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Department of  
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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## **Alaska State Parks to refocus Recreational Trails Program funds**

**(Anchorage, AK)** – Alaska State Parks will address a significant backlog in deferred maintenance on trails inside state parks by directing an estimated \$1.2 million in federal trails grants to the work this year.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal program that provides reimbursable, matching funds to states so they can develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses.

“In an effort to maximize our resources and streamline our processes, we are looking for more efficient ways to fulfill our mission to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the people of Alaska, and to those that visit here,” said State Parks Director Ricky Gease. “We need to start with our state park trails, which have been neglected for too long.”

The grant program is managed by the Federal Highway Administration in collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR). The division has historically divided the grant funds by spending approximately half internally, and providing half to trail projects sponsored by other organizations in communities statewide.

Starting July 1, however, Alaska State Parks will use the entire federal allocation of RTP funds to support the long list of deferred maintenance of trails and trail infrastructure inside state park units. This money will continue to benefit the public and support trails for trail users of all kinds.

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