

Welcome to



## Don't Bail from the Trail

Please stay on designated trails when exploring the Hillside Trail System. Tenacious tundra plants can survive the test of winter, but the footprints of summer visitors are more than they can endure. As the saying "grows by the inch, dies by the foot" implies, these perennial plants can take years to grow, but can be killed easily by trampling. The network of braided trails quickly degrades the park's natural resources.

To decrease your impact, practice these Leave No Trace principles:

- plan ahead and prepare
- travel and camp on durable surfaces—stay on the trail
- dispose of waste properly—pack it in, pack it out. Clean up after your pet
- leave what you find
- respect wildlife
- be considerate to other visitors

### For More Information

Chugach State Park Headquarters  
 Potter Section House  
 18620 Seward Hwy  
 Anchorage, AK 99516  
 (907) 345-5014  
[www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)  
[csp@alaska.gov](mailto:csp@alaska.gov)

"Chugach State Park" on Facebook

# Hillside Trails

in Chugach State Park

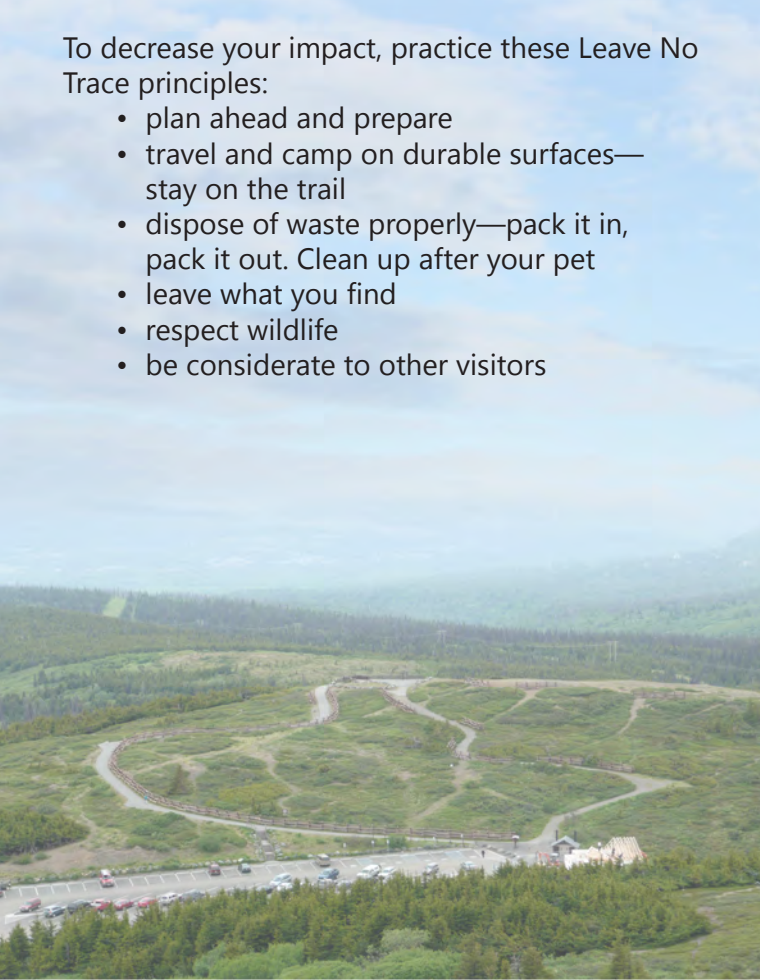


Photo courtesy of Steve Noel



Alaska State Parks

## Welcome

Just a 20-minute drive from downtown Anchorage, the Hillside Trail System is one of Chugach State Park's most popular attractions and offers a wide range of recreational opportunities, diverse terrain, and incredible views year-round. Whether you're hiking, biking, snowmachining, or skiing, the Hillside Trail System is a great way to access the outdoors.



Photo courtesy of Larry Anderson

## Hillside Trail System

The Hillside Trail System consists of a variety of routes that crisscross the rugged terrain of the western Chugach foothills. Accessible from the Basher Drive, Prospect Heights, Upper O'Malley, Upper Huffman, and Glen Alps trailheads, the trail system offers year-round, multi-use recreation for experienced hikers and beginners alike.

