MICHAEL DONNS

Outdoor Recreation Planner
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance

BRENDAN STUART

Schools on Trails Coordinator
RTCA / Anchorage Park Foundation
RAISE AWARENESS

Identify and raise awareness of trails, parks, streams and natural habitat near Anchorage schools.
Maps

Sand Lake Elementary School
Activity Map and Trail Connection to Sand Lake Park

Map Key:
- Main Trail
- River Trail
- Footpaths
- Playground
- Outdoor Classroom
- Parking areas

The Sand Lake Elementary School trail connection map to Sand Lake Park is part of the Schools on Trails initiative to promote outdoor learning, student health and environmental education.

For more information visit www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/programs/trails-initiative/schools-trails
East High School / Russian Jack Elementary School

Schools on Trails: Russian Jack Springs Park Nature Walk and Activity Map

Where in the Anchorage Trail System?

Map Key

- Main Trail (Paved)
- Foot Paths or Social Trails
- Secondary Trails (Paved)
- Playground
- Bridge
- Learning Lab
- Trail Access

The East High School / Russian Jack Springs Elementary trail connection to Russian Jack Springs Park is part of the Schools on Trails initiative to promote outdoor learning, student health and environmental education.

For more information visit www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/programs/trails-initiative/schools-trails
CONNE CT

- Connect schools and families to these nearby public spaces and encourage outdoor educational opportunities.
CONNECT

resources

partners

helping teachers
Engage staff and students in creation, planning and implementation of improvement projects.
Involve students in each step of the process as real-life lessons in civic engagement and project management.
IN VOLVE

we did it

asla

management
Leverage school interest for project fundraising and long-term success.
LEVERAGE

school board

k i d s  b r i n g$

grants

kids bring$
Provide continuing education incentives to school staff and other volunteers for professional participation.
Schools on Trails helps after-school programs use trails and natural spaces as part of regular and holiday break curriculum.
AFTERSCHOOL IN ALASKA

80,000
Number of Alaska children between ages six and 17 living in households in which all available parents or guardians are in the workforce.

24%
Percentage of Alaska children who are on their own after school.

19%
Percentage of children participating in afterschool programs.

43%
Percentage of Alaska children who do not participate in an afterschool program who would be enrolled if one were available to them.
RESULTS

23 maps
title 1 attendance
civic engagement
volunteers 1700
$80,000 grants
youth
MORE
6 major projects
2 learning labs
125 teachers
8 parks adopted
25 trained
“Just wanted to say thanks for getting the ball rolling in our school using our parks and trails. It got our school thinking, me included, on how to get outside and teach. Teachers have already started using our map and last week I led activities on the trails as well. Thanks for being the spark.” Alex Price, Government Hill ES

“I wanted to thank you for all your time and effort you have put in to help this process with Nunaka Valley. Something so simple has just exploded into a huge project. More than I ever thought it would. One big help this school year has been knowing we can get chaperones if needed. Thank you for helping with that. It may seem so simple but is HUGE. Janell Larson, Nunaka Valley ES
PARTNERS

SCHOOLS ON TRAILS

[Logos of various partners]

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MARCH 3, 1869
LIVE WORK PLAY
ANCHORAGE
TOP U.S. CITY BY 2025
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
HEALTHY PARKS
HEALTHY PEOPLE
COORDINATE EXTENSION SERVICE
ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION
ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
INVENTING ALL STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN
QUESTIONS FOR YOU

What might something look like in your community?

How would this model help make existing youth programs more effective?

QUESTIONS FOR ME?
WE WANT TO HELP

michael_e_downs@nps.gov

brendan@anchorageparkparkfoundation.org