

Chugach State Park

Trail Maintenance
Program



Chugach State Park Trail System details

- 265 Miles of Maintained Trails
- 25 Official Trailheads
- Numerous unofficial trails and trailheads
- 2 Major Ski traverses
- 6 Snow Machine areas
- Miles of Boardwalks, bridges and stairs.
- 20 Miles of ATV trails
- Most heavily used trail system in Alaska State Parks.
- CSP Trails adjoin to 6 partner agency trail systems



C. S. P. Trail Maintenance Staff and budget


- Year-round Park Specialist dedicated to Trail Maintenance 80 percent of the time.
- 8 Month Natural Resource Technician dedicated to Trail Maintenance
- RTP funded 2 person Alaska Conservation Corps Crew dedicated to specific projects 3 months a year.
- 2 year-round Park Maintenance Staff assist trail crew less than 5 percent of their time.
- Park Law Enforcement assist trail crew by scouting trails and logging out certain trails, less than 5 percent of their time.



Trail Deferred Maintenance

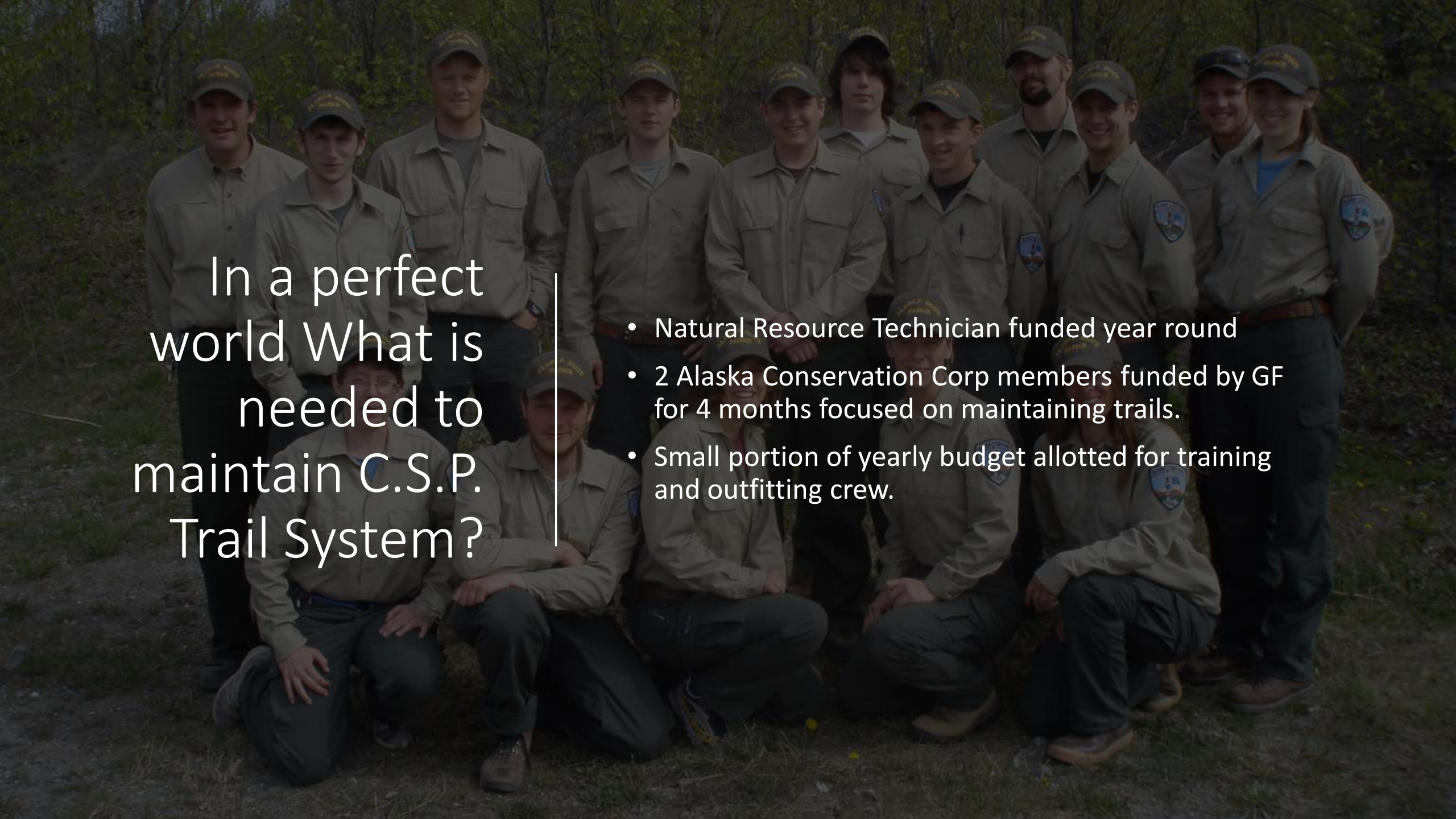
- All trails in C.S.P system have some amount of deferred maintenance.
- Roughly half of the trails have serious maintenance issues.
- 10 percent of trails are nearly impassible.
- Many of the C.S.P trails predate the establishment of Park and are not sustainable.



