OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE IS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Outdoors means business

7th largest outdoor recreation economy in the US
$2.2 billion economic output/3.9% of state GDP
4.5% of jobs/$1B in wages

Outdoor recreation is part of the Alaska lifestyle and brand

Alaska has the highest percent of outdoor participation in the country, **81%** - Outdoor Foundation

90% Anchorage residents strongly agree parks improve their quality of life in Alaska - MOA P&R

Outdoor recreation has been vital during COVID & is here to stay

82% say they will stay engaged in outdoor recreation even after COVID restrictions are lifted - Chris Goddard Public Relations

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Study: Anchorage residents surpass national trends - Anchorage Parks and Recreation Dept. Public Survey of COVID parks and recreation use and attitudes

Anchorage: 55% say they used trails more often; 40% visited parks more often

National: 43% say they will increase participation in certain outdoor recreation activities: general outdoors, hiking, visiting local parks, water sports CivicScience Consumer Survey

Anchorage: 62% say they value parks and open space more since COVID

National: 52% of Americans say they are using local public lands more often & increasing array of rec activities Penn State/Leave No Trace

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Alaska needs to be ready: More federal grants will help put Alaskans back to work

Great American Outdoors Act will double Land and Water Conservation Fund ($2.5M FY22)

Outdoor recreation intersects with White House climate agenda - Biden executive order creates Civilian Climate Corps including CCC style crews to mitigate wildfire risks, protect watershed health, and improve outdoor recreation access

Transportation priorities include funding for hard & soft-surface outdoor recreation routes and trails; Sen. Dan Sullivan co-sponsors *Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act.* $500 million in federal grants to local, regional, and state governments to connect walking & biking infrastructure into active transportation networks

+ $1M Federal Highways Recreational Trails Program grants announced 3/1/21 - DPOR