sitka Borough)

Continually adding to trails layer that is a combination of municipal and forest service trails. They want to add facilities, ski tracks, sled hill, and facilities. When server is up again, they will send layer. Interested in SCORP. (Petersburgh Borough)



1) Gather Data	2)	Add to Layer Mapping Matrix ar	nd Supply Map	3) Review Data, Schema, Create Field Mapping Matrix and Models
Most local Government Agencies	Layer M	apping Matrix helps to document and gu	ide the consolidation of layers from outside	Field Mapping Matrix helps to guide the migration of fields from the source data to the SCORP data
have internal data. Acquiring these	sources	into the appropriate SCORP Laver		model. Includes information for field size, data source, required query, layer name.
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		US National Forest Service	National Forest Service Administrative Boundaries Chugash	# PARK_TRAILS_FN58 (1)
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nepository		Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Local Parks	PARK_TRAILS_FNSB - EAGLE TRAIL Current Layer PARK_TRAILS_FNSB -
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Most Federal and State Agencies		US Bureau of Land Management	Bureau of Land Managmenet Alaska Field Office Boundary	STATUS MODIFIED OPERATIONS O STATUS STATUS STATUS Text 220
publish their data online in an		US Bureau of Land Management	Bureau of Land Managmenet Alaska USA/Canada Boundary	NOTES Open for Passive or Limited Use 25 NOTES Text 25
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data can be automated.		SOA Dept. of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development	Alaska Borough and Census Area Boundaries	shape_Length s520/762816
		SOA Dept. of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Native Corperations	
		US Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management	Submerged Lands Act Boundary	
	Trails			
		Fairbanks North Star Borough	Fairbanks North Star Borough Park Trails	Crosswalk Data - Geoprocessing Models is used to automate the crosswalk of data from source to the
		Municipality of Anchorage	Anchorage Parks and Rec Merged	
Open		Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Matanuska-Susitna Borough Seperated Paths	destination geodatabase. The model contans a few sepcific elements 1) Query to Eliminate features
Data		Sitka Borough	Sitka Official Trails	that are not to be included in the SCORP. These features can be out of state. Redundant with the
Data		Kenai Peninsula Borough	Kenai Peninsula Borough Trails	
		US National Park Service	National Park Trails	organization. 2) the addition of a source organization and link to the source data. 3) Any additional
		US Natonal Forest Service	National Forest Service Trails	modifications that are required to fit the data into the SCORP Model.
		SOA Department of Parks and Recreation	Alaska State Park Trail	
		SOA Department of Natural Resources	Alaska RS2477 Historic Transportation Routes	
		SOA Department of Natural Resources	Alaska Department of Natural Resources Easements Line	Fairbanks North Star Borough
		SOA Department of Natural Resources	Alaska DOT Trails Inventory 1973	GIS Model for Trails
	Facilities			
SCORP Data Model (Minimu	ım Reau	uirements)		(PAIRK_TRAIL) — Copy Failure Uses

Data models vary in size and complexity, but most have a set of minimum fields in common that serve to support basic functions of the data. The SCORP Model works with this minimum existing data fields in order to create the inventory recreational supply. Documenting these minimum requirements can help organizations with limited GIS capabilities to produce usable data by populating the template geodatabase developed for the SCORP.

SCORP_Parks - Caines Head State Recreation Area

Caines Head State Recreation Area
State Recreation Area
https://data-soa-dnr.opendata.arcgis.co
State of Alaska (DPOR)







Data Migration Process



Anatomy of the SCORP Geoprocessing models

- Geoprocessing models were created to crosswalk data to SCORP data model.
- Provide documentation and repeatable results.
- Initial development of the Trails models took several weeks. Recreating the trails with a schema update took less than a day.
- Potential automation using feature services with under 1,000 records.



Geoprocessing Models

- P1) SCORP Parks Template
- P1) SCORP Parks USFS
- P2) SCORP Parks NPS
- P3) SCORP Parks BLM
- P4) SCORP Parks USFWS
- P4a) SCORP Parks USFWS Template
- P4b) SCORP Parks USFWS (Wilderness Areas)
- P4c) SCORP Parks USFWS (Non-Wilderness Areas)
- P4d) SCORP Parks USFWS (Inholdings)
- P5) SCORP Parks DPOR
- P6) SCORP Parks LDA
- P7) SCORP Parks Mental Health
- P8) SCORP Parks Special Use Land
- P9) SCORP Parks University
- P10) SCORP Parks MOA
- P11) SCORP Parks MSB
- P12) SCORP Parks CBJ
- P13) SCORP Parks City of Valdez
- P20) SCORP Parks Final
- P21) SCORP Parks Dissolve