The Hillside Trail System, including the Middle Fork Loop and Powerline Trail, offers exciting wildlife viewing opportunities. Moose viewing is extremely popular during fall.

Use the map inside to choose the path of your next adventure.

## Know Before You Go

### Learn Outdoor Skills

This brochure does not tell you everything you need to know about venturing into the Chugach. Get informed, take a class, or invite an experienced friend. Be prepared for the unexpected.

Headed to the backcountry? Tell a friend where you're going, who you're going with, and when you'll return.

### Hypothermia

Unprepared adventurers are especially vulnerable to hypothermia, even in the middle of summer.

Alpine areas can turn cold, wet, foggy, and windy without warning. No matter how good the weather looks, bring warm, rainproof gear.

### Wildlife

Chugach State Park is a major habitat for moose and black and brown bears. Stay alert, make noise when hiking, and yield to wildlife. To avoid attracting bears while camping, know the safe way to store and cook your food. Carry bear spray.

### Fires

Open fires are prohibited on the hillside. Backcountry chefs should bring a portable camp stove.

### Giardia

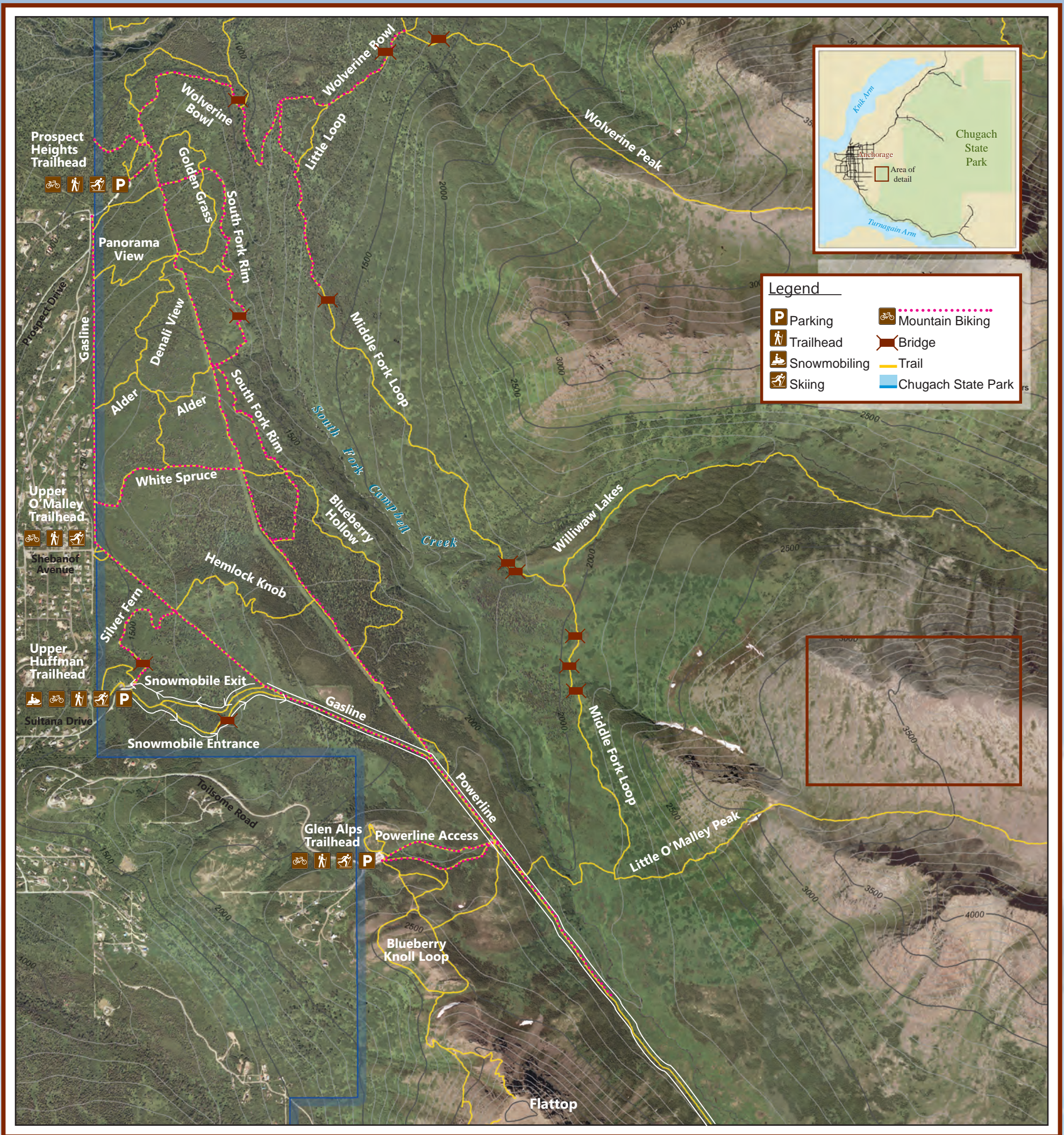
Sparkling mountain streams might look clean, but they could be contaminated by *Giardia*. Thankfully, *Giardia* is easy to avoid. You can purify drinking water using a pump filter, chemical treatments, or by boiling for at least two minutes.

