



**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION, & TRAILS
ADVISORY BOARD
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September 14, 2020

Ms. Julie Queen
Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services
University of Alaska Fairbanks
P.O. Box 757900
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7900
Email: uaf-vcadminservices@alaska.edu

Re: Matanuska Experiment Farm – Gravel Expansion

Dear Ms. Queen,

The Matanuska Greenbelt Trail System and the University have enjoyed a mutually beneficial working relationship for years. However, in early August signs were posted and heavy equipment crossed trails to reach a 70-acre section of property tapped as a potential gravel pit.

The thirty-three miles of trails within the Greenbelt are heavily used by the community for recreation, exercise and bird-watching, and as a respite for peace and quiet from today's world. The disruption that gravel mining would inflict concerns all of us on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board.

We understand the need to create revenue within the University system but believe the monies earned from this gravel pit would not outweigh the accompanying destruction along our valued trail system.

We are proud of our Greenbelt, the historical Matanuska Experiment Farm and their benefits to us all. We ask that you halt your detrimental, unilateral activities, including the damage to the trails and the hole-boring, and instead work with our community on other ways to create needed revenue.

Thank you for listening to our concerns. We look forward to strengthening our relationship by working together on keeping the trails a serene place for the public.

Sincerely,

Ed Strabel, Chair