



**National Park Service**



# **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program**

**Region 11 – Alaska**

[www.nps.gov/rtcaakr](http://www.nps.gov/rtcaakr)



## National Park Service – Alaska RTCA

### Our Mission

*The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) helps carry out the National Park Service's mission by supporting community-led outdoor recreation and conservation projects for the benefit of all Americans.*





## National Park Service – Alaska RTCA



RTCA specifically seeks to provide assistance on projects that:

- **Build Healthy Communities**
- **Conserve Lands and Waters**
- **Develop Organizational Capacity**
- **Support Public Land Management Collaboration**
- **Engage Youth**



## RTCA Alaska:

10-20 active projects

5 new project starts in 2022

Currently reviewing FY23 applications

2024 application period open until March 1st





# National Park Service – Alaska RTCA

## RTCA Alaska FY22 Projects (where):

Alaska Outdoor Alliance Capacity Building (Everywhere)

Denali Borough Community Outdoor Recreation Plan (Denali Borough)

Cordova Community Trails Plan (Cordova)

Reawakening T'ladjjet (Palmer Hay Flats)

Homer Public Library (Homer)

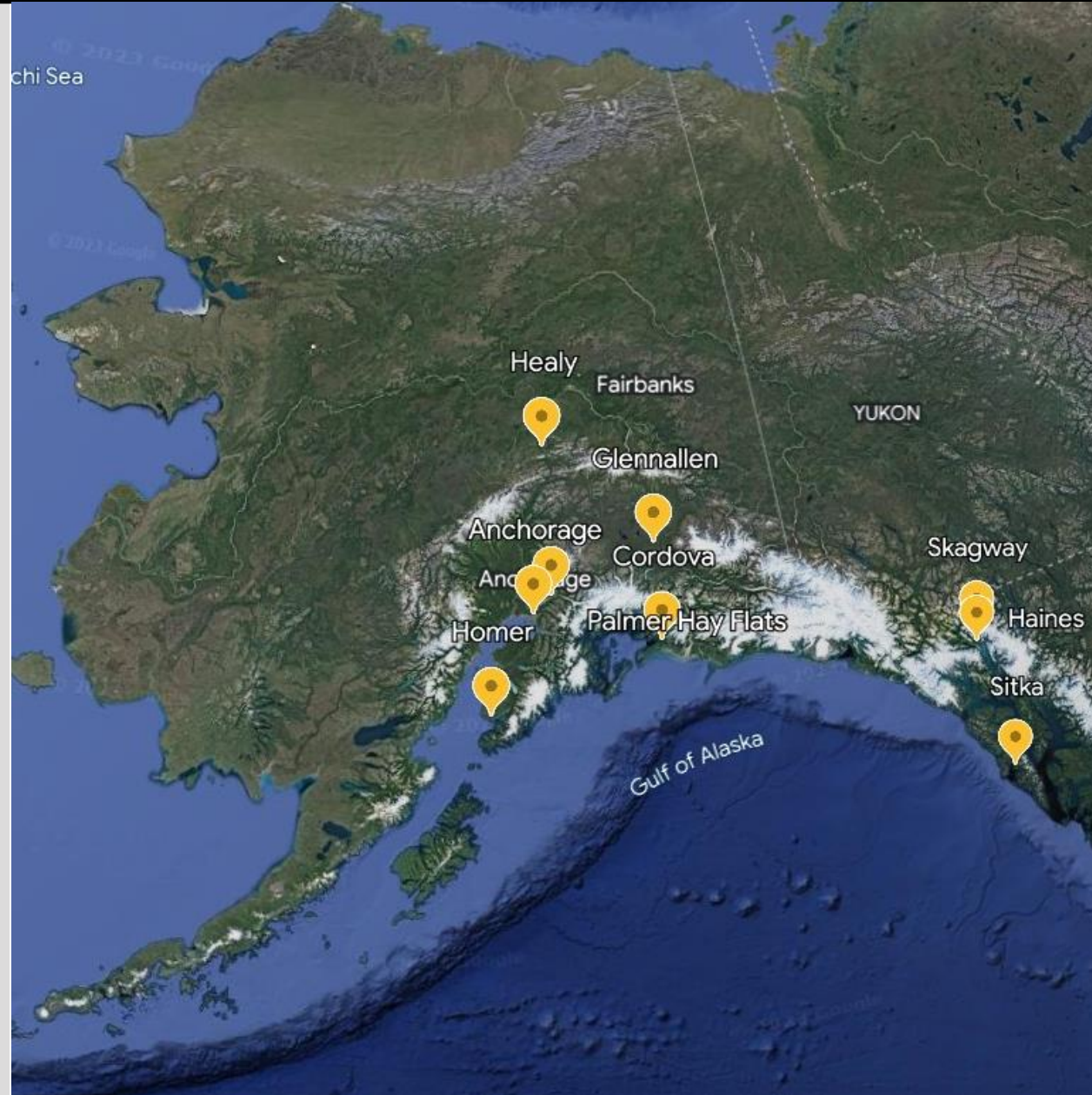
Haines Trails Master Plan (Haines)

Vision and Planning for Nic' anilen na' (WISE – Chitina)

Rabbit Creek Schools on Trails (Anchorage)

City of Sitka Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan (Sitka)

Skagway Trails Plan (Skagway)





## Denali Borough Community Outdoor Recreation Plan (2022-present)

- RTCA is providing technical assistance to the Denali Borough and its partners for the creation of the Denali Borough Community Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- To date, Borough staff have stood up a multi-disciplinary committee who steers the writing of this plan and represents a diverse cross-section of the population.
- RTCA facilitates meetings, holds planning workshops, assists in the creation of surveys and helps create a public outreach plan for the Borough.