- F1) SCORP Facilities Alaska State Parks Template
- Page F2) SCORP Facilities National Forest Service
- F3) SCORP Facilities National Park Service Points of Interest
- F4) SCORP Facilities National Wildlife Refuge System Trail Features
- F5)SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fishing Access Trails
- P F6)SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sport Fishing Opportunities
- F7)SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Launch Ramps
- P
 F8)SCORP Facilities Alaska Department of Fish and Game Harbors
- F9)SCORP Facilities Municipality of Anchorage Park Facilities
- P
 F10)SCORP Facilities Municipality of Anchorage Trail Posts
- F11)SCORP Facilities Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Facitilies
- F12)SCORP Facilities Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Waterbody Access
- F13)SCORP Facilities Sitka Trail Works Cabins and Shelters
- F14)SCORP Facilities Kenai Peninsula Borough Faciliites
- F15)SCORP Facilities City of Valdez Playgrounds
- F16)SCORP Facilities City of Valdez Restrooms

Organization	Parks	Trails	Facilities
City and Borough of Juneau	Х	Х	
City of Valdez	Х	Х	Х
Fairbanks North Star Borough		Х	
Kenai Peninsula Borough		Х	Х
Mat-Su Borough	Х		Х
Municipality of Anchorage	Х	Х	Х
Sitka Trail Works		Х	Х
State of Alaska (ADFG)			Х
State of Alaska (DNR)	Х	Х	
State of Alaska (DPOR)	Х	Х	Х
State of Alaska (MHT)	Х		
US Bureau of Land Management	Х		
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Х	Х	Х
US Forest Service	Х	Х	Х

T1) SCORP Trails Alaska State Parks Template
T2) SCORP Trails National Park Service
T3) SCORP Trails National Forest Service
T4) SCORP Trails Fairbanks North Star Borough
T5) SCORP Trails Municipality of Anchorage
T6) SCORP Trails Sitka Trail Works
T7) SCORP Trails Kenai Peninsula Borough
T8) SCORP Trails National Wildlife Refuge Trails
T9) SCORP Trails Department of Natural Resources Waters
T10) SCORP Trails City of Juneau Trails
T12) SCORP Trails City of Valdez Trails
T12) SCORP Trails City of Valdez Trails
T13) SCORP Snowtrack trails



State of the State of Trail Data

Data Quality

Data quality varied greatly, and most of the data was not accurate enough to match to cell phone data for results. Mixed quality data made distinguishing good data from inaccurate data difficult within a dataset.

Data Completeness

Often data is missing. In some cases, it has yet to be imported from the field because a link in the workflow from field to map has not been established.

Data Model Differences

Data models vary greatly but generally have the same purpose standardizing data models will enable better data.

Redundant Data

Many local GIS departments are compiling their own trails but don't have the resources to keep it up to data or make them available.

Created Two Trails Datasets

One for SCORP analysis and maps where an effort was made to remove redundant trails.

One full dataset with redundant data for review and collaboration.





					F	G	Н	I	J	к	L	M
Frails												
	State Parks Trails	FNSB Trails	MOA Trails	KPB Trails	NPS Trails	NFS Trails	ANWR Trails	ADNR RS2477 Trails	ADNR Navigable Water	STW Trails	CBJ Trails	COV Trails
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dditional Fields	Bikes_Allowed	STATUS	Data_Source	MILES	TRLALTNAME	TRAIL_NO	FID	OBJECTID	OBJECTID	OBJECTID	FID	FID
	Motorized_Allowed	NOTES		USE	MAPLABEL	TRAIL_CN	OBJECTID	STATUS	GNIS_ID	Trail Alternative Name	Shape	Shape
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Trail Data Model Comparison









Buffered Roads, Trails, to generate polygon's locations of interest.

67.0K

98.1K

Glenn Alps area and Anchorage Overlook trail seeing high use.

Demand for this area can help to support management decision and allocation of funding.





Online Trail Maps and Dashboards – Detailed Park Dashboard

The **Detailed Park Dashboard** allows a user to select and organization and zoom to an area to get a list of parks, trails and facilities in that Area.

Clicking on a park, trail or facility will allow users to gain access to the source data and selected information.

Clicking on a park will allow the user to link to the organization managing the park.

This dashboard gives access to organizational maps and data with just a few clicks.





