

Project Title: Chugach Mountain Bike Riders - Chugach State Park - Construct Lower Eagle River Trail to Gruening Middle School.

TPS Number: 68868

Priority: 1

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Grants to Named Recipient (AS 37.05.316)

Federal Tax ID: 81-428694

Grant Recipient: Chugach Mountain Bike Riders

FY2025 State Funding Request: \$141,596

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Construct a segment of the Lower Eagle River Trail connecting Gruening Middle School to Chugach State Park.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$141,596
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	(\$141,596)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Explanation of Other Funds:

Chugach Mountain Bike Riders, 501(c)3 has already funded and completed trail assessment by Interior Trails and construction cost estimates by Happy Trails, both Alaska members of the Professional Trail Builders Association.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Gruening Middle School borders Chugach State Park overlooking the Eagle River Valley. Currently there is no public access to this swath of public land. Access to the park is blocked by a chain link fence due to a steep ravine leading down to the river. Design work has been completed to construct a series of switchbacks that would connect the middle school and surrounding neighborhoods to a network of trails along the river itself.

This trail would be nonmotorized multiuse, as called for in the Chugach State Park Trails Plan, open to hikers, bikers, skiers, etc. It has the support of the Chugach State Park Citizen's Advisory Board, as well as Eagle River and Eagle River Valley Community Councils.

The Lower Eagle River Trail forms the backbone of the Eagle River Greenbelt trail system and is identified as one of the braids of the Alaska Long Trail. This access trail will provide a connection from the Glenn Hwy Pathway to Gruening Middle School and access upriver neighborhoods and trails.

Project Timeline:

Permitting Summer/Fall 2025 and construction Summer/Fall 2026. However, anticipating contractor delays and staffing challenges, all funds will be spent within 5 years.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

AK DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

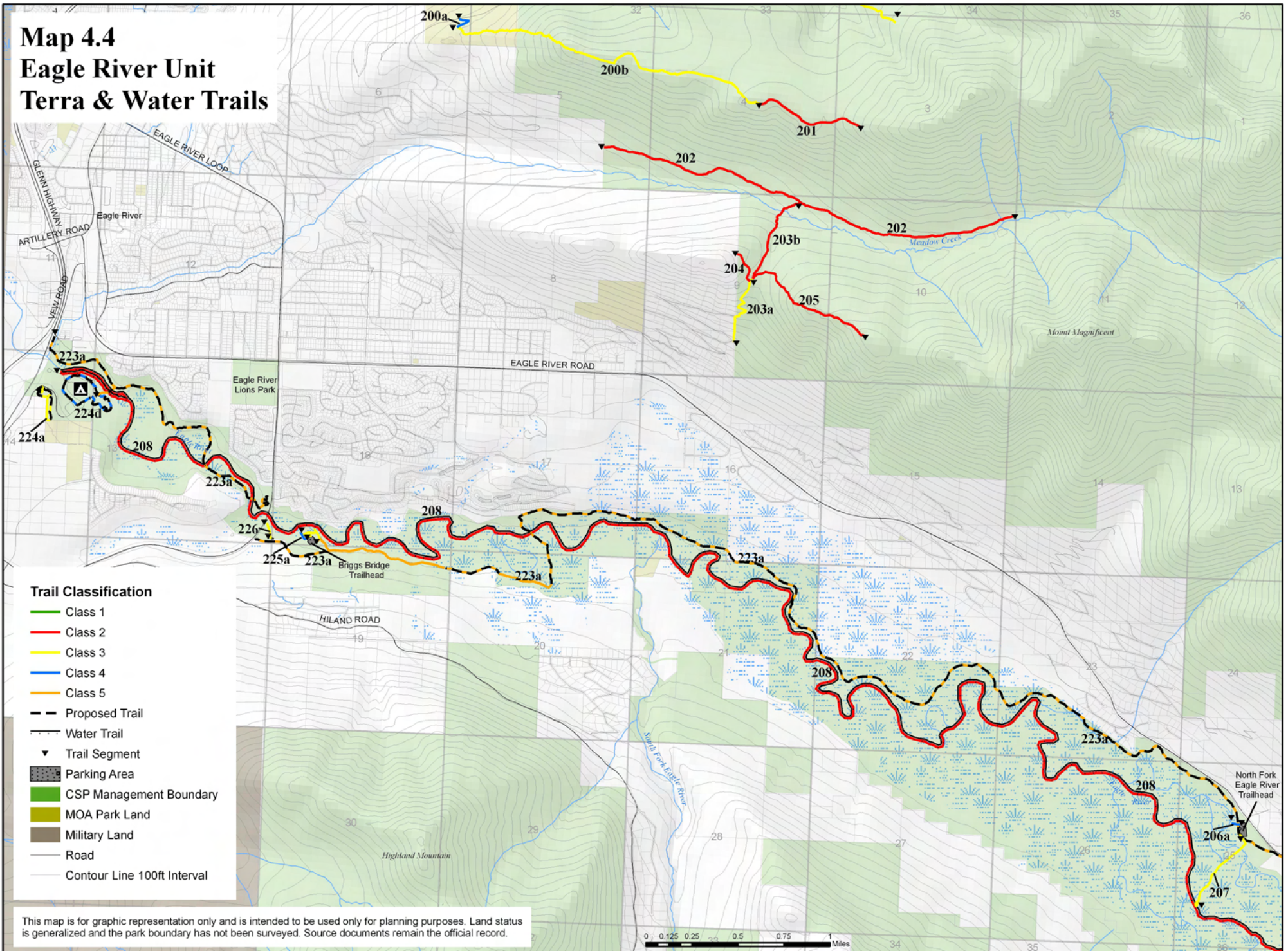
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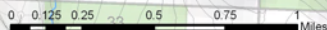
This project has been through a public review process at the local level and it is a community priority.

Map 4.4 Eagle River Unit Terra & Water Trails



- Trail Classification**
- Class 1
 - Class 2
 - Class 3
 - Class 4
 - Class 5
 - - - Proposed Trail
 - Water Trail
 - ▼ Trail Segment
 - Parking Area
 - CSP Management Boundary
 - MOA Park Land
 - Military Land
 - Road
 - Contour Line 100ft Interval

This map is for graphic representation only and is intended to be used only for planning purposes. Land status is generalized and the park boundary has not been surveyed. Source documents remain the official record.



Gruening Switchbacks Trail

