

Project Title: Alaska Trails - Alaska Long Trail - Core Mat-Su Corridor Planning

TPS Number: 67978

Priority: 7

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

Federal Tax ID: 73-1677483

Grant Recipient: Alaska Trails

FY2025 State Funding Request: \$100,000

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This project will conduct a planning study in collaboration with AK Department of Transportation and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to chart the Alaska Long Trail through the Palmer/Wasilla area.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$100,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2025 State Funding Request:	(\$100,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Explanation of Other Funds:

This planning project builds on the recent \$300,000 "Alaska Long Trail - Anchorage to Mat-Su Reconnaissance Study", allocated in the FY2023 state capital budget to the Anchorage Park Foundation to plan the extension of existing trails from Anchorage across the Knik River.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This project will conduct a planning study in collaboration with AK Department of Transportation and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to chart the Alaska Long Trail through the Palmer/Wasilla area - the most populous section of the Trail outside of Anchorage. The Alaska Long Trail is one of the vehicles to enhance Mat-Su Valley as a premier overnight destination in Alaska, creating new recreation and business opportunities both for visitors and residents of the area.

Planning for this project will bring landowners, businesses, tribes, residents, and community stakeholders together to find the best route options and identify related beneficial infrastructure improvements. These infrastructure improvements will include trailside amenities such as improved trail heads, parking and access, and options for public-private partnerships for lodging and other recreation-related amenities.

Currently identified key connection points are the new Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Visitor Center at the intersection of the Glenn and Parks Highways, the Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA), and the Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area. This planning project builds on the current \$300,000 Alaska Long Trail - Anchorage to Mat-Su Reconnaissance Study, allocated in the FY2023 state capital budget to the Anchorage Park Foundation to plan the extension of existing trails from Anchorage across the Knik River.

As a fast-growing center for outdoor recreation, the Mat-Su needs expanded infrastructure and route connections that will benefit the tourism industry and Alaska residents alike. Alaska Long Trail is a tool to create these new opportunities.

BENEFITS AND NEED

- Planning the route for one of the most used sections of the Alaska Long Trail
- Create Alaska Long Trail access for Mat-Su residents
- Improve existing access to popular winter / summer trail systems

- Conserve popular historic routes
- Creating trail infrastructure and amenities that best serve local residents and businesses

Public support for the Alaska Long Trail project is significant. The Mat-Su Borough Assembly has passed a resolution of support for the Alaska Long Trail, and the City of Palmer has written a letter of support. Both the Palmer and Wasilla Chambers of Commerce have written letters of support, as well as over a dozen other businesses, trail groups, and destination marketing organizations local to the Palmer-Wasilla area.

Project Timeline:

Alaska Trails, a statewide nonprofit based in Anchorage, will facilitate the project and contract with a planner in 2024. The public engagement, route finding, and stakeholder engagement will happen through the following year, wrapping at the end of calendar year 2025. All funds will be dispersed by the end of 2025.