## Homer Library Placemaking (2021-present)

- The Friends of the Homer Library applied for technical assistance to re-envision a 2.5 acre parcel adjacent to the beloved Homer Public Library.
- 10+ partnering organizations were involved in a two-year collaborative planning process culminating in a conceptual site plan in 2023.
- The community-based planning process included regular meetings, site assessment and surveys, placemaking workshops facilitated in partnership with the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, public open houses, and engagement with youth at the Library.



Natural play area: Large boulders (local glacial) play sculpture climbable animals, other balance activities (stepping logs, driftwood, over/under tunnels, hillside slides and ladders). Built for safety, ecosystem protection, and minimal maintenance. Final siting and design to be developed.

Gathering area: Picnic tables and stump seating.

Reading Tree: seating around tree, location to be determined.

Future Project: Redesign front plaza to include covered outdoor space for education, reading and gathering.



*A vibrant, accessible community space adjacent to the Library where learning and nature give rise to a sense of discovery and delight.*



## Anchorage Outdoor School\* (2018)

- The Anchorage Outdoor School (AOS) mission is to cultivate lifelong stewardship of public lands in Alaska through residential, place based outdoor education for fifth graders. It's an example of an RTCA project focused on youth educational programming and stewardship.
- RTCA supported a multi-agency effort of 10+ organizations to develop two pilot programs at the Chugach National Forest's Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in Portage in 2019.
- RTCA supported organizational capacity building efforts to make this a sustainable program. The program is now led by the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area.

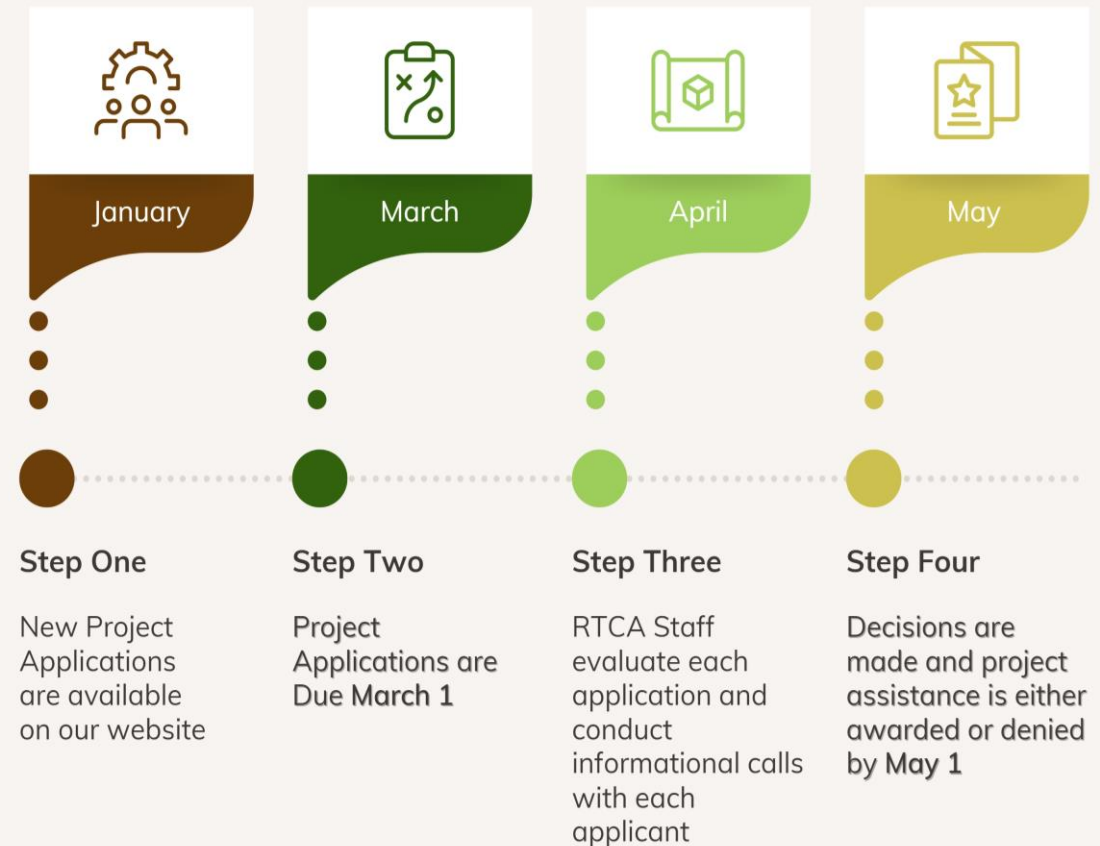






- **RTCA will work with you on your application**
- **Applications are due March 1**
- **Projects will be accepted or denied by May 1**
- **Projects are accepted on an annual basis, with an opportunity to request an extension of RTCA assistance, depending on staff levels and workload**

## RTCA Project Application Timeline





## National Park Service – Alaska RTCA

RTCA Website:

**[www.nps.gov/rtcaakr](http://www.nps.gov/rtcaakr)**

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