Online Trail Maps and Dashboards – Park Dashboard

🥪 SCORP Park Dashboard

The **Park Dashboard** allows a user to select one of the thousands of park areas compiled to see the trails and associated facilities.

Data for the park appears on the left.

Clicking on the trail will get access to the link and trail information compiled during the SCORP.

Match the information on this map to the mobility data to see the features. Seeing high usage.

This map helps to access park, trail and facility information in just a few clicks.

Nancy Lake State Re	creation Area
Park ID	Nancy Lake State Recreation Area
Park Name	Nancy Lake State Recreation Area
District	
Park Unit	
Park Type	State Recreation Area
Organization	State of Alaska (DPOR)
ParkWebsite	View
Acres	21,995
SCORPRegion	Southcentral
Category	State
BoroughCensusArea	Matanuska-Susitna Borough
BoroughCensusAreaG EOID	02170
SourceURL	View

N M S	
Ve Marta Y	
2, Zoom to ⊕ Pan	
Trail_Type	SnowTRAC
Trail_Name	Big Swamp Trail
Length_Miles	6.244010
SourceURL	View
Organization	State of Alaska (DNR)
SCORPLegend	Winter
ShapeLength	10048.779355636405
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30	

Find a Park

Nancy Lake State Recreation A.

Earthstar Geographics | State of Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation | State of Alaska Division of Parks and Outd... Powered a



Mobility Dashboard

Corresponding mobility dashboard allows park managers to see a heat map of usage for the park.

Using the combination of: Mobility (Demand) and Park (Supply) Dashboards It's clear to see the high usage of the Red Shirt Lake Trail Loop in Nancy Lake







Analyzing Selected Trail Systems - DRAFT

Several Trail Systems with were analyzed using **Mobility Data**

- Caribou Hills Snowtrack trails
- Petersville Snowmobile Area
- Denali State Park
- **Chugach State Park**

Trail Use

In the context of the overall use, park trails are often overshadowed by campgrounds and parking lots.

Printed maps were limited to the number of pages in the SCORP and isolation of top 5 often does not include relatively low use trails when compared to Roads, Parking Lots and Campgrounds.

Dashboards and GIS maps created during the SCORP can be used in numerous ways to make a deeper dive and analyze just trails data Enabling an apples-to-apples comparison.

These dashboards can be added to the HUB for individuals to focus on and interpret their area of interest.

Alaska SCORP - Selected Areas Selected Location: Chugach State Park: Park Land

Total Visitor Days by Year Click to view sub areas. Select both a primary area and a sub-area to display data.

	2019	2020	2021	
Rendezvous Peak Trail	0.2K	0.6K	0.4K	
Potter Creek Trailhead 1	0.1K	0.4K	0.6K	
Dew Mound Trail	0.8K	0.2K	0.1K	
Turnagain Arm Interperative Trail	0.1K	0.4K	0.4K	
South Fork Eagle River Trailhead	0.2K	0.5K	0.3K	
Eklutna Lakeside Trail	0.2K	0.6K	0.1K	
Albert Loop Trail	0.2K	0.3K	0.4K	
Lost Cabin Valley Trail	0.1K	0.4K	0.3K	
South Fork Rim Trail	0.1K	0.4K	0.3K	
Near Point Trail	0.3K	0.4K	0.2K	
Rendezvous Ridge Trail	0.1K	0.4K	0.3K	

Chugach State Park: Park Land

2020

71%

6%

3%

1%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

0%

22%



In vs. Out-of-state Visitation by Season

掛 + a b | e a u



Sample Size by Month/Year





Heat map showing usage and zoom in on imagery map to shows the Glen Alps area parking lot and overlook trail and facilities being used.

Chugach State Park

STATE OF ALASKA (DPOR) | STATE PARK

98.1K

67.0K

In-Stat

Overal

19 20 21

50%



98.6K

19 20 21 19 20 21 19 20 21

McHugh Trailhead

19 20

Glenn Alps Anchorage Overlook

DISTRIBUTION OF USE



VISITOR ORIGINS

▼

High

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR

	2019	2020	2021	
Anchorage Municipality	71%	70%	64%	4
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	7%	7%	6%	
Kenai Peninsula Borough	4%	4%	3%	
Fairbanks North Star Borough	1%	1%	1%	2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	0%	0%	0%	
Other Alaska	1%	1%	1%	
Out of State/International	16%	18%	25%	

PATTERNS OF USE 7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Character of the Destination/Role in Outdoor Recreation

Out-of-State

 Chugach State Park, one of four largest state parks in the U.S., provides road accessible access to alpine wilderness on the eastern boundary of Alaska's largest city. The lower elevation mountains and valleys of park's front-country are heavily used year-round, primarily for short hikes, skiing, and as popular viewpoints. Summer and winter biking are rapidly growing new uses. The park's eastern backcountry is much more rugged, with higher peaks, snow fields and glaciers. As the Distribution of Use map shows, use is much lighter in this wild, spectacular terrain.

