



Alaska News



ATV rider enjoying the new Angel Creek Hillside Trail in Chena State Recreation Area.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups, nonprofits, Native organizations, and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

2009 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,411 Miles of Trail Developed

2,664 Miles of River Conserved

87,385 Acres of Open Space and
Parkland Protected

97% Percentage of Community
Partners Satisfied

Recent Successes

A New & Improved Angel Creek Summer ORV Trail!

Chena River State Recreation Area west of Fairbanks offers many off-road-vehicle (ORV) riding opportunities for experienced and new riders alike. The original Angel Creek Trail was created for snowmachiners and crossed snow-covered wetlands and lowland vegetation to reach two backcountry cabins. Over time, this winter trail attracted summer ORV enthusiasts. However, because the trail wasn't located or designed for summer ORV use, sensitive wetland vegetation was severely degraded, with multiple deep muddy ruts making the trail unusable for many even in winter until heavy snow filled the ruts.

In response, the 2006 Chena River State Recreation Area Management Plan directed Alaska State Parks to reroute the Angel Creek Trail away from low, wet areas. With technical assistance in sustainable trail design from the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, Alaska State Parks completed the reroute in 2009. The 7-mile reroute, now called the Angel Creek Hillside Trail, provides a sustainable – and FUN – experience for ORVers of all ages and abilities. It climbs up, curves around, dips and dives, and turns out at amazing viewpoints, all before gradually descending to the first Angel Creek Backcountry Cabin. So head out to the Angel Creek Hillside Trail for a ride and see what great trails are possible when partners work together!

“Our success has been because of the work that the RTCA Program has given us.”

- Brooks Ludwig, Superintendent Northern Area: Alaska State Parks

Current Projects

1. Gibraltar River ATV Trail

Location: Kokhanok, Alaska
Partners: Kokhanok Village Council
RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

Project Goal: Fix or reroute degraded sections of an 11-mile all-terrain vehicle subsistence trail to the Gibraltar River.

RTCA Role: Help the community understand existing trail conditions, develop trail management objectives, and determine how best to address areas of trail degradation.

2. Alaska Trails Statewide Rendezvous

Location: Statewide
Partners: Alaska Trails, BLM, Chugach State Park, Anchorage Municipality of Anchorage
RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

Project Goal: Provide trail users and the wider public opportunities for trail-related training and networking.

RTCA Role: Build partner support and provide ideas for training and advice on community outreach.

3. Anchorage North Fork Campbell Creek Trail

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Partners: Friends of Near Point, Fort Richardson, Chugach Access Coalition, Basher Community Council
RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel

Project Goal: Evaluate the North Fork Campbell Creek Trail at the end of Basher Road to improve safety, accessibility, and the overall user experience.

RTCA Role: Assess feasible sustainable trail routes, identify trail professionals capable of designing complex trail structures, assist in developing strategies for rights-of-way in partnership with the military, and review potential river crossing alternatives.

4. Chena State Recreation Area Mastodon Trail

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska
Partners: Fairbanks Hiking Club, Northern Area State Parks Advisory Board, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department and Planning Committee, Alaska Trails and the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition
RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel

Project Goal: Develop a new route to provide a safe, sustainable, year-round hiking and reduce erosion.

RTCA Role: Provide advice on locating sustainable trail alignments;



Chenega Bay residents decide what kind of trail they want for Iktua Bay.

assist with staff training in field assessment of trail conditions and evaluation of route alternatives, and produce a GPS map with the alignment and preferred trail prescription.

5. Chenega Bay Trail

Location: Native Village of Chenega, Alaska
Partners: Chenega Heritage, Inc., Chenega IRA Council, Chenega Corporation
RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

Project Goal: Construct a multiple-use recreational trail from the Chenega Bay Airport across Evans Island to Iktua Bay.

RTCA Role: Help evaluate trail management options and identify funding sources.

