

State Grants for Outdoor Recreation - Trails, Facilities, Heritage 2023 Trails Conference



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Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR)
Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

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DPOR Grant Programs / Fed Partners



Recreation Trails Program (RTP)

- Federal Highway Admin (FHWA)

Snowmachine Grant Program (Alaska)

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP)

- National Park Service (NPS)

National Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)

- National Park Service (NPS)



RTP and Snowmachine Grants



DPOR Grant Administrator: Natalya Fomina

Recreational Trails Program (FHWA): RTP grants are for development and maintenance of trails and facilities, acquisition of trail rights-of-way, and development of safety and environmental protection education programs. This **90/10** federal matching grant program provides up to \$300,000 to successful applicants. Non-profits eligible.

RTP National link: [fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/)

Snowmachine Grant Program (Alaska): SnowTRAC is primarily available for winter snow grooming projects, in up to 16 approved snow grooming service areas through grants to qualified non-profits. Typically, up to one-third reimbursement of overall eligible expenses.

L W C F and O R L P Grants



DPOR Grant Administrators: Jean Ayers, Kathleen Tarr

Land & Water Conservation Fund (NPS): LWCF is a **50/50** federal matching grant program for high quality outdoor recreation trails, facilities, and property acquisition. Projects range from wildlife viewing areas to neighborhood parks; from downhill ski areas to handicapped accessible trails; from our most urban areas to our most rural areas. Local, regional, & state governments are eligible to apply.

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (NPS): ORLP, a **50/50** federal matching grant, is nationally competitive targeting economically disadvantaged urban communities with little access to publicly available, close-by, outdoor recreation. Similar project scope to LWCF.

Historic Preservation Fund Grants



DPOR State Historian, Deputy SHPO: Katie Ringsmuth

Certified Local Government Program (NPS): CLG is a **60/40** matching grant program open to local certified governments. Concerned with preserving properties significant in history, architecture, engineering, archaeology, and culture, CLG assists local governments in the identification, evaluation and protection of historic properties.

Historic Preservation Fund Development / Predevelopment (NPS): HPF, a **50/50** federal matching grant, provides funding for Alaska buildings and structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places, individually or as a contributing property to a historic district.

DPOR Advisory Boards for Grants



Advisory Boards: assist DPOR in the evaluation, review, and prioritization of grant applications, policy recommendations, and advocacy for the benefits of Alaska's outdoor heritage.

Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB): Nine members represent motorized, non-motorized, and diversified users; review LWCF and RTP grant applications.

Alaska Historical Commission: Nine-member forum for citizens' voices in the state history policy. Members review and recommend HPF grants to DPOR.

RTP & SnowTRAC



RTP and Snowmachine grants help Alaska provide and maintain outdoor recreation trails for motorized, non-motorized and diversified uses. RTP is a federal grant program through FHWA, and SnowTRAC is a state grant program. SnowTRAC relies on user fees and motor fuel taxes for funding. Capital projects (including equipment), trail maintenance, safety and education grants are eligible for project funding. Non-profits are eligible.



Gold Mint Trail



R T P Apportionments



DOT / DPOR has allocated in recent years roughly up to \$2.2 million for RTP projects, split evenly between DPOR and non-profit projects (pools do not compete). FHWA targets overall allocation between trail project types:

30% motorized / 30% non-motorized / 40 % diversified

Max 5% safety & education



**Grewingk Valley
Blue Ice Trail**



RTP Match and Uses



RTP is a reimbursable grant program (up to 90% federal match) for:

- ❖ **Maintenance & restoration of existing trails, construction of new trails**
- ❖ **Acquisition of property or easements for trails**
- ❖ **Educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails**



**Rosie Creek
Parking Area**



R T P: Who can apply?