Summe

- Secondary uses in the park include hunting, snow machines, ATVs, and an increase in guided hikes.
- Established and less formal trailhead parking areas provide access to the park almost all of which are much too small for current use and the growing demand.

Trends and Issues

- Chugach State Park is Alaska's most visited public recreation destination. Recreational use, as measured by device days, spiked significantly between 2019 and 2021. This included a jump in out-of-state visitor use, from 24 percent in 2019 to 35 percent in 2021. This growth occurred despite very limited cruise traffic to Alaska in 2020 and 2021 and despite the park not being marketed as a major visitor attraction.
- Continued growth in outdoor recreation and tourism brings significant benefits for residents and local businesses, but also challenges that include providing sufficient trailhead parking and maintaining existing or providing new trails.



Analysis of Selected Trails Using Cell Phone Data



Denali State Park STATE OF ALASKA (DPOR) | STATE PARK



2021

7.4K

*Use is defined by cluster analysis

TOP 5 LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1 Denali State Park (Denali Viewpoint South)
- 2 Denali State Park (K'esugi Campground)
- 3 Denali State Park (Veterans Memorial) 4 Denali State Park (Byers Lake Campground)
- 5 Denali State Park (Upper Troublesome Creek Trail Parking)
- VISITOR ORIGINS PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR

ADJUSTED DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR

2020

SAMPLE SIZE

2019

In-State Out-of-State



VISITOR ORIGINS PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR

	2019	2020	2021
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	21%	21%	15%
Anchorage Municipality	16%	19%	12%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	8%	10%	9%
Denali Borough	6%	2%	2%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	3%	4%	2%
Other Alaska	2%	1%	1%
Out of State/International	45%	42%	60%

PATTERNS OF USE 7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Character of the Destination/Role in Outdoor Recreation

- Denali State Park is on the Parks Highway in the northern Mat-Su Borough and shares a boundary with the more famous National Park.
- The park is renowned for its excellent trails and world class views of Denali and the Alaska Range. As the map shows, use is concentrated in two scenic highway turnouts and along the trails up both Curry and K'esugi ridges. West of the Chulitna River, most use is by snow machiners coming up from the south.



Trends and Issues

- Denali State Park is used for short stops, day adventures, and overnight camping by Alaska residents and by independent and cruise travelers. High use in summer 2019 reflects use by motorcoaches (taking restroom breaks at the Veterans Memorial and the two viewpoints). High level use from out-of-state visitors grew in 2020 and 2021 (from 48 percent to 65 percent) despite the drop in cruise traffic.
- While the large majority of device days happen in the summer, use by out-of-state independent travelers grew in fall and spring.
- Intense popularity of the recently-built K'esugi Ken campground, public-use cabins, and trails shows how high-quality new facilities in good locations quickly generate large amounts of use. Given the connection to Denali National Park, this state park presents opportunities for growth and improving or creating additional outdoor recreation infrastructure (such as connecting campgrounds to electricity).



Analysis of Selected Trails Using Cell Phone Data – Denali State Park





Petersville Snow Machine Use Area MAT-SU BOROUGH | OFF TRAIL AREA



2021

18.3K

1 Off Trail Area 2 Public Road

3 Oilwell Road

Chulitna Bluff Trail (SnowTRAC)
 MP 121.5 Parking Area

TOP 5 LOCATIONS OF INTEREST

DISTRIBUTION OF USE: Off Trail Area



VISITOR ORIGINS PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR

2020

17.0K

SAMPLE SIZE

2019

14:6K

ADJUSTED DEVICE DAYS BY YEAR



VISITOR ORIGINS PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR

	2019	2020	2021	
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	60%	60%	52%	
Anchorage Municipality	16%	19%	13%	
Fairbanks North Star Borough	3%	4%	6%	
Kenai Peninsula Borough	1%	2%	2%	
Denali Borough	1%	1%	1%	
Other Alaska	1%	1%	1%	
Out of State/International	18%	13%	25%	

PATTERNS OF USE 7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Character of the Destination/Role in Outdoor Recreation