6. Chugach State Park Singletrack Trail

Location: Anchorage, Alaska
Partners: Singletrack Advocates, Chugach State Park, Arctic Bicycle Club, Mighty Bikes and the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage
RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel

Project Goal: Expand mountain biking opportunities in Chugach State Park during the park planning process and develop sustainable



ATV enthusiasts and land managers check out trails in the Knik River Public Use Area.

Current Projects

singletrack mountain biking trails in the park.

RTCA Role: Convert ideas into actions through the trail and master planning process, evaluate trail design and construction alternatives, locate grant funding, improve the public process, and develop trail mapping strategies.

7. Copper River Country Stories Map Guide

Location: Chitina and Copper River Corridor, Alaska

Partners: Copper River Watershed Project, Copper Valley Development Association, Prince William Sound Community College, Wrangell Institute for Science and Education, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

Project Goal: Publish an artistically rendered map for visitors and area residents, with information on trails and other recreation amenities and stories of the region's rich culture and history.

RTCA Role: Help facilitate community dialogue; and identify funding sources.

8. Denali State Park Trails

Location: Denali State Park, Alaska

Partners: Alaska State Parks

RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

Project Goal: Develop and maintain a trail system that allows for optimum outdoor recreational use of the area while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the park.

RTCA Role: Assist in developing a trail management plan, engage local residents and the general public, provide recommendations



Young mountain biker learns riding skills at Fairbanks Goldstream Sports bike pump park.

for trail management and design, and help identify funding sources.

9. Ester Dome Singletrack

Location: Fairbanks, Alaska

Partners: Alaska Trails, AK Dept of Natural Resources, Fairbanks North Star Borough

RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel

Project Goal: Create three miles of nonmotorized, multi-use, recreational singletrack trail in Interior Alaska.

RTCA Role: Help identify additional trail interests; review project-related materials; identify additional project partners, support, and funding sources; facilitate public meetings; and develop a trail easement diagram.

10. Eyak Milepost Trails

Location: Eyak, Alaska

Partners: Native Village of Eyak

RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

Project Goal: Develop an integrated transportation system

(motorized and nonmotorized) in the Copper River, Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska area.

RTCA Role: Build partner support; assist with community engagement; develop trail management objectives; and identify potential funding opportunities, permits, and authorizations.

11. Fairbanks Lion's Club Bike Skills and Pump Park

Location: Goldstream Valley, Alaska

Partners: Lions Club; Goldstream Sports; Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department; Fairbanks Public Health Center; Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District; Alaska Trails

RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel

Project Goal: Design, build, and construct a safe pump park and bike skills course for youth.

RTCA Role: Help bring technical trail feature experts to Alaska; locate funding, address liability concerns; and develop a process and strategy to get the pump park and skills course built.

“Thank you very much for a good project and one that benefits the birds and the land.”

- RJ Murran, City of Hooper Bay
(Hooper Bay ATV Subsistence Trail, 2007/2008 RTCA Project)

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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Current Projects cont.

12. Naknek Sockeye Run Fitness Trail and Bike Path

Location: Naknek, Alaska
Partners: Isabel Babiak, Bristol Bay Borough, Bristol Bay School District, ADOT-Safe Routes to Schools Program, AK Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Katmai National Park and Preserve, AK Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Camai Community Health Center
RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel; Heather Rice

Project Goal: Build the two-mile Sockeye Run Fitness Trail and Bike Path to provide a safe route to school for local children and a safe place for community members to walk, bike, run, and be healthy.

RTCA Role: Work with partners and community members to design and construct the trail, identify funding sources, assist in implementing the

Safe Routes to Schools Program, and help build additional partnerships.

13. Willow Community Summer Trails

Location: Willow, Alaska
Partners: Willow Health Organization; Willow Trails Committee
RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

Project Goal: Plan and construct safe, accessible and diverse trails for non-motorized and motorized users that provide recreational opportunities, create safer streets, and promote wellness through physical activity.

RTCA Role: Assist in developing a trail management plan and engaging local residents and the general public in the planning process; provide recommendations for trail management and design; and help identify funding sources.

