

Matanuska Peak Trail

Non-motorized summer and winter trail

Tread surface:	Dirt surface, 2' - 4' wide
Length:	4.1 miles (6.5 kilometers) one way
Difficulty:	Moderate to difficult
Activity:	Summer – hiking, backpacking, mountain running Winter – snowshoeing, backcountry skiing
Trailhead:	Small off-road parking for five vehicles
Nearest town:	Palmer
Manager:	MSB Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division (Phone 745-9690)
Volunteer Trail Care Crew:	vacant

How to get there

Access to the Matanuska Peak Trail is at the south end Smith Road. From Palmer- go east on the Old Glenn Highway, 3 1/2 miles from Palmer take a left on Smith Road, proceed 1 1/2 miles straight east to the end of the Smith Road and the trailhead parking lot.

General description

The Matanuska Peak Trail is a moderately steep hiking trail traversing the south slope of Lazy Mountain following an east-northeast direction above the McRoberts Creek drainage. A little less than halfway up the trail starts to veer south toward Matanuska Peak and the summit at 6, 119 feet. Brown carsonite trail markers are placed every 200' along the trail guiding the way to the base of the summit.

The trail climbs 5670 feet in just over 4 miles. The hike to the summit can be completed in a long day. Some may prefer to camp overnight. The first half of the trail travels through old growth forest of cottonwood, spruce, birch, aspen and tall grasses. At about the 1500 foot elevation the trail clears the forest and starts to traverse

alpine tundra. At this point there are grand views of the Knik and Matanuska Rivers, and the Cook Inlet. The trail is challenging and tends to be muddy and slippery after a rain or frost. Caution is advised.

The more adventurous can continue on a primitive route along a ridge to Lazy Mountain and continue down Lazy Mountain Trail, returning to the Matanuska Peak Trailhead via the Morgan Horse Trail.

Trail uses

The Matanuska Peak Trail is maintained by the MSB Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division for hiking during the snow free months. An annual mountain running event is held on Lazy Mountain and Matanuska Peak in July. For more information about the mountain running in Alaska link to <http://www.alaskamountainrunners.org>

*Take note

Bears and other wildlife are native to the area and proper precautions should be taken to make your presence known. Keep dogs on leash and/or under your control.

Matanuska Peak Trail



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LEGEND

T Trailhead & Parking