- This area is located just west of the Parks Highway in the northern Mat-Su Borough and just south of Denali State and National Parks.
- State land sales over the last 50 years pepper this block of State-owned land (including the early "open to entry" and subsequent "remote parcel" and "subdivision" land sales programs). Thus, cabins have been built on many of these parcels. Much of the terrain is wetlands so most access is in the winter by snow machine (although some use occurs by ATV, ski, or on foot).
- The map shows the well-marked snow machine trails maintained by the Petersville Community non-profit group, in part with funding from the state SnowTRAC program. The combination of these trails, good snow, areas of wide-open terrain, and access into the Alaska Range foothills with grand views of Denali, has made this one of Alaska's more popular snow machine areas.

Trends and Issues

- Most use is by Alaska residents, primarily from within the Mat-Su Borough. The results
 of the mobility data show an interesting increase in out-of-state users during in spring
 and summer which suggests more travelers are finding ways to enjoy this area.
- Growing use is stretching the capacity of existing parking areas and the capacity of local, non-profit groups. Work is needed to increase the resources available to manage this steadily growing use (e.g., storage space for grooming equipment, search and rescue capabilities, etc.).



Analysis of Selected Trails Using Cell Phone Data



Tsalteshi trail system showing parking lot as high use and area near the school.

Tsalteshi Trails

CITY OF SOLDOTNA



VISITOR ORIGINS PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY SEASON AND YEAR

	I	n-Sta	ite		O	ut-of-	Stat	6							
	Overall		Winter			Spring		Summer			Fall				
	19	20	21	19	20	21	19	20	21	19	20	21	19	20	21
100%															
50%	94%	95%	92%	896	97%	97%	94%	%86	86%	87%	%06	87%	97%	896	%96
0%										H					

VISITOR ORIGINS

PERCENT OF DEVICE DAYS BY BOROUGH (TOP 5) AND YEAR

	2019	2020	2021	
Kenai Peninsula Borough	88%	92%	88	
Anchorage Municipality	4%	3%	2%	
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1%	0%	1%	
Fairbanks North Star Borough	0%	0%	0%	
Juneau City and Borough	0%			
Other Alaska	0%	0%	0%	
Out of State/International	6%	5%	9%	

PATTERNS OF USE

7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE OF DAILY DEVICE COUNTS



Character of the Destination/Role in Outdoor Recreation

- Located near Soldotna in the central Kenai Peninsula, the Tsalteshi Trails Association
 operates system of multi-use trails and promotes an both an outdoor lifestyle and
 community connection to the land.
- Over 25 miles of trail-oriented activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, single-track winter biking, and eight miles of lighted trails (in winter), and access for walkers, runners, hikers, and mountain bikers (in summer).
- There are currently no fees for trail use as it is supported through grants, partnerships with governments agencies, memberships, and donations.

Trends and Issues

- Popularity continues to grow. Trail expansion or improvement are needed to meet increasing community demand.
- The annual budget is less than \$80,000. Providing a free outdoor fitness and recreation venue requires active and ongoing community support for trails, parking, lighting, maintenance and operations, and expansion of services to meet demand.



Analysis of Selected Trails Using Cell Phone Data-Tsaltseshi

Build the HUB

- Trail Maintenance Projects Set up volunteer trail maintenance projects
- Real time status reports crowd source, real-time trail status map
 - -Last groomed date
 - -Current condition report
 - -Hazard reporting
- Data Collection Projects utilize GPS specialists to learn best practices and technologies in trails, boundary and facility mapping
- Adopt A Park generate support and funding for parks
- GIS Training conduct training sessions on best practices with data collection, editing, authorizations



https://exploreoakville.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1d2e4c6205b14358b1c35562053c7487



SCORP GIS Supply moving forward

- Build the hub user base of contributors The next SCORP GIS supply data will be more accurate, complete, representative of all stakeholders, easier to compile and analyze.
- **Remove mapping barriers** in the grant application processes to level the playing field for communities that have historically been unable to receive funding.
- Encourage collaboration and standards to reduce redundant efforts statewide, save money and create better data.
- Focus effort to **develop specialized GIS positions and dedicated resources** via Office of Outdoor Recreation.
- HUB to go live in the new year.

We all have limited resources. Leverage collaboration to build a sustainable and efficient solution to support outdoor recreation, economic development, health and wellness, stewardship and conservation, and the improvement of the GIS information available for investment and policy decisions!



Thank You!

PARK

ALASKA



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Alaska State Parks: dnr.alaska.gov/parks/scorp

