

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

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"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

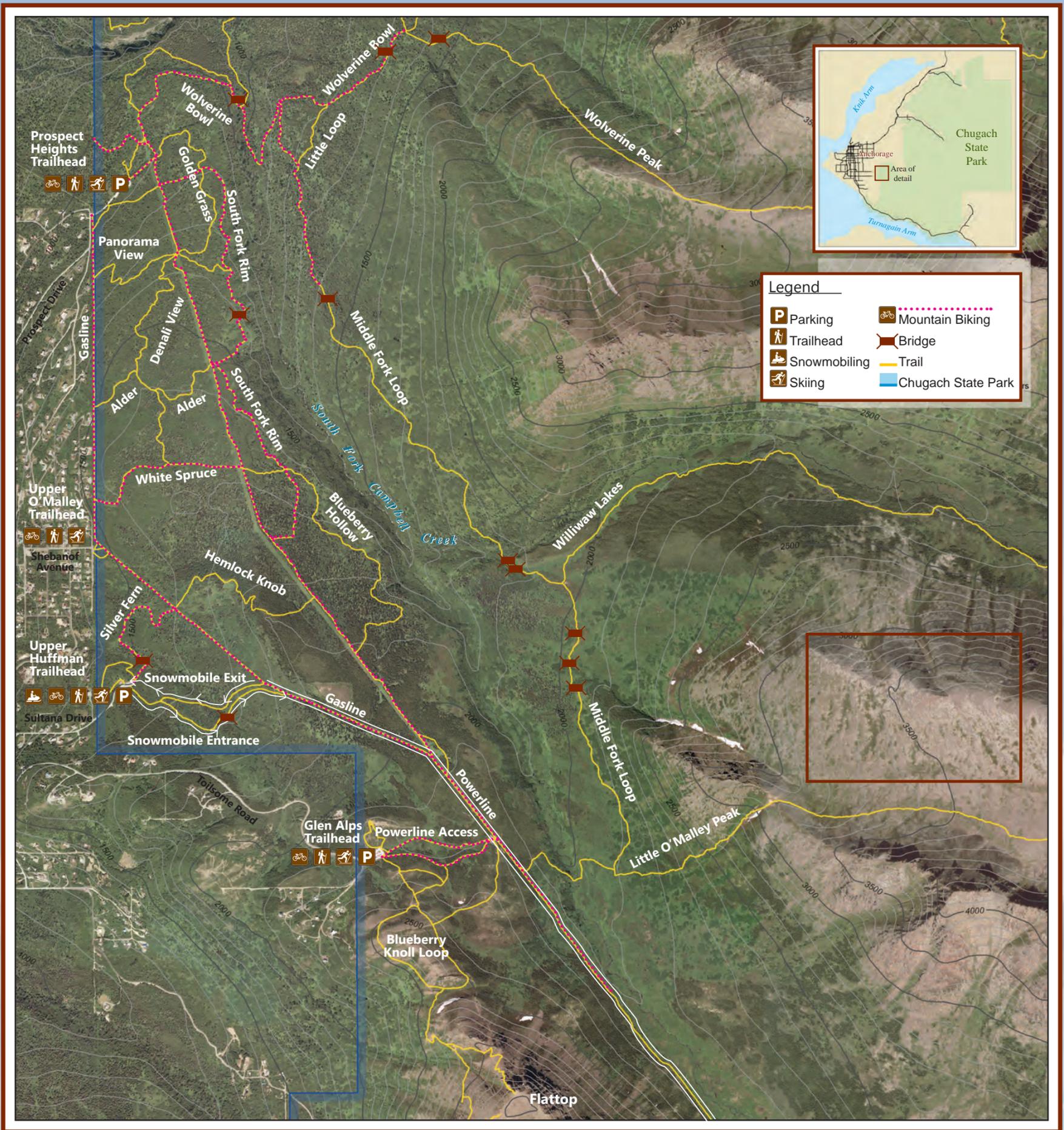
Sparkling mountain streams might look clean, but they could be contaminated by *Giardia*. Thankfully, *Giardia* is easy to avoid. You can purify drinking water using a pump filter, chemical treatments, or by boiling for at least two minutes.

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.



Legend

Parking	Mountain Biking
Trailhead	Bridge
Snowmobiling	Trail
Skiing	Chugach State Park

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