

## Scope of Project

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in partnership with the Friends of Eagle River Nature Center has embarked on a Master Site Planning process. The Plan is intended to promote educational programs compatible with the mission of the Nature Center while furthering the educational and interpretative opportunities available to the park visitors. We also want to develop new facilities within the boundaries of Chugach State Park while promoting preservation and protection of the historical, natural and recreational resources. The Plan will also address the daily operations of the Nature Center and provide a base for future growth to meet demand.

## Goals and Boundary Conditions

### PARKING & TRAFFIC CIRCULATION

- Provide safe and adequate parking to reduce pedestrian/vehicle/traffic conflicts and provide non-interrupted access for our neighbors to their homes and driveways. (Keeping in mind our design vehicle will be a school bus, 53' recreational vehicle, pick-ups and passenger cars)

### TRAIL SYSTEMS

- Trail access for various visitor groups i.e. backcountry hikers, skiers, program participants, school groups and self-guided visitors.
- Provide full accessible program and trail system meeting ADA and barrier free requirements

### BUILDING / OPERATIONS

- Address inadequate space and space conflicts for visitors, volunteers and staff.
- Demonstrate commitment to stewardship through green architecture and development through LEED certification. Use sustainable design to promote a holistic integration of energy conscious systems.
- Maintain the character/atmosphere of the existing Nature Center
- Develop an interpretive master plan for the future.



- Develop a nature center maintenance facility which will be screened visually and audibly from neighbors, Nature Center area and entrance area/ parking.

# planning for the future of the eagle river nature center

A- 0.33 Mile Park Road

BLM Power Withdraw Land  
CHUGACH STATE PARK

B- .45 Mile Park Road

Eagle River Nature Center

CHUGACH STATE PARK

(D-2) 1.22 Mile  
MOA Standard Road

C- 1.38 Mile of 24' Park Roadway

(D-2) 0.68 Mile Park Roadway

CHUGACH STATE PARK

CHUGACH STATE PARK  
BLM Power Withdraw Land

(D-1) 1.88 Mile Park Roadway

CHUGACH STATE PARK



September 2, 2009

0 500 1000 2000 FEET

0 1 2 3 4 5 1 MILE

The next two pages list each potential site location and the objectives that will occur if selected. We would like the community to assist us in evaluating each site by adding any other objectives or impacts that have not been listed and might affect you.

**SITE- A**

Construct 0.33 mile of park roadway - Closest neighbor 0.15 mile

Development of New Eagle River Nature Center

- within Chugach State Park boundary  
(Bureau of Land Management Power Withdraw Land with/ management agreement)
- This location will require developing new interpretive programs at the new location
- Develop small parking areas within the forest
- Selective thinning of vegetation to open views of valley & mountains
- Unique land features / large rocks -birch & spruce forest
- This location will require relocating existing trails
- Clearwater (Falling Water) Creek (Bears)
- Evaluate existing Nature Center building for reuse
- Develop Volunteer Housing facility in proximity of maintenance and Nature Center area screened from public view
- Develop new maintenance facility -screened from public areas and view

*comments-*

**SITE- B**

Construct 0.45 mile of park roadway - Closest neighbor 0.15 mile

Development of New Eagle River Nature Center

- within Chugach State Park boundary  
(Bureau of Land Management Power Withdraw Land with/ management agreement)
- Use & enhance existing interpretive programs
- Develop small parking areas within old racetrack area - Using existing vegetation to screen view from neighbors
- Create land forms to screen activities from surrounding neighbors
- Reclaim area by developing plant communities -screens & educational display areas
- Selective thinning of vegetation to open views of valley & mountains
- Develop new maintenance facility -screened from public areas and view
- Existing disturbed area (old race track & staging areas) / second growth cottonwood forest with spruce thickets
- Upgrade /relocate sections of Rodak Nature Trail to facilitate full accessibility meeting ADA standards
- Evaluate existing Nature Center building for reuse

*comments-*



### **SITE- C**

Construct 1.38 mile of park roadway - Closest neighbor 0.25 mile

Development of New Eagle River Nature Center

- within Chugach State Park boundary  
(Bureau of Land Management Power Withdraw Land with/ management agreement)
- This location will require developing new interpretive programs at the new location
- Develop small parking areas within the forest
- Selective thinning of vegetation to open views of valley & mountains
- Unique land features / large rocks -birch & spruce forest
- This location will require relocating existing trails
- .25 mile of underground utilities
- Use existing Nature Center as volunteer housing
- Develop Volunteer Housing facility in proximity of maintenance and Nature Center area screened from public view
- Develop new maintenance facility screened from public areas and view

*comments-*

### **SITE- D**

D-1 Construct 1.88 mile of 24' park roadway OR

D-2 Upgrade 1.22 mile of subdivision road to MOA standard roadway

Construct 0.68 mile of park roadway - (Total 1.88 mile)

- Closest neighbor 0.45 mile

Development of New Eagle River Nature Center

- within Chugach State Park boundary -End of the Eagle River Road
- This location will require developing new interpretive programs at the new location
- Develop small parking areas within the forest
- Selective thinning of vegetation to open views of valley & mountains
- Shared roadway with neighbors
- This location will require relocating existing trails
- Unique land features / large rocks -birch & spruce forest
- 1.0 mile of underground utilities
- Evaluate existing Nature Center building for reuse
- Develop Volunteer Housing facility in proximity of maintenance and Nature Center area screened from public view
- Develop new maintenance facility -screened from public areas and view

*comments-*



Comments may be submitted no later than November 2, 2009 by mail, email or fax to:

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1340

Anchorage, AK 99501

Fax: (907)269-8917

Email: [Lucille.Baranko@alaska.gov](mailto:Lucille.Baranko@alaska.gov)



# *planning for the future of the eagle river nature center*

**public comment form.**

**please feel free to use this form to provide comments.**

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submitted by: name \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

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