

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK SESSION AGENDA

September 27, 2021

This meeting will be held at or hosted from the
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers
Juanita Helms Administration Center
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

Immediately following the Regular Trails Advisory Commission Meeting

This meeting will be conducted in-person and by zoom or zoom-only with consideration given to the Borough Operational Status and if the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public. Please visit <https://www.fnsb.gov/406/Boards-Commissions> or contact the Borough Clerk's Office (907) 459-1401.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. REVIEW AND REFINE THE TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION TRAIL PRIORITY DETERMINATION PROCESS AND TRAIL RANKING MATRIX FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PLAN UPDATE.

Documents:

[FNSB Trails Plan_Prioritiization \(TAC9-27\) \(PDF\).pdf](#)
[Trail Classificatio Matrix 20170831.pdf](#)

D. ADJOURNMENT

**E. AUDIO FILE - TRAILS ADVISORY COMMISSION
09.27.2021 TAC WK AUDIO TRACK 1**

Fairbanks North Star Borough
 Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan Update

Trails Advisory Committee – Trail Priority Determination Process

Draft July 21, 2021

PART 1: TRAIL DESCRIPTION

1.1	Trail Name		
1.2	Approximate Trail Location		
1.3	Trail Typology	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing
1.4	Trail Classification	<input type="checkbox"/> Class A	<input type="checkbox"/> Class B <input type="checkbox"/> Class C
1.5	Use	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Use (All) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Motorized <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Multi-Use, Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Single-Special-Use, Type:	
1.6	Season	<input type="checkbox"/> Year Round	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer <input type="checkbox"/> Winter
1.7	Primary Trail Purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Connector trail or infills missing segment in established trail <input type="checkbox"/> Provides access to recreation or subsistence areas <input type="checkbox"/> Commuting trail with transportation potential <input type="checkbox"/> Provides unique or other beneficial opportunity to borough residents Explain:		
1.8	Projected Costs (if known) Project Construction consideration + costs _____ _____ Project Maintenance consideration + costs (seasonal, lifecycle) _____ _____		
1.9	Partnership/MOU with volunteering agencies for upkeep Partner + Agreement Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

PART 2: PLAN COMPLIANCE PURPOSE + NEED

2.1	Establish + Protect Public Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Protect Existing Access <input type="checkbox"/> Establishing New Access
2.2	Investment in Community	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve health & quality of life by facilitating outdoor physical activity <input type="checkbox"/> Improves property values by connecting neighborhoods to trails/outdoor spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Support growth of local economy; has potential to increase tourism, host events <input type="checkbox"/> Provides access to underserved communities or users <input type="checkbox"/> Provides access to regional destinations
2.3	Foster Lasting Stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/> High interpretive/educational potential <input type="checkbox"/> Trail has dedicated volunteer user group
2.4	Improve Access for All Ages + Abilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Expands ADA Accessibility <input type="checkbox"/> Expand access for users of different ages and levels of experiences or skill
2.5	Increases Connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> Solves a transportation problem <input type="checkbox"/> Provides and improves safe connections across barriers <input type="checkbox"/> Encourages connections between established trails, neighborhoods, or other points of interest
2.6	Improve User Experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilizes terrain ideal for intended use & season <input type="checkbox"/> Creates unique experience for skill development <input type="checkbox"/> Reduces user conflict, improves user safety <input type="checkbox"/> Has existing trailhead facilities or on-trail amenities
2.7	Expand Recreation Opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/> This trail solves an identified recreation problem Explain: <input type="checkbox"/> This trail enhances the geographic mix of trails in the FNSB <input type="checkbox"/> This trail has significant scenic or aesthetic value <input type="checkbox"/> New or unique trail use; Diversifies types of trails available Type:
2.8	Plan for Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/> Can be developed/maintained to sustainable standards with low investment <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed use is appropriate for the terrain and changing environmental conditions

PART 3: FAVORABLE CHARACTERISTICS

Land Ownership

Score: ___ /20

#	Criteria	Considerations	Possible Points	Score
3.1	Trail is on land owned by: (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Borough <input type="checkbox"/> Other public, 2nd party <input type="checkbox"/> Private lands, 3rd party, permission required <input type="checkbox"/> Combination of Public & Private	<u>10</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u>	—
3.2	Legal access/permission is established (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially (indicate < 50% >): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No	<u>10</u> <u>1-5</u> <u>0</u>	—

Land Condition, Use & Alignment

Score: ___ /30

#	Criteria	Considerations	Possible Points	Score
3.3	Trail alignment can be developed according to sustainable design principles, improves safety and reduces impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Contour/sidehill curvilinear alignment (average trail grade is <1/2 the grade of the sideslope) <input type="checkbox"/> Controlled grade (with overall grade < 10% and < 5% of trail length meets maximum grade; maximum grade determined by soil type, climate, use, drainage, and desired difficulty) <input type="checkbox"/> Full-bench construction can be achieved (corridor is wide enough and slope material and grade are stable) <input type="checkbox"/> Durable Surface Tread (soils can support desired trail use during desired season) <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Water Control (proper drainage can be achieved) <input type="checkbox"/> Trail can be developed safely, considering hazards such as roadway, railway or river crossing <input type="checkbox"/> Alignment minimizes impact to the environment (avoids filling or altering drainage in wetlands, stream crossings, unnecessary ground disturbance, destroying sensitive habitat, etc.)	<u>0-15</u>	—
3.4	Access Points: Start and End	<input type="checkbox"/> This trail has potential for or has existing trailhead facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Trail connects to local or minor roads only <input type="checkbox"/> Trail connects to major or arterial roads	<u>0-10</u>	—
3.5	Land Use Compatibility	<input type="checkbox"/> This trail implements or supports an adopted plan <input type="checkbox"/> This trail is compatible with existing and planned adjacent land uses	<u>0-5</u>	—

