

PROMOTE  
COLLABORATE  
EDUCATE

2021  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



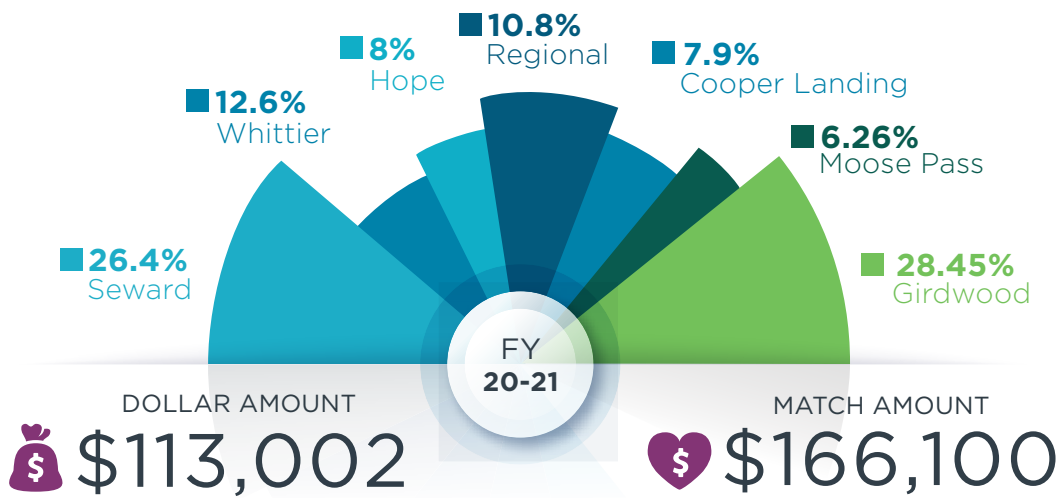
## VISION

To discover, preserve, and enable the unique relationships between the communities, resources, and landscape of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area.

## MISSION

To recognize, preserve, and interpret the historic, scenic, natural resources, and cultural landscape of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm historic transportation corridor, and to promote and facilitate the public enjoyment of these resources.