- ❖ Private nonprofit organizations (YCC, trail orgs, land trusts)
- ❖ Local Governments (Cities, Boroughs, Municipalities)
- ❖ State, Federal & Tribal Governments (DNR – DPOR, DMLW, DoF, DoA, ADFG)
- ❖ Federal Government (BIA, BLM, NPS, USFS, USFWS)
- ❖ Alaska Native Governments, Entities (Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Non-profits)



Lunch Falls Project



RTP: FY24 Open Selection Timeline



Glen Alps, Chugach State Park

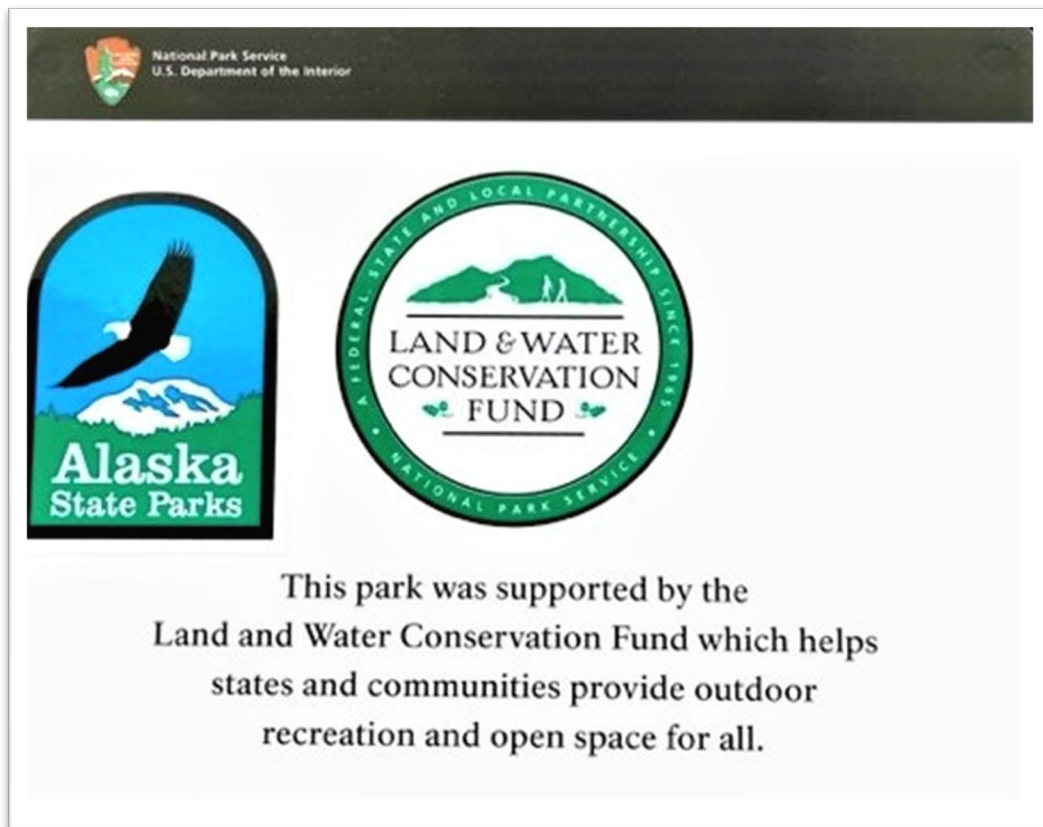
RTP timeline for non-DPOR project applications in FY24:

- Aug 1 – Nov 1, 2023: RTP grant application accepted
- DPOR review of project alignment with RTP criteria
- January 2024: ORTAB review
- Feb / Mar 2024: DPOR evaluation, cohort selection
- Mar / Apr 2024: Submit to FHWA
- May 2024: Grant approvals, formalize contracts

LWCF and ORLP



LWCF is a federal reimbursement grant program for the acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas in all 50 states. DPOR serves as liaison.



- ❖ 1,000 trails projects nationwide
- ❖ More than \$40M from NPS to Alaska in LWCF grants to broad range of urban and rural communities
- ❖ Eligible applicants include state, local, and regional entities (city, borough, state & tribal governments)
- ❖ Outdoor Rec Legacy Partnership (ORLP) addresses outdoor recreational deficits in under-served urban areas

LWCF and ORLP: Project Examples



**Public Use Cabins
K'esugi Ken
Denali State Park**



**Eagle River
Nature Center**



**Chanshtnu Muldoon
Townsquare Park**



**Tlingit Park
Haines Borough**

LWCF: Fund Source and Match



Folker Park, MOA

LWCF is comprised primarily of proceeds from Outer Continental Shelf activities and Gulf of Mexico resource extraction.

