

# Project Title: Anchorage Park Foundation - Alaska Long Trail Indigenous Gateway Downtown Anchorage

**TPS Number:** 66549

**Priority:** 1

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

**Federal Tax ID:** 412205907

**Grant Recipient:** Anchorage Park Foundation

**FY2025 State Funding Request:** \$300,000

One-Time Need

## Brief Project Description:

Build and install an Indigenous Gateway Plaza in Downtown Anchorage on the Alaska Long Trail urban braid in Anchorage

## Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$600,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$300,000)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	(\$300,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

## Explanation of Other Funds:

\$13.3 million secured from AMATS to build one mile of trail to connect the Ship Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail downtown.  
\$1.7 million secured from Mellon Foundation for 32 Indigenous signs across Anchorage.

## Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Kicking off the Alaska Long Trail from Downtown Anchorage with a strong Indigenous component has the potential to be an urban highlight of the 500 mile Alaska Long Trail from Seward to Fairbanks, celebrating our region's First People and their connection to the land and waters.

Anchorage Park Foundation seeks funding to work with the Native Village of Eklutna, AMATS project managers and a coalition of businesses involved in the Roadmap for a Vital and Safe Anchorage to design and build this cultural tourism component on Ship Creek, known as Dgheyaytnu to the Dena'ina. The name refers to the stickleback fish in the creek.

Other supporting partners are the Alaska Native Heritage Center, Anchorage Community Land Trust, ATIA, Cook Inlet Region, Southcentral Foundation, Municipality of Anchorage, Cook Inlet Housing, Rasmuson Foundation, AFN, Providence Board, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, APU, First Alaskans Institute, and the Project Anchorage Task Force initiated by Mayor Bronson.

Anchorage's business community wholeheartedly supports cultural tourism as a way to enhance the visitor experience in a globalized world. Independent travelers are seeking cultural attractions and stories that are unique to this place, tying our people, art and culture to outdoor experiences in Alaska.

Indigenous place names encompass our relationship with the land. It is a story of our interaction and understanding of the animals, plants and waters of an environment. For thousands of years, the Dena'ina have and continue to steward and care for this place. In Anchorage, our trails are often along our creeks. We know our trails to be ancient pathways now known as "active transportation corridors."

Cultural tourism infrastructure will benefit the tourism industry in Anchorage, and will benefit the economy of Alaska as a whole, as we simultaneously enhance the visitor stay and the Alaska Long Trail urban experience.

**Project Timeline:**

2024 Kickoff Downtown Wayfinding process  
2025 Finalize location and design  
2026 Build trail and cultural plaza

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

Municipality of Anchorage

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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

## LOCATION MAP



## LEVEL ONE PLACE NAMES DENA'INA PLACE NAME SIGN

Dena'ina Name	Location	Meaning
<i>Dgheyaytnu</i>	Ship Creek	A creek named after Stickleback - little fish used in soup
<i>Chanshtnu</i>	Chester Creek	Grassy creek
<i>Ch'atanaltsegh</i>	Fish Creek	Where yellow water comes out
<i>Nen Ghilgedi</i>	Earthquake Park	Rotten land
<i>Nuch'ishtunt</i>	Point Woronzof	Place protected from the wind
<i>Ulichena Bada Huch'ilyut</i>	Point Campbell	A battleground "where we pulled up the Aleutic's boat"
<i>Qin Cheghi</i>	Flattop Mountain Chugach State Park	Crying Ridge, a ridge along the north side of upper Campbell Creek near Flattop mountain
<i>Qin Cheghitnu</i>	Campbell Creek	The creek that comes from Crying Ridge
<i>Hkadtali</i>	Potter Marsh	Drift wood and other debris washed up in this area from ship wrecks
<i>Ildlu Bena</i>	Eklutna Lake	By the two hills - two girls, lake monster
<i>Qintali</i>	Mount Baldy	Wide ridge
<i>Chishkatnu nudghitient</i>	Thunderbird Falls	Big ochre creek falls