### Avalanches

Avalanches can occur anywhere, but gullies, steep, snow-covered slopes, and areas below steep ridges are particularly susceptible. The majority of avalanches happen shortly after heavy, sustained snowfalls. Familiarize yourself with avalanche warning signs and the techniques and gear you will need to protect yourself in the backcountry. Take an avalanche class.

### Fees

Fees are charged at Glen Alps, Upper Huffman, and Prospect Heights trailheads. Fees can be paid at the time of use, or frequent visitors can save money by purchasing an annual parking pass at the Chugach State Park Office (18620 Seward Hwy.) and DNR Public Information Center (550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1260), or online at [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org).



## Highlights

### Flattop Mountain Trail

**Access:** Glen Alps Trailhead  
**Travel Means:** Foot  
**Distance:** 1.7 miles one way  
**Elevation gain:** 1,300 feet

- The most climbed summit in Alaska, with breathtaking views of Anchorage, the Alaska Range, and Cook Inlet
- Steep in sections with some scrambling required

### Wolverine Peak Trail

**Access:** Prospect Heights Trailhead  
**Travel Means:** Foot  
**Distance:** 4.7 miles one way  
**Elevation gain:** 3,500 feet

- Great views overlooking the Williwaw Lakes
- Berry picking in fall

### Middle Fork Loop Trail

**Access:** Glen Alps (via Powerline Trail) or Prospect Heights (via Wolverine Bowl Trail) trailheads  
**Travel Means:** Foot, ski  
**Distance:** 4.1 miles from Powerline Trail to Wolverine Bowl Trail  
**Elevation gain:** 1,000 feet

- Traverses the hillside through prime moose habitat. During fall, bring your camera to capture rutting displays
- Provides access to the Little O'Malley Peak Trail, Williwaw Lakes Trail, and Wolverine Bowl Trail

### Williwaw Lakes Trail

**Access:** Middle Fork Loop Trail  
**Travel Means:** Foot, ski  
**Distance:** 5.9 miles one way from Glen Alps Trailhead (7.4 miles from Prospect Heights)  
**Elevation gain:** 800 feet from Glen Alps Trailhead (1,500 feet from Prospect Heights)

- The trail passes the jewel-like Williwaw Lakes that dot the basin of a beautiful alpine valley
- Good skiing in winter

### Little O'Malley Peak Trail

**Access:** Glen Alps Trailhead  
**Travel Means:** Foot  
**Distance:** 4 miles one way  
**Elevation gain:** 1,200 feet

- A great peak for less experienced hikers. Stay on the main path to minimize erosion
- Berry picking in fall

### Snowmachine Area

**Access:** Upper Huffman Trailhead  
**Travel Means:** Snowmachine  
**Distance:** 2.7 miles to snowmachine area

- Open to snowmachine use when snow depth is adequate to protect underlying vegetation
- Remain on designated routes and within designated riding areas



Photo courtesy of Janice Tower of Singletrack Advocates  
 Background photo courtesy of Aaron Ritter



Photo courtesy of Nicole Acevedo