Permanent funding secured with Great American Outdoors Act (2020).

Federal reimbursement grant program requires 50% match.

Funds up to \$2.5 million.

LWCF: Project Types



Jewel Lake Park, MOA

Types of projects:
playgrounds, urban
greenbelt trails, hiking,
biking and motorized trails,
facility upgrades such as
campground improvements,
sports fields, boat launches,
public restrooms, skate
parks, signage, and land
acquisitions for public
outdoor recreation.



LWCF: FY24 Open Selection Timeline



Harbor Park, Haines Borough

Grants Schedule for Local & Tribal Government Open Project Selection Process in FY24:

- Aug 1 – Nov 1, 2023: LWCF grant applications accepted
- DPOR review of project alignment with SCORP goals
- January 2024: ORTAB review
- Feb / Mar 2024: DPOR evaluation, cohort selection
- April 2024: Submission to NPS
- Summer / Fall 2024 – Grant approvals, formalize contracts

Getting Started www.grants.gov/learn-grants/grants-101.html



Familiarize yourself with the overall Grants Lifecycle



Determine your eligibility for funding opportunities on Grants.gov



Identify the right types of funding opportunities



Learn reporting requirements to comply, if awarded \$\$\$



Check with Grants Administrators with questions, or if some technical help is needed

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grants



DPOR Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) manages the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) with advisory support from the Alaska Historical Commission.

Two HPF categories:

- ❖ **Certified Local Communities**
- ❖ **Development and Predevelopment Subgrants**



HPF Eligible Projects



Eligible projects include:

- survey
- planning
- technical assistance
- development
- Federal tax incentives for historic properties
- expansion of the National Register of Historic Places
- assistance to Federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private individuals



Trails as Historic Properties



**“Walking
in the
footsteps
of
History.”**



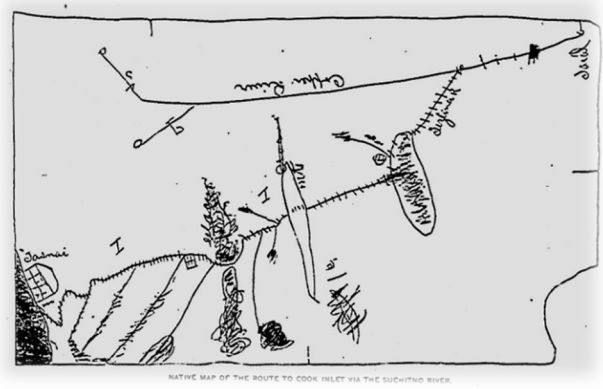
Trails as Portals to the Past



“The play that brings us closest to nature is play that mimics work.”



Trails: Where Nature & Culture Intersect



**“Nature alone cannot explain landscape.
You need history, too.”**



Trails: From Work to Play



“The intersection of routes and stories reminds us of where we have traveled and the travails we’ve overcome.”



What makes a trail “historic?”



National Register of Historic Places

The office list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation.

- ❖ Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic archaeological resources.



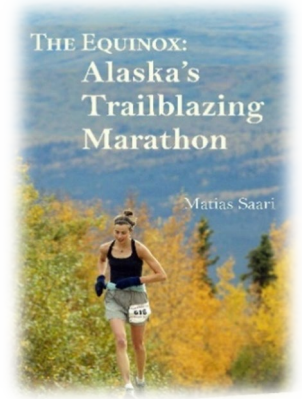
Trails: National Register Process



“The spirit and direction of the nation are funded upon and reflected in its historical heritage.”



HPF Grant Example



Nominating the Equinox Marathon Trail to the National Register



HPF Grants



Call for HPF grant applications annually, \$10,000 - \$50,000

Proposals are reviewed by Alaska Historical Commission

HPF Subgrants are administered by DPOR / OHA

Project grants are reimbursable and must be matched

Funded Projects must meet Secretary of Interior Standards

Visit the Office of History and Archaeology website:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

Trails Linking Past and Present



“The idea of walking in someone else’s shoes might be metaphorical, but when we actually do follow in the exact footsteps of those who came before, our connection is quite literal.”



Thank you: Questions?



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