TRAILS INITIATIVE More and better trails!

The Trails Initiative works to:

- create more & better trails in AK
- strengthen Alaska's economy
- expand opportunities for everyone to be active, healthy and happy outdoors

The Trails Initiative collaborates with a growing group of statewide partners including:

Sitka Trail Works | Trail Mix, Inc | Alaska Outdoor Alliance Anchorage Park Foundation | Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation | National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance | Chugach State Park | Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area | United States Forest Service | Denali Borough

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TRAILS INITIATIVE Why Invest in Troils?

- Outdoor recreation (OR) is an important
 economic sector: in Alaska OR contributes
 3.6% of GDP, the 4th highest in the nation
- **OR jobs are increasing:** up 18.4% in AK in 2021, the 3rd highest rate of growth in the nation
- Trails and other OR infrastructure help mitigate outmigration: 6 in 10 Alaskans live here because of outdoor recreation
- Trails are good investments: for every \$1 spent on public open space there is a \$5.31 return on investment

• Trail users spend more: hikers and walkers spend 29% more than other types of visitors

• Hiking/Nature Walks are in demand: these are the fastest growing activities among visitors

Five Goals to Achieve our Mission: 1. Educate decision makers and the public about

- 1. Educate decision makers and the public about the value of trails
- 2. Expand the base of resources to sustain and grow Alaska's trails
- 3. Champion specific trail projects
- 4. Support trails planning at local, regional and statewide levels
- 5. Build a strong statewide coalition advocating for more and better trails



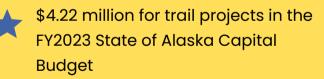
RECENT TRAIL FUNDING, POLICY AND PLANNING WINS

\$1.42 million for trail projects in theFY2024 State of Alaska CapitalBudget

Development of the Tongass Sustainable Trails Strategy, a multiyear, community planning effort

Creation of the Chugach State Park Access Service Area via the 2023 Municipality of Anchorage election

\$5.53 million for trail and planning
 projects via FY2023 Congressionally
 Designated Spending



\$5.77 million for trail projects via FY2022 Congressionally Designated Spending



\$500,000 Federal Lands Access Program grant for Bison Gulch Trail in Denali Borough



\$566,000 of Federal Cares Act funds for trail projects in Southcentral AK during the COVID-19 pandemic