A person wearing a light-colored t-shirt, dark pants, and a red cap is using a chainsaw to cut through a large, fallen tree trunk. The person is wearing safety gloves and is positioned on the right side of the frame. The background is a dense forest with green foliage. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Current strategies to maintain trail system

- All trails below tree line are cleared of fallen trees several times a year by Park Staff.
- RTP grants are used to complete larger scale projects in specific areas.
- CSP Park Staff reacts to trail maintenance needs reported by the public.
- Volunteer groups assist CSP staff with specific projects.

A group of 18 people, likely park rangers or conservation workers, are posed for a group photo outdoors. They are arranged in two rows: the back row is standing and the front row is kneeling. All individuals are wearing matching olive-green uniforms, including long-sleeved shirts, cargo pants, and caps. Some shirts have patches on the sleeves. The background consists of trees and foliage, suggesting a natural setting. The image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay with text and a list.

In a perfect world What is needed to maintain C.S.P. Trail System?

- Natural Resource Technician funded year round
- 2 Alaska Conservation Corp members funded by GF for 4 months focused on maintaining trails.
- Small portion of yearly budget allotted for training and outfitting crew.



Trail Conditions Report Form

Reporter Information

Name of person making report:	Date of report:
Phone number:	Date problem was observed:
Email:	
Name and Number of Trail:	

Trail Condition Report

What kind of problem is being reported?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree across trail or branches down | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs vandalized |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eroding trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Signs missing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standing water on trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage dumping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surface washed out | <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail structure missing or damaged (bridge) | |

Description and Location:

Please provide a detailed description of the problem(s) encountered along with location. Identify location with enough detail so we can find the problem.

New Strategies that could be implemented

- Trail Reporting System
- Adopt a Trail Program

A topographic map of the Chugach State Park area in Alaska, showing terrain contours, rivers, and lakes. The map is overlaid with a grid. The title 'Implementation of a Trail Reporting System' is written in white text on the left side of the map.

Implementation of a Trail Reporting System

- For CSP staff to hike every trail in the CSP system it would take 150 hours of labor a year. This is not realistic or the best use of government time
- Chugach State Park relies on the public to report trail maintenance issues.
- These reports are often unreliable, misleading, and sometimes end up costing hours of CSP staff time.

What a trail reporting system would look like

- A volunteer group would receive training from CSP staff on basic trail maintenance, design and specifications.
- Volunteers would then hike trails through out the summer when their time allows.
- While hiking the trails volunteers would, cut small amounts of brush, clear drainage features, take photos of maintenance needs and resource damage.
- Upon completion of hike the volunteer would fill out a trail report and provide photos to Park Specialist via email.



“Adopt a Trail” program for organized volunteer groups

- Choose a specific trail for a volunteer group that meets their skills and abilities
- Volunteer group hosts their own volunteer days to brush trail corridor to meet TMOS
- Volunteer group would also pick up trash and complete a work report to provide to Park Specialist.
- Volunteer group would function independently with guidance and permission from CSP staff.



Switchback With Rock Retaining Wall

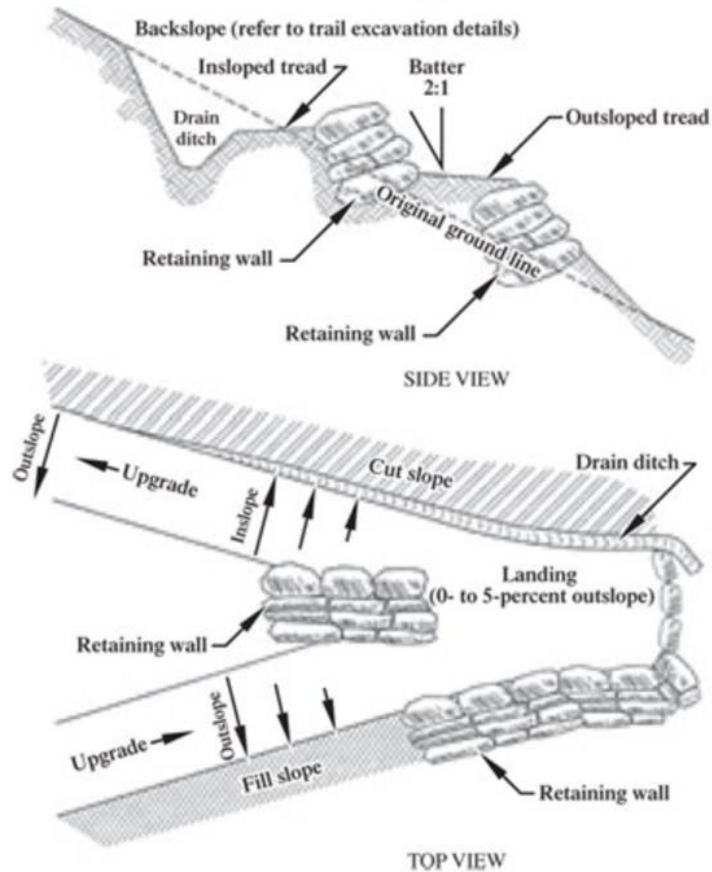


Figure 71—A switchback with a "Y" turning platform suitable for hiking trails.
[Click here for a long description.](#)

What volunteer organizations, and nonprofits need to be effective partners?

- Technical expertise
- Institutional memory
- Reliable point of contact



Questions?