Trail Use

Score: ___ /30

#	Criteria	Considerations	Possible Points	Score
3.6	Period of Primary Use (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Year-Round <input type="checkbox"/> Summer only <input type="checkbox"/> Winter only <input type="checkbox"/> Potential Year-round trail with improvements Explain:	<u>10</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u>	—
3.7	Intended Users (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> All Modes (multi-use/motorized) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Motorized <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized Explain: <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Mode Split Explain:	<u>10</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u>	—
3.8	Trail configuration and length (select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Loops <input type="checkbox"/> Single Loop <input type="checkbox"/> Linear	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u>	—
3.9	Promotes access for all ages and abilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Distance (short distances > long) <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty (novice trails > expert) <input type="checkbox"/> ADA accessibility	<u>0-5</u>	

Connections

Score: ___ /20

#	Criteria	Considerations	Possible Points	Score
3.10	Connections	<input type="checkbox"/> Connector trail or infills missing segment in established trail <input type="checkbox"/> Provides access to recreation or subsistence areas <input type="checkbox"/> Provides access or new recreation opportunities in geographically underserved area, or increases geographic mix of available trails <input type="checkbox"/> Commuting trail <input type="checkbox"/> Trail is close to or accessible from a school, housing project or residential neighborhood	<u>0-20</u>	—

PART 4: SUMMARY

POSSIBLE MAXIMUM POINT TOTAL	<u>100</u>	SCORE TOTAL	
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TAC Revised

TRAIL RANKING MATRIX

Indicates importance of the trail to the community

TRAIL NAME: Equinox (Alder Chute - Henderson Rd)

Criteria	Point Value	Rating
1. Mode of Use		
Multi-Use Motorized	15	15
Multi-Use Non-motorized	10	
Limited Use	5	
2. Quantity of use	0-20	10
3. Accessibility	10	
4. Loop Trail	5	5
5. Connection with Other FNSB CompPlan Trail	10	10
6. Connection to Visitor Use Facility, Parking Lot, or Destination	10	3
7. Season of Use		
Multi-Season	10	10
Single Season	5	
8. Improvements/investment	0-5	2
9. Legal Status		
Private Land w/ RTE	5	
Agency Land (RTE not required)		
Private Land w/o RTE	-5	(5)
10. Historical significance	0-10	7
Equinox (Alder Chute - Henderson Rd) rail Rank Total (100pnts max):		57
Rank Assignment:		
Rank I = 90 points or greater		
Rank II = 70 to 89 points		
Rank III = 30 to 69 points		
Rank IV = less than 30 points		

TAC Revised

MATRIX CRITERIA INSTRUCTIONS

Trails should be considered as an entire unit, but longer trails starting from a visitor-use facility may be rated in segments. A visitor-use facility is defined as any developed campground, picnic, day use or visitor attraction area.

Definition of Criteria:

- 1 **Mode of Use:** Multi-use, non-motorized or single use.
- 2 **Quantity of Use:** Evaluation of intensity of use (subjective)
- 3 **Accessibility:** All wheelchair, sensory perception and other all-access trail.
- 4 **Loop:** Trail can be used as part of a loop hike or connects to another trail.
- 5 **FNSB Connection:** Connects to other FNSB CompPlan trails.
- 6 **Facility:** Trail that links a visitor use facility, parking lot or destination.
- 7 **Seasonality:** Season of use.
- 8 **Improvements/Investments:** Funds already invested in the trail.
- 9 **Legal Status:** Whether a Recreational Trail Easement (RTE) exists.
- 10 **Historical:** Whether the trail or destination has historical significance (subjective).

Project Matrix Instructions

Once all the trail inventories and condition assessments are completed, trail maintenance and improvement projects need to be prioritized. Usually there are far more trail projects needed than there is the funding and time required to complete them. This project selection process can often be contentious as park staff and trail users often have personal bias when it comes to which trails should be worked on. To make the prioritization of trail projects less subjective an objective process must be followed. First trail projects should be categorized into the following deficiencies:

- 1. Visitor Safety**, trail conditions that represent a threat to the safety of park visitors usually severe enough to warrant barricades, warning signs, or temporary or permanent trail closures. Example: A step carriage and hand rail section on a coastal descent trail has failed requiring the trail users to traverse down a steep slope on unconsolidated soils with a precipitous drop off.
- 2. Resource Protection**, trail conditions that represent a threat to park natural or cultural resources usually severe enough that critical resources are being damaged by the trail. Example: The trail alignment has captured a stream and is diverting it down the trail for hundreds of feet resulting in large quantities of sediment being delivered into another stream down the trail. The stream being impacted by sediment is critical habitat for a state and federally listed Salmonid species.
- 3. Preservation of Investment**, trail structure conditions that if not repaired will result in the total replacement of the structure. Example: A bridge is beginning to experience rot in a portion of the wood decking and a handrail post. If these bridge components are not removed and replaced the rot will spread to the laminated wood stringers and the entire bridge will need to be replaced.
- 4. Visitor Convenience**, trail conditions that make it uncomfortable for trail users to hike or use the trail. Example: Brush growing into the trailway or trees fallen across the trail making it difficult or unpleasant to use the trail.
- 5. New Trail Construction**, the development of a new trail that is in addition to the existing trails. Example: A new trail is being proposed to tie two separate trails together and provide an additional hiking loop within the system.