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

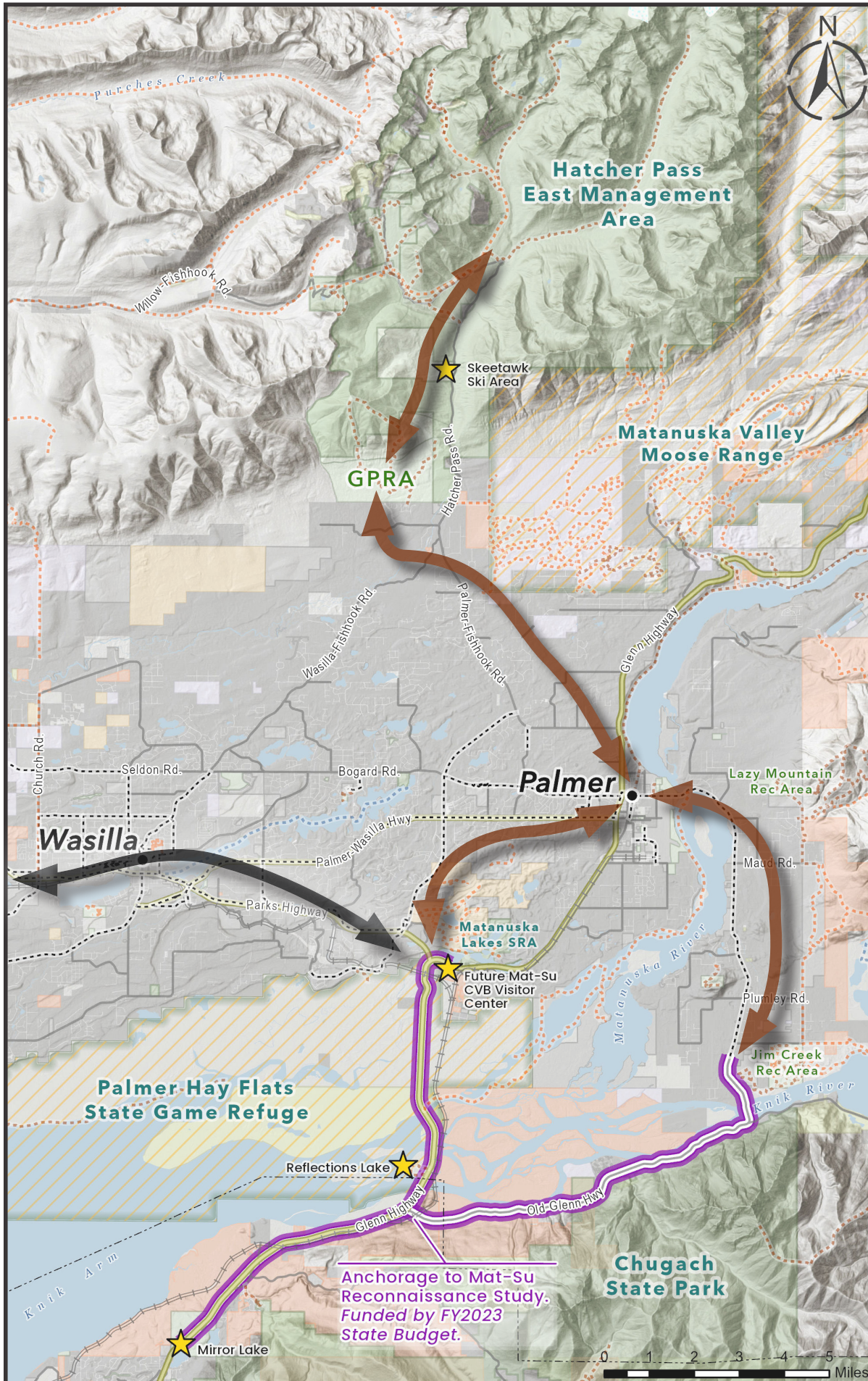
As this is a planning project, there are no direct maintenance or operations costs to assume.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Alaska Trails
Address: PO Box 100627
Anchorage, AK 99510
Phone Number: (907)334-8049
Email: mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org

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

Alaska Long Trail: Core Mat-Su Corridor Planning



Legend

Trail Type

- Bike Path
- Widetrack
- Hiking Trail
- Water Trail

Project Corridors

- Work in Progress
- ➔ Multiple trail type connection
- ➔ Bike path connection

Infrastructure

- Highway
- Major Road
- Railroad

Land Ownership

- Private
- Alaska Native
- Municipal
- Local Park (Municipal)
- State Park (DPOR)
- Mental Health Trust
- BLM

Boundaries

- ▨ SGR and Ranges (ADF&G)
- ▭ Borough Boundary

Other Symbols

- ★ Point of Interest

This map was created for Alaska Trails on 2/10/2023.

Notes: The trails depicted in this dataset have been compiled from multiple sources. Some trails may not exist.

Sources: ADF&G, ADN, AKDOT&PF, APF, BLM, MSB, and MST&PF

Anchorage to Mat-Su Reconnaissance Study. Funded by FY2023 State Budget.