### GRANTS AWARDED BY COMMUNITY



#### GRANT APPLICATIONS

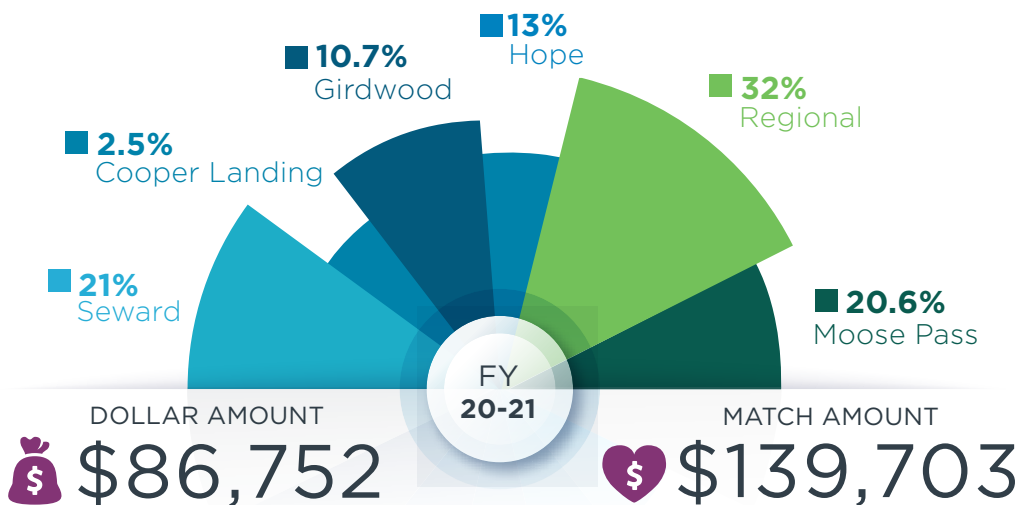
**23** RECEIVED

**15** AWARDED

#### GRANT PROJECTS

**16** COMPLETED

### GRANTS COMPLETED BY COMMUNITY



#### TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

**2,010**

#### VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

**\$53,404**



**204**

**VOLUNTEERS**  
ENGAGED IN HERITAGE AREA PROJECTS, PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES



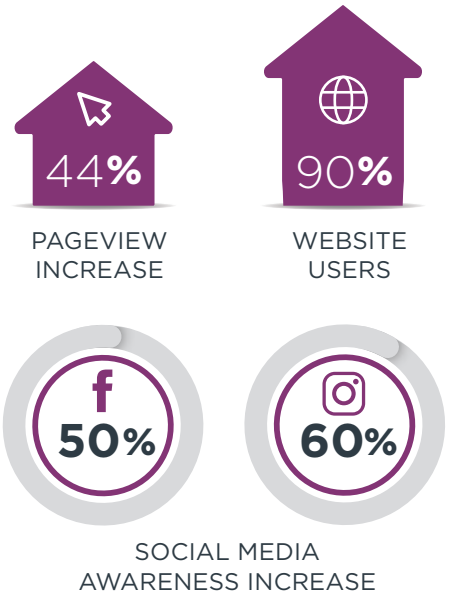


The Girdwood Trails Committee has been the recipient of six grants from KMTA. Three of which included interpretive signs and wayfinding as part of the grant. The Beaver Pond Trails and Lower Iditarod Trail Signage has already been designed and installed. Soon there will be signage at the Virgin Creek Falls Trail and Stumpy's Winter Trail. The consistency of sign design and wayfinding markers throughout a trail system is important to increase the quality of visitor experience. Now a trail user can know what to expect throughout the Girdwood Valley for safety and local interpretation. These signs are also a treasure trove of historic and natural information, helping the user connect to the trail and location.

**LEARN MORE:** [www.kmtacorridor.org/girdwood-trail-signs/](http://www.kmtacorridor.org/girdwood-trail-signs/)

## GRANTS AWARDED BY CATEGORY

- \$8,800** IN PUBLICATIONS (7.8%)
- \$9,000** IN TRAILS & RECREATION (8%)
- \$11,876** IN EDUCATION (13.1%)
- \$18,000** IN PROGRAMMATIC (16%)
- \$27,787** IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION (24.6%)
- \$36,591** IN SIGNAGE (32.4%)



“Trailbound Alaska”, a KMTA grant funded film is finally ready to debut at the Bear Tooth this spring. The “Trailbound Alaska” films utilize a combination of documentary-style footage, personal interviews, and watercolor sketches. The Southern Trek film will blend a complex range of topics found within the KMTA corridor to share a big picture of the area while also including personal narratives. The documentary is the brainchild of filmmaker Max Romey. In the summer of 2020, “Trailbound Alaska”, a grassroots film project, set off to retrace the Iditarod National Historic Trail with a pair of running shoes and a sketchbook. It shares the journey of the “Southern Trek,” an incomplete 120-mile section that travels through the Chugach National Forest.

**LEARN MORE:** [www.kmtacorridor.org/trailbound-documentary/](http://www.kmtacorridor.org/trailbound-documentary/)

 **108,000**  
VISITORS THROUGH THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

**224**  YOUTH ENGAGED IN NATIONAL HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

# SPENCER DASH AND KMTA TRAIL CHALLENGE

The summer of 2021 saw two new events for KMTA. One celebrated the Spencer Glacier area and the history of the Alaska Railroad and the other encouraged spending time on all the fabulous trails in the KMTA area.

**LEARN MORE:**

[www.kmtacorridor.org/new-events-2021/](http://www.kmtacorridor.org/new-events-2021/)



# MINESHAFT GRINDER

Forty racers in the 2nd Annual Mineshaft Grinder struck gold last fall in the KMTA community of Hope after a year hiatus due to COVID-19. There were 4 events including the Gold Grinder Marathon, Gold Grinder 12.5 mile Bike Race, Silver Grinder Half Marathon, and the Quartz Grinder 8.5 mile Run. All races took place on the Palmer Creek Road, which is rich in mining history. The road, as well as other areas of the region, still boast active mines as well as trails scattered with mining equipment and tire tracks that can still be seen scarring the tundra.

**LEARN MORE:**

[www.kmtacorridor.org/successful-second-annual-mineshaft-grinder/](http://www.kmtacorridor.org/successful-second-annual-mineshaft-grinder/)



# ANCHORAGE OUTDOOR SCHOOL

After a long break, it was music to everyone's ears to once again hear the AOS Welcome Song being sung as Willowcrest students arrived in Pop Carr Park for two exciting days of outdoor learning this fall.

Anchorage Outdoor School's mission is to foster lifelong stewardship of Alaska's public lands through residential, place-based education. For this school year, we worked with school principals and teachers to create an adapted version of the program that best served students and mitigated the risks of covid-19. Our result was a two-day program with 57 Willowcrest Elementary 5th grade students held in the park next to their school.

**LEARN MORE:**

[www.kmtacorridor.org/outdoor-school-2021/](http://www.kmtacorridor.org/outdoor-school-2021/)



# THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our partners, grantees, board members, community groups, and visitors that have made the KMTA NHA a richer and more vibrant place to recreate, learn, share, and enjoy.



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**KMTACORRIDOR.ORG**

SPENCER DASH PHOTO CREDITS: *Matthew Crockett*  
FRONT COVER CREDITS: *L-R: Bryan Pherson, Tanner Johnson, Sarah Conlin, and Maggie Harings*